



Honolulu Board of Water Supply
Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting 55
Thursday, July 17, 2025, 4:00 – 6:00 pm
Neal S. Blaisdell Center – Hawaii Room

Meeting Notes

PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION OF MEETING NOTES

The purpose of these notes is to provide an overview of the Board of Water Supply (BWS) Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting. They are not intended as a transcript or as minutes. Major points of the presentations are summarized herein, primarily for context. Copies of presentation materials were provided to all participants and are available on the BWS website. Participants made many comments and asked many questions during the meeting. These are paraphrased to be more concise.

ATTENDEES

This was an in-person meeting in which 20 stakeholders participated, in addition to BWS staff, consultants and members of the public. The stakeholders represent diverse interests and communities island wide.

The following Stakeholders Advisory Group members attended:

Alison Richardson	Coca-Cola Company
Bob Leinau	Resident of Council District 2
Brian Miyamoto	Hawaii Farm Bureau
Cruz Vina, Jr.	Resident of Council District 8
Cynthia Rezentes	Resident of Council District 1
Dana Okano	Hawaii Community Foundation
Dean Okimoto	Nalo Farms, Inc.
Elizabeth Reilly	Resident of Council District 4
Helen Nakano	Resident of Council District 5
Jicky Ferrer	AARP Hawaii
John Rogers	Resident of Council District 9
John Reppun	KEY Project
Kaleo Manuel	Kamehameha Schools
Mahealani Cypher	Resident of Council District 3
Mark Fox	Environmental
Matt Bailey	Castle Hospitality Group
Ryan Obrero	Honolulu Board of Realtors
Shari Ishikawa	Hawaiian Electric Company
Will Kane	Mililani Town Association
William Clark	Resident of Council District 6

WELCOME

Facilitator Dave Ebersold welcomed everyone to the 55th meeting of the BWS Stakeholder Advisory Group.

Meeting objectives were identified as:

- Provide BWS updates
- FY26 Budget
- Explore climate analysis results/condition assessment integration
- Discuss future demand projections
- Accept notes from meeting #54

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

BWS UPDATES

Dave invited Ernest Lau, BWS Manager and Chief Engineer, to share BWS updates. Ernest introduced Joyce Lin, an engineer from the Manager's Office who is currently working on Red Hill issues. Ernie emphasized the significance of preparing the next generation for what is expected to be a decades-long environmental and public health issue.

On July 1, the BWS filed a lawsuit in federal district court under the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA). The BWS Board initially submitted an administrative claim for damages in October 2023, within the two-year statute of limitations. However, the Navy rejected this claim in January 2025, triggering a six-month window to file a lawsuit. Failure to act within that time frame would permanently forfeit the right to sue under the FTCA.

Ernest stated that the BWS Board had given him full authorization to proceed with the lawsuit. The complaint, along with all supporting exhibits, is available on the BWS website. While he noted the possibility of a multi-year legal battle, he emphasized BWS's commitment to fighting on behalf of its customers. The lawsuit seeks compensation for past, present, and anticipated future costs resulting from the Red Hill contamination, including damage to the environment and Oahu's water resources.

Q: Bob Leinau asked whether the BWS lawsuit included provisions for escalating damages, particularly future expenses, which could serve as a strategic point of leverage. Ernest responded that the BWS's legal claim was for \$1.21 billion, which accounts for the current and anticipated future costs. He explained that this includes replacement costs for the three currently shut-down water sources as well as long-term operational costs.

Q: Jicky Ferrer referenced a historical example where Senator Daniel Inouye secured \$400 million for the remediation of Kahoolawe. He argued that the \$1.21 billion sought by BWS seemed conservative by comparison, especially considering that Oahu is inhabited, and the public relies on its water resources. Ernest acknowledged the point and clarified that he couldn't speculate on increasing the amount, especially since the case is in active litigation. However, he stated that BWS will pursue the best outcome for its customers. He noted that Red Hill has already received \$1–2 billion in federal funding, including approximately \$500 million currently earmarked for a water treatment system at the Navy's contaminated Red Hill Shaft.

Q: John Rogers asked whether BWS is using City attorneys or private legal representation. Ernest confirmed that BWS hired private law firms to handle the lawsuit on a fee basis.

Q: Bob Leinau asked whether the United States Geological Survey (USGS) could assist BWS in finding or generating new water sources, sharing the financial burden. Ernest commented on a past collaboration when BWS, along with other county water departments, jointly purchased a drilling rig while USGS provided the drilling crew. That cooperative program no longer exists and currently, the responsibility lies solely with BWS. He mentioned that two exploratory wells are being planned in Aiea and another in the Newtown area. These wells are crucial for assessing water quantity and quality to determine feasibility for production development.

