

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY  
KA 'OIHANA WAI  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.  
MANAGER AND CHIEF ENGINEER  
MANAKIA A ME KAHU WILIKI

ERWIN KAWATA  
DEPUTY MANAGER  
HOPE MANAKIA



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GENE C. ALBANO, P.E., Ex-Officio

February 12, 2024

Ms. Martha Guzman  
Regional Administrator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

And

Dr. Kenneth Fink, MD  
Director of Health  
State of Hawai'i  
Department of Health  
1250 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Regional Administrator Guzman and Dr. Fink:

**Subject:** Invitation to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) to attend the Board of Directors Meeting of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS)

Thank you for responding to our invitation to attend the February 26, 2024, Board meeting. We were very disappointed to read your declining the invitation citing upcoming Fuel Tank Advisory Committee (FTAC) and Community Representation Initiative (CRI) meetings as places for BWS and the public to discuss and ask questions about the topics listed below.

1. EPA Drinking Water Complaints Investigation Report Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Public Water System (EPA. 2023). Copy enclosed for reference. Please discuss your findings, its health significance and relevance to JBPHH resident health and water quality concerns.
2. DOH's drinking water standard for total petroleum hydrocarbons as diesel (TPH-d), total petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline (TPH-g) and total petroleum hydrocarbons as oil (TPD-o) as individual contaminants and as a mixture of all three substances given the findings in EPA's report (EPA. 2023). Is the water with the TPH levels being detected safe to drink?

We agree that the FTAC and CRI meetings are opportunities to present questions. However, your suggestion to use these venues in lieu of attending our February Board meeting presumes that the questions at FTAC and CRI will also be asked at our Board meeting. Understanding complex technical topics and issues comes from expanding access to explain, educate and answer questions. As public agencies, we should provide the public with as many opportunities as possible to ask questions to understand the JBPHH water contamination issues, promote the comprehension of complex scientific topics and address any concerns. Our Board meetings offers another place where the public and our Board members can ask questions. We believe providing this opportunity is in keeping with our communication responsibilities as public agencies. The Board meets every month and again sends both EPA and DOH a standing invitation to attend one of those meetings. Below is a list of Board meeting dates from March to the remainder of 2024.

- March 25
- April 22
- May 28 (Tuesday)
- June 24
- July 22
- August 26
- September 23
- October 28
- November 25
- December 16

We look forward to hearing from you that accepts in-person attending one of our Board meetings. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Ernest Lau or myself at 808-748-5061.

Very truly yours,



ERNEST Y.W. LAU, P.E.  
Manager and Chief Engineer

cc: Nā'ālehu Anthony  
Board Chair  
Board of Water Supply

Ms. Kathleen Ho  
Deputy Director  
Environmental Health Administration  
State of Hawai'i, Department of Health  
1250 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

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Mr. Tomas Torres  
Director, Water Division  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Ms. Amy Miller  
Director, Enforcement & Compliance Enforcement Division  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
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### **Reference**

EPA. 2023. EPA Drinking Water Complaints Investigation Report, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Water System, EPA Region 9, San Francisco, California, EPA Inspectors: Christopher Chen (author), Heidi Rausch, Investigation Date: October 19, 2023, Report Date: December 18, 2023.