



DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY • COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

345 KĒKŪANAŌ'A STREET, SUITE 20 • HILO, HAWAI'I 96720

TELEPHONE (808) 961-8050 • FAX (808) 961-8657

EMAIL: dws@hawaiiidws.org • WWW.HAWAIIIDWS.ORG

October 14, 2025

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PFOS Detected in Pepe'ekeo Water System, Kula'imano Well A, Within EPA Acceptable Standards

HILO, HAWAI'I – The Department of Water Supply (DWS), County of Hawai'i, detected low levels of Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) for the first time in Kula'imano Well A (makai) during voluntary drinking water well testing across the island. PFOS is part of the group of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). DWS reported the findings to the Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) in accordance with Hawai'i State Law.

The testing results ranged from 2.6 to 3.0 nanograms per liter (ng/L). These results are within the acceptable limits of the safe drinking water standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA's Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFOS is 4.0 ng/L.

Site & Sampling Point	Analyte	Date	Result	Unit	EPA Test Method
KULA'IMANO WELL A WELL HEAD, WL002	PFOS	8/18/25	3.0	ng/L*	533
KULA'IMANO WELL A WELL HEAD, WL002	PFOS	8/18/25	2.6	ng/L*	537.1
KULA'IMANO WELL A CHL WELL OUT., TP002	PFOS	9/16/25	2.6	ng/L*	533
KULA'IMANO WELL A WELL HEAD, WL002	PFOS	9/23/25	2.7	ng/L*	533

Table 1: August and September 2025 Kula'imano Well Sampling Results.

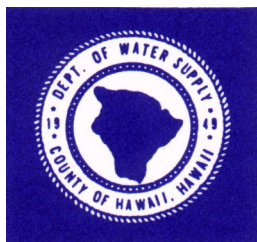
*One ng/L equals one part per trillion.

Kula'imano Well A is one of two groundwater sources in the Pepe'ekeo Water System. The primary groundwater source is Kula'imano Well B (mauka), currently under repairs.

PFAS are concerning for their persistence in the environment and links to adverse health outcomes in humans and animals, especially at high concentrations or with long-term exposure. PFOS is one of thousands of human-made compounds that have been commonly used in non-stick, non-stain,

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

The Department of Water Supply is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.



DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY • COUNTY OF HAWAII

345 KĒKŪANĀŌ'A STREET, SUITE 20 • HILO, HAWAII 96720

TELEPHONE (808) 961-8050 • FAX (808) 961-8657

EMAIL: dws@hawaiiidws.org • WWW.HAWAIIIDWS.ORG

and water-resistant industrial and household products since the 1940s. In 2002, the primary US manufacturer of PFOS voluntarily phased out production of this chemical compound.

“Our customers’ safety is our top priority,” said Keith Okamoto, DWS Manager-Chief Engineer. “Although the new federal compliance regulations do not take effect for a couple of years, we did not want to wait to act. We are proactively sampling active drinking water sources across the island, over 60 locations, by the end of the year.”

Okamoto added, “The drinking water DWS provides meet all federal and state drinking water standards – it is safe to use and drink. While I am proud of our proactivity and openness on the issue of PFAS, it’s important to know most peoples’ exposure comes from everyday products – nonstick food packaging, stain-resistant fabrics and upholstery, and cosmetics, to name a few.”

In addition to sampling its wells, DWS will be testing the use of granular activated carbon for PFAS treatment implementation. The tests are scheduled to begin in early 2026.

For more information about PFAS, visit the Hawai‘i Department of Health’s webpage: <https://health.hawaii.gov/heer/environmental-health/highlighted-projects/pfas> or EPA’s website at <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>.

Media Contact:

Department of Water Supply, County of Hawai‘i
Administration Division – Communications Branch
Ph. (808) 961-8050
dws@hawaiiidws.org

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

The Department of Water Supply is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.