Q: Jicky Ferrer asked whether BWS had investigated using atmospheric humidity to create water for either individual or community-scale water farming. Ernest said BWS is not currently pursuing atmospheric water harvesting. While they are monitoring the technology, he explained that the scale required to serve Oahu’s needs is too large for current atmospheric water solutions, which are more appropriate for small-scale use and are cost-prohibitive for larger systems.

FY2026 BUDGET

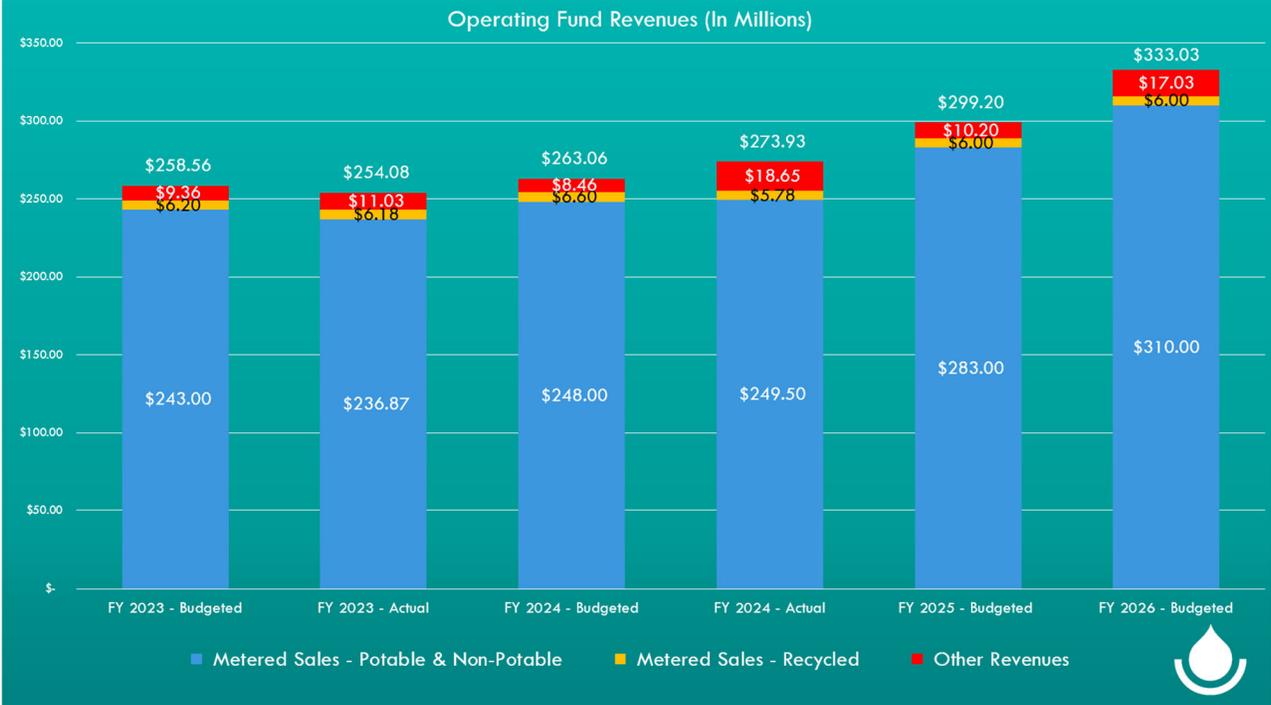
Dave introduced Raelynn Nakabayashi, Executive Assistant for the BWS Executive Support Office, to provide an overview of the 2026 Operating and Capital Improvement Program Budget. Raelynn noted that the budget was formally adopted at the May 2025 Board meeting and clarified that the fiscal year runs from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Raelynn began her presentation with a comparison of projected expenditures against available resources, including fund balances carried over from prior years and new revenues primarily from water rates. The FY2026 budget projects \$415 million in total resources and \$362.4 million in expenditures. Focusing on the operating fund, Raelynn reported that the beginning fund balance rolled over was \$82 million, with \$333 million in new revenue projected. Of that, \$283.3 million is allocated for operating expenditures, and \$79.1 million will be used to support CIP projects. She stressed the importance of maintaining a reserve or working capital balance and noted that appropriating all incoming funds would not be fiscally prudent.

