Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

# 2013 HO'OLEHUA WATER QUALITY CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

**Introduction**

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) is committed to providing you with quality drinking water and reliable service at a reasonable cost. Since 1998, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations require community water systems to provide an annual report to consumers on the quality of their drinking water in the form of a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR).

Your water is tested regularly by DHHL and the Department of Health for more than 100 different types of contaminants. The DHHL water has been tested and determined to meet **ALL** Federal and State quality standards. The contaminants shown below were found in your drinking water and are well within the standards for safe drinking water.

**General Information Relating to Drinking Water Contaminants and Health Risks**

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

• Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

• Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from agriculture, urban storm water runoff, residential uses and other uses;

• Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, can come from gas stations, urban storm runoff or septic systems.

• Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

**Important Information Regarding Drinking Water Contaminants and Immuno-Compromised Persons**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, who have HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, and elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control guidelines on the means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available by calling the EPA Safe Water Drinking Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

## Water Source Information

Drinking water begins as rain falling over the Molokai Forest Reserve. Much of this rain is naturally filtered through the ground on its way to large underground aquifers. The water serving your residence is from the Ho‘olehua Water System No. 230, which is owned and operated by DHHL. All of the water pumped into the water distribution system is chlorinated. Concentrations of chlorine are kept at a minimum and DHHL adds only what is needed to keep disease-causing bacteria from contaminating our water supply. A complete source water assessment is available for review. Please contact the Molokai District Office at 560-6104 for more information.

## Water Monitoring Results

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the reporting period for this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires DHHL to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

| Contaminants | MCLG or MRDLG | MCL, TT, or MRDL | Your Water | Range Low | Range High | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Disinfectants & Disinfectant By-Products** | | | | | | | | |
| (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants) | | | | | | | | |
| TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb) | NA | 80 | 40.8 | NA | | 2013 | No | By-product of drinking water disinfection |
| Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb) | NA | 60 | 3.1 | NA | | 2013 | No | By-product of drinking water chlorination |
| **Inorganic Contaminants** | | | | | | | | |
| Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) (ppm) | 10 | 10 | 0.39 | NA | | 2013 | No | Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits |

- MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level, the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.
- MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
- NA: Not Applicable
- ppm / ppb: parts per million / parts per billion

## Lead in Drinking Water & Its Effects on Children

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. DHHL is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

**For more information please contact:**

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