



DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY • COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

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Trace Amounts of 1,2,3-Trichloropropane Detected in 'Ōla'a-Mountain View Water System

TAP WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK

The Department of Water Supply (DWS), County of Hawai'i, reassures 'Ōla'a-Mountain View Water System customers that their tap water is safe to drink and that no health risks are associated with the recent discovery of a plantation-era soil fumigant from a water spigot which is inaccessible to the public.

Trace amounts of the manmade chemical 1,2,3-Trichloropropane (TCP) were detected in routine water samples collected recently from the 'Ōla'a Station #3 Booster site. The samples came from a spigot, also called a hose bibb, located on DWS property and not accessible by the public. The detected TCP levels ranged from 0.05 parts per billion (ppb) to 0.07 ppb, well below the Hawai'i Department of Health's (DOH) maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 0.6 ppb. There is no federal standard for TCP levels in municipal drinking water.

No presence of TCP was found in water samples collected from the well source or from a second well also supplying the same system.

To ensure 'Ōla'a-Mountain View Water System customers continue receiving safe drinking water, the Department of Water Supply has replaced the hose bibb and collected a new water sample for follow-up testing at the State's laboratory. DWS expects to receive the test results by the end of September 2023.

This is the first time TCP has been detected in the water system. The DOH is required to notify the public whenever a previously undetected chemical contaminant is detected in the public drinking water supply. The DOH issued its public notification on September 11, 2023.

TCP is a manmade chemical used in pesticides and as a degreasing solvent. The DOH is attributing the trace amounts of TCP in the water system to the former cultivation of pineapple on the test site. Also, the DOH reported that the use of soil fumigants which contained the TCP ended in the mid-1980s, indicating that the trace levels are not expected to increase in the future.

Again, the public's tap water is safe to drink. There are no health risks associated with consuming the drinking water, which does not require boiling or filtration. If there are any updates, DWS will notify its customers appropriately.

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... Water, Our Most Precious Resource... Ka Wai A Kāne ...

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