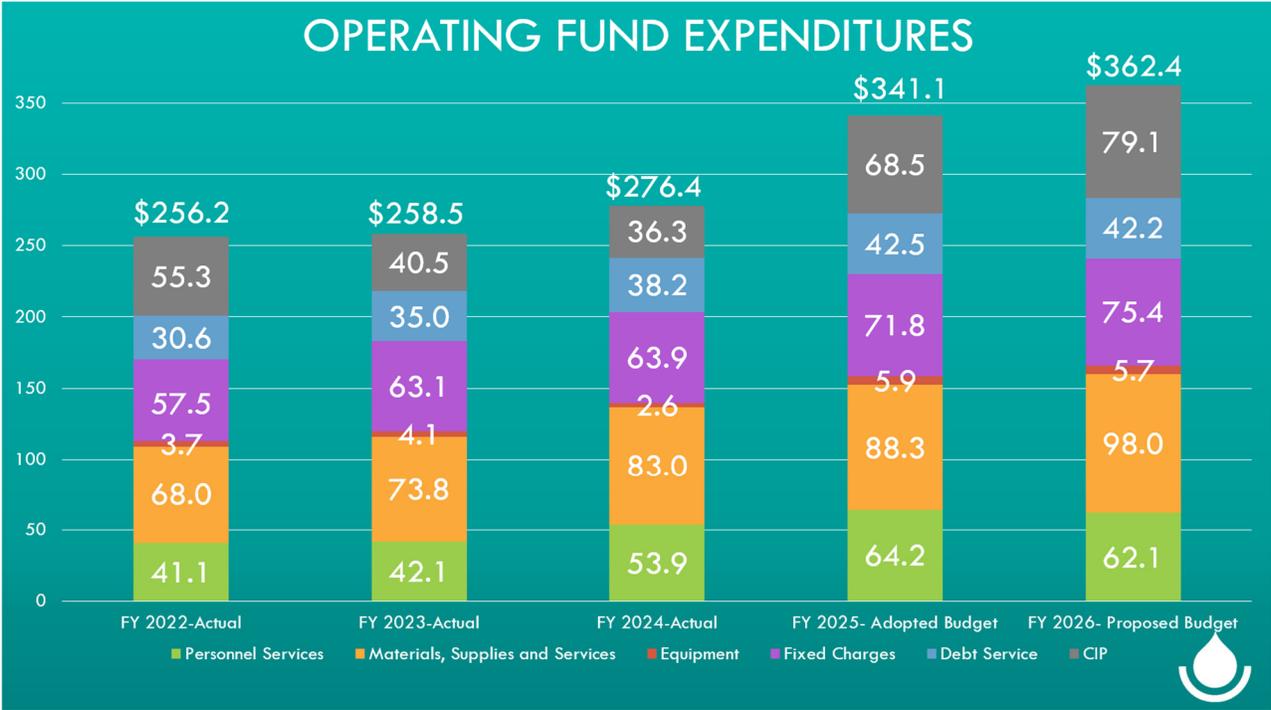
OPERATING FUND RESOURCES AND EXPENDITURES (MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)

	FY 2024 - Actual	FY 2025 - Adopted	FY 2026 - Proposed
	Actual Budget	Adopted Budget	Proposed Budget
Beginning Balance	\$63.7	\$66.0	\$82.0
Revenues	\$274.0	\$299.2	\$333.0
Lapses/ Adjustments	\$6.3	\$0.0	\$0.0
Total Resources	\$344.0	\$365.2	\$415.0
Operating Expenditures	\$222.1	\$272.6	\$283.3
Capital Improvement Program	\$28.7	\$68.5	\$79.1
Total Expenditures	\$250.8	\$341.1	\$362.4
Ending Balance	\$93.2	\$24.1	\$52.6

Raelynn further broke down the revenue components of the operating fund. Metered sales of potable and non-potable water remain the largest source of income, supplemented by recycled water sales from the Honouliuli Water Recycling Facility and various fees such as interest income and installation charges. The FY2026 operating budget reflects a 3.92% increase over the prior year, while the CIP budget decreased by 10% or \$33 million, bringing the combined budget to approximately \$566.6 million.



The presentation included an overview of year-over-year trends in expenditures. Operating expenses have steadily increased due to inflation, rising salaries, material costs, and professional services. Raelynn explained that the costliest line item is materials, supplies, and services, which will increase to \$98 million. Personnel costs are projected at \$62 million, with fixed charges (including electricity and debt service) projected at \$75.4 million. Equipment costs remain relatively minimal and are limited to items such as fleet vehicles.



Raelynn explained that debt service plays a significant role in financing infrastructure improvements. BWS’s approach is to finance half of its Capital Improvement Program through bonds and covering the remaining portion with cash from rate revenues. She described how BWS manages its debt through a healthy coverage ratio, which has been above 3x in recent years, even though BWS policy requires only 1.6x to 1.8x coverage. Raelynn added that past years saw reduced cash contributions due to low rate increases during the pandemic years (1% to 4%) that failed to keep pace with rising costs. The phased rate increases implemented in February 2024 are now beginning to replenish cash reserves and improve financial flexibility.

Raelynn discussed the BWS Capital Improvement Program, which is structured to balance safe, reliable service with rate affordability. Projects are categorized into research and development, renewal and replacement, and capacity expansion. The \$566 million budget will be financed through a mix of sources such as \$79 million in rate revenue, State Revolving Fund loans, federal grants, Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loans, special expendable funds, and revenue bonds.

