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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **The Honolulu Board of Water Supply Launches Detect-A-Leak Week**

*Leak detection and repair saves water and money*

Did you know that a leaky toilet could waste 172,800 gallons of water in one month – costing at least \$576 in water charges alone! To help prevent this unnecessary and costly waste, the Board of Water Supply (BWS), in partnership with City Mill Home Improvement Centers, the Sierra Club Oahu Group and the Chamber of Commerce, has launched its 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Detect-A-Leak week from June 3-9, 2007, as a way to urge customers to check for and fix leaks.

“Leak detection is truly a win-win,” said BWS Manager and Chief Engineer Clifford Lum. “Finding and fixing leaks help our customers save money on their water and sewer bills but most importantly it helps to preserve our limited water supply. Leak detection is key to our conservation efforts and supports our mission to provide *Water for Life – Ka Wai Ola*.”

During Detect-A-Leak Week, BWS and co-sponsors of the yearly observance are asking all water users to check for leaks in toilets, other plumbing fixtures, irrigation systems and other water-using equipment within the property. The following are tips on how to check for these:

- A leaky toilet causes approximately 80 percent of high water bills, and detecting and preventing this hidden culprit is easy. To check for a leaky toilet, customers should:
  - Remove the toilet tank cover and drop in a blue dye tablet (you can get them from one of the places listed below) or a couple of drops of food coloring.
  - Wait 10-15 minutes, and if the color appears in the toilet bowl, you have a leak.
  - A faulty flapper valve causes most toilet leaks, so you should check it regularly and replace it, if necessary. If that is not the cause of the leak, call your plumber.

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- To check for property leaks, customers should:
  - Visually inspect all faucets, pipes and all other water fixtures.
  - Turn off all the devices that use water in the home.
  - Go out to the water meter and check to see if the red arrow or small black triangle on the meter is still moving. If so, you have a leak somewhere on your property and should call a licensed plumber to find and fix the leak
- To check for underground leaks, customers should:
  - Examine your lawn for wet spots, where grass seems greener.
  - Wet spots and areas where grass seems significantly greener could indicate a broken underground pipe.
  - If you suspect you have a broken underground pipe, you should call a plumber.

In an effort to help customers, BWS will provide the following:

- Free dye tablets to help check for toilet leaks are available at all satellite City Halls, all City Mill stores, and at the BWS lobby at 630 South Beretania St.
- Single-family homeowners can also sign up to receive a free BWS home leak check by mailing in, by June 9, the entry form found on all Detect-A-Leak Week promotional flyers. The flyers are available at all satellite city halls, City Mill stores, the BWS lobby on South Beretania St. and on-line at [www.boardofwatersupply.com](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com). BWS will select 50 entries (based on consumption records), schedule follow-up home visits, inspect water meters, and check for property leaks.
- For those who want to conduct their own leak inspection, they can call 748-5041, or log onto the BWS website, to ask for free information on conservation and leak detection.

“Preserving and protecting our most essential resource – our water – for future generations is everyone’s responsibility,” said Lum. “That is why we want to encourage everyone to participate in this week-long observance and also to make leak detection part of your regular home maintenance routine year-round.”

Detect-A-Leak Week is a public education and outreach program designed to encourage leak detection and to educate consumers on the important role they play as stewards of our precious water supply. For more information about Detect-A-Leak Week, call the BWS Community Relations Office at 748-5041.



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## **About BWS**

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply is a semi-autonomous city agency whose mission is “Water for Life – Ka Wai Ola”. Three main strategic objectives emanate from this mission—resource, economic and organizational sustainability. Resource Sustainability ensures our natural groundwater supplies are protected and managed efficiently. Economic Sustainability requires diversifying financial resources to support system operating and capital needs, while keeping water rates affordable. Organizational Sustainability calls for a sound, well structured, efficient organization with the tools and skills necessary to provide exceptional value to our customers, our community, and our watersheds. More information about BWS can be found on the BWS site at [www.boardofwatersupply.com](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com).

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