



# Board of Certification Of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants

## 2010 HWEA Conference Presentation



*Ho'okele Waiwai Honua Wai*  
*Economical Management of Our Water Environment*

March 16, 2010



# Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants

Charles Dawrs

**Vacant**

Brad Pierce

Wesley Lim

Bert Uyeno

Myron Nomura

Victor Moreland

Marshall Lum

Eassie Miller

Private Sector Operator

County of Hawaii

County of Maui

City & County Honolulu

County of Kauai

PE in Private Practice

Engineering Faculty

State Agency DOH

HWEA





# Board Mission

An aerial photograph showing a wastewater treatment plant facility situated along a coastline. The facility includes several large rectangular aeration tanks and a central building. The surrounding area is lush with green vegetation and features several interconnected ponds or wetlands. The ocean is visible on the left side of the image.

Create and maintain a *professional* standard for the personnel that are the first line of defense for our point source dischargers to protect our pristine environment



# 2010 HWEA Presentation Agenda

- BOC Background
- 2010 ABC Conference
- Status of State Wastewater Operator Training Center
- Renewals of Certificates and CEUs Allowed
- HRS 340B and HAR 11-61 Defined
- Questions & Answers



# BOC Background

- Goals and Objectives
  - Implement and uphold HAR 11-61 and HRS 340B
  - Protect public health and island environment
  - Build Operator Professionalism
  - Meet 6 times/year, with additional meetings via Video Teleconferencing to allow outer island participation.
  - Give two exams annually



# BOC Background

- Board has 9 members appointed to 4 year terms
  - Charles Dawrs, Myron Nomura, and Marshall Lum “retiring” on June 30, 2010. Dana Riddle resigned March 2010.
  - New Board members installed in 2009 are Bradley Pierce (Maui County) and Wesley Lim (City & County Honolulu)
  - Chairperson elected annually in May.
  - Recommendations for replacements for Board vacancies forwarded to Governor by DOH. Nominees go through Senate confirmation



# Hawaii's Certified Wastewater Operators

- In 2008, 344 certified operators
- In 2009, 332 certified operators
- 3% decrease in certified operators



# Exam Passing Rates

- In 2009, 45 out of 131 examinees passed; 34% overall passing rate
- In February 2010 exam, 39 out of 80 examinees passed; 49% overall passing rate



# Hawaii's Certified Wastewater Operators (2009)

Island	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Total
Oahu	27	26	24	98	175
Big Island	17	13	8	21	59
Maui	4	5	4	21	34
Kauai	8	9	6	14	37
Lanai/Molokai	3	1	1	2	7
Out-of-State	0	1	6	13	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>332</b>



# Hawaii's Classified Wastewater Treatment Plants

Island	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Total
Oahu	28	24	5	11	68
Hawaii	10	23	6	2	41
Maui	9	13	1	3	26
Kauai	3	21	3	3	30
Lanai	1	1	1	0	3
Molokai	4	3	1	0	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>176</b>

- Held in January 26 -29 in Jacksonville and 100+ Attended
- Loss of Qualified Operators
- Budgetary Challenges for Boards
- Operator Recruitment
- Issues with Fake Diplomas
- Full report posted on BOC Website



# SWOTC Status Up-date

- Statewide Operator Training Center Closure
- Interim Plan using contractor (AECOM) to operate SWOTC until August 2010
- DOH negotiating with University of Hawaii to start providing courses



# UH Wastewater Training Program

- **Roger Babcock Jr., PhD, PE**  
Associate Professor and Graduate Program Chair  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Civil and Environmental Engineering Department  
Water Resources Research Center
- **UH Wastewater Training Program  
Information Update**



# Certificate Renewal



**YOU EARNED IT,**

**.....DON'T LOSE IT!**



# 2010-2012 Certificate Renewal

- o Occurs on even-numbered years (expires October 15, 2010)
- o 90 day renewal grace period, after which certificate is void and operator must re-take exam.
- o CEUs cannot be earned during the 90 day grace period.
- o Attain 2 CEUs during the 2 year period (October 16, 2008 to October 15, 2010)



# Certificate Renewal

- Continuing Education Units (CEU)
  - Eligible repeat courses are allowed only one-half of the originally allowed course CEUs - List is on BOC web-site
  - Eligible repeat courses are those which were last taken by the applicant more than 6 years ago



# Website for BOC Information and Forms

- BOC Website address:  
[www.hawaii.gov/wastewater/wtc\\_cert.html](http://www.hawaii.gov/wastewater/wtc_cert.html)

## Postings:

- Renewal application form
- Certification examination and re-examination application form
- Application forms for temporary and reciprocity certification
- Schedule of fees
- List of courses granted CEU credits
- List of certified operators
- List of approved training course for repeats
- Request for public records
- DRC notification form
- Approved continuing education courses (home study and on-line)
- Plant Classifications



# CEU Transcript Request

- Fill out **Request for Public Information** form and submit to:

State of Hawaii

Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in  
Wastewater Treatment Plants

1350 Sand Island Parkway, Bldg. 3A

Honolulu, Hawaii 96819



# Rule Making Process

- **Hawaii Revised Statutes - Creates Legislative Framework for Hawaii Administrative Rules**
  - HRS Chapter 340B - Hawaii Law Mandatory Certification of Private Cesspool Pumping Firms and Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants
- **Hawaii Administrative Rules - Statute Implementation**
  - Title 11 Chapter 61 - Mandatory Certification of Wastewater Treatment Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants



# State of Hawaii Deputy Attorney General - Opinion

- HRS 340B-6 Certification requirement.
- All classified wastewater treatment plants.....shall at all times be under the direct supervision of an individual whose competency is certified to by the director in a classification corresponding to the classification of the wastewater treatment plant to be supervise. [L 1978. c 169. pt of 2]

*requires that DRC be at the plant all the time*



# State of Hawaii Deputy Attorney General - Opinion

- HRS 340B-8 Prohibited acts
- HRS 340B-8(1) For any wastewater treatment plant to be operated unless the operator is duly certified under this chapter.
- HRS 340B-8(2) For any individual to perform duties of an operator without being duly certified under this chapter.  
[L 1978. c 169. pt of 2]

*requires that all personnel performing operator duties  
must be duly certified*



# State of Hawaii Deputy Attorney General - Opinion

- HAR 11-61-3 Certification of wastewater treatment plant operators:
- *(a) All wastewater treatment plants... shall at all times be under the direct responsible charge of an operator whose competency has been certified by the director in classification corresponding to the plant classification... to be supervised.*

*requires that DRC be at the plant all the time*



# State of Hawaii Deputy Attorney General - Opinion

- **HAR 11-61-2 Defines operator duties as:**

*“operating wastewater process equipment, valves, pumps, engines and generators; cleaning of various process equipment for necessary unit process functions; monitoring of gauges, meters and control panels; recognition of process upsets and critical conditions in unit processes; determining and adjusting treatment process conditions using data, meter, or gauge readings; mixing of any chemicals required in treatment; and inspecting the facility for overall process conditions.”*



Questions from the Audience

**Questions?**



# Website for BOC Information and Forms

- BOC Website address:  
[www.hawaii.gov/wastewater/wtc\\_cert.html](http://www.hawaii.gov/wastewater/wtc_cert.html)

## Postings:

- Renewal application form
- Certification examination and re-examination application form
- Application forms for temporary and reciprocity certification
- Schedule of fees
- List of courses granted CEU credits
- List of certified operators
- List of approved training course for repeats
- Request for public records
- DRC notification form
- Approved continuing education courses (home study and on-line)
- Plant Classifications