FY 2026 BUDGET SUMMARY

	Operating Fund	State Revolving Fund	Special Expendable Fund	Improvement Fund	Extramural Fund	Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act	Total
Operating Budget	\$ 283,312,488						\$ 283,312,488
Capital Improvement Program Budget	\$ 79,127,500	\$ 67,870,000	\$ 10,915,000	\$ 43,415,000	\$ 19,000,000	\$ 63,000,000	\$ 283,327,500
Total - All Funds	\$ 362,439,988	\$ 67,870,000	\$ 10,915,000	\$ 43,415,000	\$ 19,000,000	\$ 63,000,000	\$ 566,639,988

Raelynn mentioned that BWS's priorities remain focused on maintaining safe, dependable water service and compliance with all drinking water regulations. Efforts to monitor and treat PFAS detections continue, alongside long-range planning through updates to the Water Master Plan. She noted that despite the unexpected burden of the Red Hill crisis, BWS continues to move forward with long-term initiatives such as drilling exploratory and monitoring wells. BWS is also striving to maximize Federal and State funding opportunities while preserving affordability for customers.

Q: Mahealani Cypher asked whether solar energy could be safely installed at pump stations and reservoirs. Raelynn responded that solar panels are already in place at 28 BWS facilities thanks to an energy savings performance contract. However, she clarified that while solar helps offset costs, it does not generate enough power to run the pumps. Ernest added that BWS currently generates about 3 megawatts of renewable energy. Electricity costs remain high between \$30 and \$40 million annually.

Q: Bob Leinau asked about the debt service figures, asking about the average debt service percentage and noting a possible shift toward increased cash funding. He also asked whether BWS had budgeted for AI initiatives. Raelynn confirmed that AI is being explored in various operational areas. Regarding debt, BWS maintains a strong debt service coverage ratio well above policy requirement. The shift toward increased cash contributions in FY2025 and FY2026 reflects stronger revenue collections following the 2024 rate increases. During the leaner pandemic years, cash reserves were depleted due to low rate increases and rising expenses, forcing greater reliance on bond financing.

Q: Ryan Obrero asked whether any upcoming changes to federal programs through presidential agendas might affect the FY2026 capital budget. Raelynn replied that BWS is closely monitoring federal funding programs. She noted that State Revolving Fund (SRF) appropriations for FY2026 have been secured through the State's Intended Use Plan and should cover BWS's loan needs for the year. Although the interest savings compared to bond financing are modest, BWS aggressively pursues SRF loans when available. She stated that the WIFIA loan program is also being monitored. Ernest warned that the EPA's proposed budget includes drastic cuts to these funding programs, affecting utilities across the U.S. He emphasized that BWS will adapt its funding strategy, evaluating the mix of revenue bonds, cash, and potential project deferrals based on financing conditions.

Q: Cynthia Rezentes expressed concern about potential reductions to the WIFIA program and recent structural changes within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which may complicate access to federal funds. She noted that WIFIA allocations are being consolidated under a new finance division within EPA, potentially disrupting coordination and delaying disbursements. Ernest acknowledged these concerns, stating that BWS has been assured its \$99 million WIFIA loan is funded with older, appropriated money.

Q: John Rogers asked about the flat \$6 million in revenue attributed to R1 recycled water, and whether there has been customer expansion. Raelynn replied that in addition to golf courses in Ewa and the City of Kapolei, there are commercial customers who use recycled water for irrigation. Although the number of customers fluctuates, the revenue line remains steady since the system has not expanded significantly.

Q: John Rogers asked whether the ongoing expansion in Kapolei includes more infrastructure for R1. Ernest confirmed that local ordinance requires new developments to connect to recycled water systems where available, especially for irrigation.

Q: Jicky Ferrer asked whether any of the new funding from Senate Bill 1396, which implements a green tax on tourists, would be used to help residents with water-related costs. Ernest said that it's still

unclear how those funds will be allocated. He emphasized the need to advocate for using these funds to help offset potential reductions in federal support.

Q: Jicky Ferrer asked whether BWS is exploring wind energy, particularly small-scale turbines as a supplement to photovoltaic panels. Ernest responded that BWS is not currently pursuing wind energy but remains open to revisiting renewable energy strategies as technology evolves.

CLIMATE ANALYSIS RESULTS & CONDITION ASSESSMENT INTEGRATION

Dave introduced Brian O'Connor, an engineer with CDM Smith, to discuss the climate analysis results for the Water Master Plan.

Brian began his presentation with an overview of BWS's 500+ major assets across the island and the methodology used to identify those assets that are most vulnerable to climate-induced risks. The three primary hazards examined were hurricane wind speeds, flooding, and wildfires. The process started with an evaluation of current-day risks using established data sets: terrain-adjusted wind maps from 2010 for hurricanes, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood maps for flooding, and a fire hazard model based on the Lahaina wildfire scenario. These baseline conditions were then adjusted using climate projections to reflect anticipated future scenarios.

