DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY • COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

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

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

EMAIL: dws@hawaiidws.org • WWW.HAWAIIDWS.ORG

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NEWS RELEASE

Drinking Water Preparedness

Hawaiian Electric (HE) has extended its Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) watch through Friday, November 13, 2026. A PSPS watch means HE has enhanced monitoring for areas at highest risk of wildfires. It does not mean power will be shut off, but rather that HE could do so if needed to reduce the risk of a fire.

The Department of Water Supply (DWS), County of Hawai'i, reminds its customers and the community to be drinking water prepared. DWS relies on HE power to operate our wells and booster pumps to distribute water to our customers. A PSPS could result in power outages that may last hours to days, depending on weather conditions, location and possible damages. A PSPS or prolonged power outage could result in lengthy water-service disruptions or outages.

Water preparation tips include:

- **Determine Household Water Needs.** Each person should have a minimum of one gallon of water per day for at least 14 days, according to the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA). Prepare also for the water needs of pets and livestock.

- **Store Water Safely.** Use only clean, dedicated, food-grade containers. Wash containers thoroughly with dishwashing soap, sanitize using one teaspoon of mild liquid chlorine bleach per quart of water, and then rinse thoroughly. Fill containers from the tap, leaving as little air as possible. Store in a cool, dark area. Water that has not been commercially bottled should be replaced every six months, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

- **Treat Drinking Water.** During an emergency, it **may** be necessary for DWS to issue a Boil Water Notice due to water quality problems. Customers will be made aware of this via various communication channels. If this is necessary, instructions to treat water can be found on FEMA's website.

- **Restrict Water Use.** During emergencies, restrict water use to essential uses only such as drinking, cooking, and sanitation. No lawn watering, car/boating washing, etc.

- **Stay Informed.** Sign up for Hawai'i County Civil Defense alerts at:



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