For hurricane exposure, Brian noted that rising sea surface temperatures could result in a 10% increase in hurricane wind speeds. Shifts in Pacific storm tracks northward also increases risk to Oahu. Many existing BWS assets were not originally designed for the higher winds now forecasted, making nearly every site potentially vulnerable to future hurricane damage.

Flood risk analysis considered both coastal flooding due to sea level rise and inland flooding from rainburst and flash flood events. Coastal risk was assessed using National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) storm tide and sea level rise projections as well as University of Hawaii School of Ocean & Earth Science & Technology (UH SOEST) modeling. Assets were evaluated based on their vulnerability to 1ft, 4ft, and even 8ft of future sea level rise. The team developed internal GIS tools with buffers of 200, 250, and 500 feet around known flood zones to flag potentially at-risk assets based on both horizontal proximity and vertical elevation differentials.

Wildfire risk assessments incorporated present-day vegetation, ignition likelihood, and declining groundwater recharge trends. These factors, when combined with increasing dry season severity, resulted in higher risk scores. Roughly 54% of BWS assets scored above a moderate risk threshold, with about 15% deemed highly vulnerable.

Working closely with BWS staff, the team refined the list of vulnerable sites based on both environmental exposure and operational importance, including factors like accessibility during storms and existing infrastructure condition. Assets known to be scheduled for retirement or relocation were not considered further. This process reduced the original list to 15 high-priority sites. All 15 would be assessed for hurricane risk; 10 for hurricane and wildfire; 1 for hurricane and flood; and 4 for all three hazards.

Q: Dave Ebersold asked Brian to clarify the purpose of narrowing the list of sites. Brian explained that these 15 sites would undergo vulnerability inspections. The goal was to develop template designs for climate-resilient retrofits and new construction. Sites were selected to be representative of the wider system and its varied exposure scenarios.

Brian added that these assessments would inform future CIP decisions and result in five climate-resilient design templates. These designs would be scalable across the system and serve as a foundation for future upgrades. He also discussed efforts to explore new tools such as autonomous drones for water tank condition assessments. These drones would scan exterior surfaces for areas of deterioration and capture imagery that allows planners to digitally measure damage and estimate repair costs.

Q: Bob Leinau raised concerns about how adjacent properties might affect the vulnerability of BWS sites, noting that upstream vegetation or impermeable surfaces can worsen flooding or wildfire spread. Brian acknowledged that mitigation strategies differ by hazard. He emphasized the importance of building envelope materials and defensible space strategies that consider each site's unique conditions.

Q: Bob Leinau asked for clarification on how adjacencies are handled. Brian stated that community outreach would be critical, especially for wildfire risk reduction. Vegetation management must extend beyond BWS-controlled parcels to be effective.

Q: Shari Ishikawa asked whether the vulnerability of coastal pipelines was being evaluated. Brian confirmed that it was a concern, but this project focused on above-ground, vertical assets. Dave clarified that other efforts are underway to assess horizontal assets like pipelines.

Q: Jicky Ferrer asked what types of damage wells sustained during Hurricanes Iniki and Iwa. Brian said he did not have detailed information about those specific historical events but explained that well sites often include exposed components vulnerable to wind and flying debris. The analysis would look at which equipment could remain outdoors and which needed enclosures.

Q: Shari Ishikawa expressed concern about the reliability of FEMA flood maps in Hawai'i, asking whether better flood data could be used. Brian acknowledged the limitations of FEMA data, which is based on outdated rainfall statistics from 2014. To compensate, the team developed additional rainfall/runoff models, created custom flood buffers, and scored assets based on proximity and projected precipitation increases. CDM Smith Engineer Sebastian Malter added that they developed a tool to model how rainfall converts to runoff based on land use and soil type. This enabled them to better estimate flood vulnerability despite the outdated FEMA maps.

Q: Cynthia Rezentes asked if members could receive climate vulnerability data for their respective Council districts. She also expressed frustration that flood mapping often fails to account for local conditions like permeable karst terrain. Dave explained that maps in this presentation were intentionally generalized to protect the security of BWS infrastructure. Ernest reinforced the need for caution when publishing critical infrastructure data and acknowledged increasing threats. He agreed that local knowledge was valuable and supported incorporating community input as ground-truthing.

Q: Ryan Obrero asked how the results of the condition assessments would be incorporated into the BWS budget cycle. Ernest responded that the results would help inform design standards for future facility renovations. For example, if a control building is being reroofed, it should use hurricane and fire-resistant materials to protect sensitive equipment from rain and embers. These decisions would guide capital planning and design moving forward.

Q: Alison Richardson asked for clarification on the threshold used to define vulnerability. Was the team flagging any impact or only major disruptions? Brian said they flagged any potential vulnerability, including wind-driven rain entry points, flood inundation levels, and fire ignition risks. He emphasized

that for some hazards, such as flood, even a small design oversight can result in failure, so assessments must be comprehensive.

Q: Shari Ishikawa noted that Hawaiian Electric is investing in wildfire risk modeling and suggested opportunities for collaboration. Brian agreed, saying that similar materials and hardening strategies could be applied across both agencies for wildfire and hurricane resilience.

Q: Jicky Ferrer noted that several wells in Mililani Mauka are surrounded by Albizia trees and power lines. He asked whether Brian's team had the ability to make recommendations to adjacent landowners for vegetation management. Brian reiterated that while BWS can only manage risks on its own parcels, community outreach and interagency collaboration will be key to building broader resilience. He emphasized the need for partnerships with agencies and landowners to address hazards such as wildfires.

The presentation concluded by saying that the goal of the assessments is not only to reduce future vulnerabilities but also to create cost-effective, climate-adapted facility designs that can be incorporated into long-term infrastructure planning.

ACCEPTING MEETING 54 NOTES

Meeting 54 notes were approved.

FUTURE DEMAND PROJECTIONS

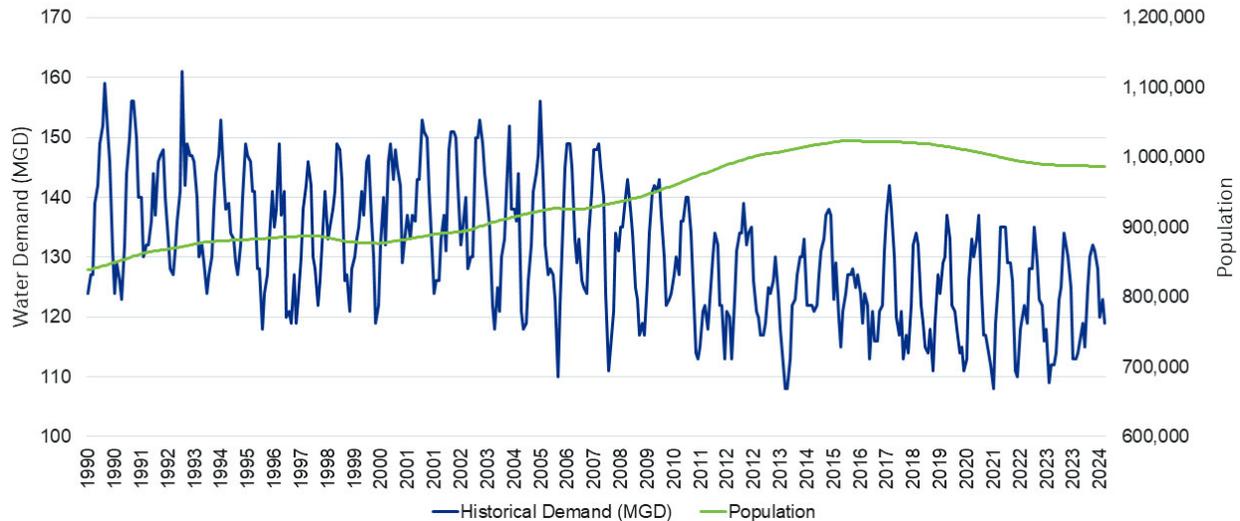
Dave introduced Erin Walsh, Environmental Engineer with CDM Smith, to discuss future water demand projections.

Erin began her presentation by outlining the framework for the analysis, which focused on understanding historic water demand, developing a statistical model for per capita use, and applying this model to project future water needs across BWS development areas.

Erin began by reviewing BWS's current service levels, noting that they supply approximately 145 million gallons per day (MGD) to around one million people. To better understand trends, the team analyzed both total production and per capita demand, using the metric of gallons per person per day (GPCD), which is calculated by dividing total daily production by the island wide population. She emphasized the importance of distinguishing between seasonal and long-term trends: while seasonal trends reflect patterns within a year (such as higher demand in summer, lower in winter), long-term trends span decades and reveal shifts in consumption behaviors.

A historical graph from 1990 through January 2025 showed that while population has steadily increased, overall water demand has gradually declined. When considering GPCD, the data demonstrated a noticeable downward trend with seasonal fluctuations. Erin explained that this pattern warranted further investigation into potential drivers, including drought, water pricing, income, conservation campaigns, plumbing efficiency standards, and tourism.

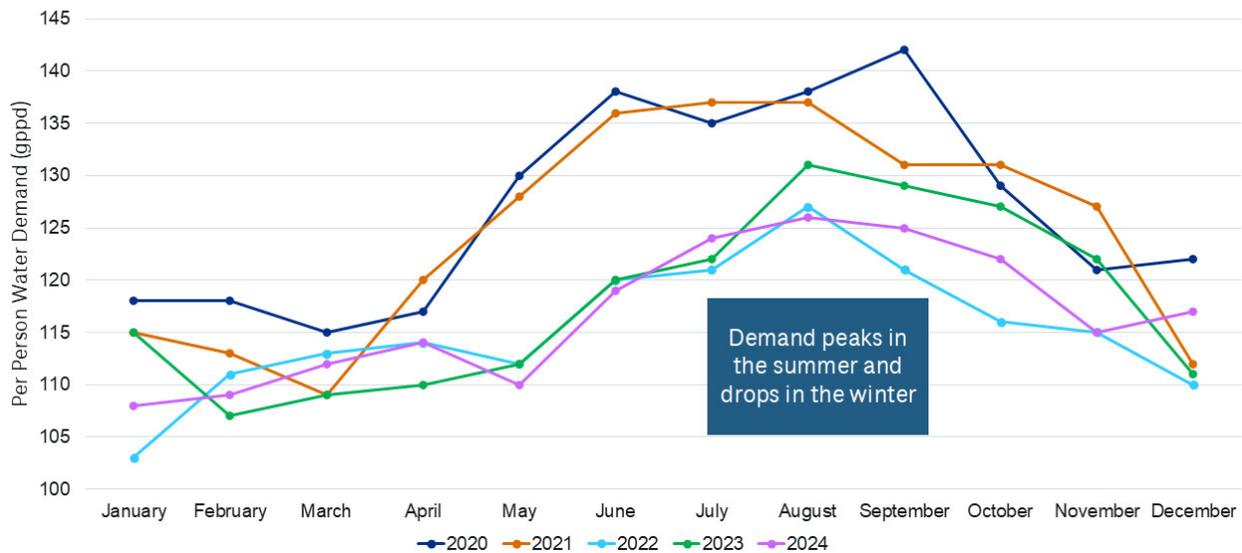
HISTORICAL WATER DEMAND (MGD) AND O‘AHU POPULATION



Erin asked the audience two poll questions. In the first poll, attendees identified long-term drought and reduced rainfall as key contributors to increased demand. In the second poll, participants highlighted household factors such as leaks, laundry, pets, and visitors as drivers of higher water usage, while factors like rainfall, conservation behaviors, and rain barrels were cited as reasons for reduced use.

The analysis of seasonal trends confirmed a recurring annual peak during summer months (June–July) and a consistent low during winter months (December–February). Erin noted that even in non-normal years such as 2020 and 2021 (during the height of COVID-19), this seasonal pattern remained intact. She then discussed the long-term GPCD data from 1990 to 2025, pointing out a particularly sharp decline beginning around 2004, which is a period that coincided with more aggressive conservation messaging and rate increases.

HISTORICAL PER PERSON WATER DEMAND – SEASONAL TRENDS (2020 – 2024)



Erin transitioned to discussing the statistical approach used to model water demand: an econometric demand model. This model incorporates both socioeconomic and climate variables to predict water demand based on historical patterns. The model assumes that water use is neither random nor fixed, it responds to measurable factors. After testing over 50 variable combinations, the team identified seven statistically significant variables: maximum monthly temperature, current and previous month precipitation, per capita income, price of water, BWS conservation campaigns, and plumbing efficiency.

The model yielded a strong fit to historical data, with an R-squared value of 0.918, indicating high accuracy. Erin described how each variable influenced demand. For example, a 1% increase in average monthly maximum temperature correlated with a 1.09% increase in water demand, demonstrating temperature as the most influential driver. Conversely, a 1% increase in water price resulted in a 0.29% decrease in demand. She also noted that plumbing efficiency had a stronger influence on reducing demand than pricing or conservation messaging.

HOW MUCH DOES EACH VARIABLE MATTER?

Variable	Coefficient
Monthly Average Daily Max Temperature	1.09
Total Monthly Precipitation	-0.02
Previous Month's Total Precipitation	-0.01
Per Capita Income	0.17
Increased BWS Active Conservation Binary	-0.10
Average Price of Water (per 13 kgal)	-0.29
Plumbing Efficiency Index	-0.39

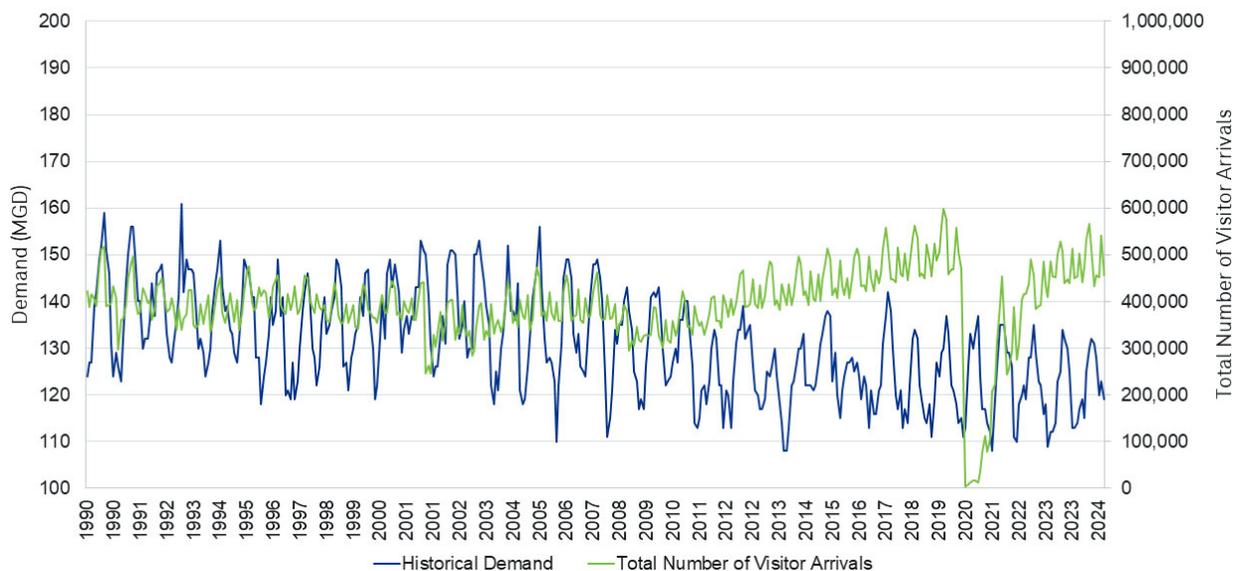
- The coefficient tells us how much water demand would change if a variable was increased by 1%

- Examples:

- When the monthly average daily **max temperature** increases by 1%, the demand **increases** by 1.09%
- When the **average price of water** increases by 1%, the demand **decreases** by 0.29%

Erin addressed the belief that tourism significantly impacts water demand. She said that surprisingly, the data did not support this. Graphs comparing total water production and visitor counts showed little correlation. Even during the COVID-19 travel lockdowns (when visitor arrivals plummeted), water use remained relatively constant and still followed seasonal trends.

DO VISITOR ARRIVALS IMPACT WATER DEMAND?



COMMENT: Kathleen Elliott-Pahinui noted that during the pandemic, demand remained stable in part because Waikiki is also home to many residents and that hotels had maintained water flow to avoid issues like Legionnaires' disease. Additionally, hotels used the pandemic downtime to install water-

efficient fixtures.

Q: Bob Leinau asked whether the BWS conservation factor in the model referred to public marketing campaigns. Erin confirmed it did. Kathleen added that she was involved in the original 2004 campaign, which used public focus groups that asked for clear conservation guidance. The campaign promoted “Seven Tips to Save Water” and achieved a 10% reduction in usage.

Q: Jicky Ferrer asked whether the use of composting toilets could be considered a valid conservation measure. Erin said the current model does not account for specific conservation technologies or rebates like composting toilets but acknowledged interest in expanding the model to incorporate such scenarios.

Q: Barry Usagawa questioned the use of 13,000 gallons as the baseline for average water use, stating that more recent averages are closer to 6,000-9,000 gallons. He also asked whether a “de facto” population estimate, which includes visitors and excludes military bases with their own water supply, had been tested in the model. Erin responded that the 13,000-gallon figure was used because it aligned with the structure of historical rate schedules and allowed for consistency in tracking costs over time. Dave added that it provided continuity for back-calculating rate impacts prior to the introduction of tiered billing.

Erin concluded the presentation with a preview of next steps. With the model calibrated and stakeholder feedback incorporated, the team will next combine population projections and climate data (such as increasing temperatures) to estimate total future water demand in MGD by development area throughout the Water Master Plan.

Q: Bob Leinau asked whether demand projections were reconciled with actual groundwater availability, emphasizing that true system capacity is determined by aquifer levels and not just water flowing through pipes. Erin said the current analysis focuses on system demand, but that the projections will be used to inform broader supply and resource planning. Dave noted that groundwater and system yield is queued for discussion at the October SAG meeting.

Q: Jicky Ferrer asked whether photovoltaic farms might reduce groundwater recharge due to runoff from panels. Erin said the current model does not address groundwater or infiltration effects. Barry explained that runoff from PV panels generally still percolates into the ground, provided the land is not paved, so it would not significantly reduce groundwater recharge.

Q: Barry Usagawa asked what kinds of behavior might be behind increased demand during hotter weather. Is it increased outdoor irrigation, cooling towers, or people taking more showers? Erin said while her team didn’t analyze behavior by end use, irrigation is usually the dominant factor in higher summertime demand.

NEXT STEPS

Dave reminded the group of the next stakeholder advisory group meeting is on Thursday, October 23, 2025. The October meeting date was pushed back one week to avoid conflict with an upcoming Hawaii Water Works Association conference

Dave thanked the attendees for their attention and participation and concluded the meeting.