



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**MAYOR KIRK CALDWELL**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY MAINTENANCE**  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 2, 2020

Press Office: 768-5768

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**O'ahu Storm Water Utility Study Continues Community Meetings**

HONOLULU (March 2, 2020) — The City and County of Honolulu continues a series of community meetings regarding the proposed formation of a storm water utility for O'ahu. Meetings will be held around the island through mid-March.

"We have already received important input from residents and other stakeholders on storm water services, and whether the City should form a storm water utility", said Randall Wakumoto, head of the Storm Water Quality Branch of the City Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM), which is overseeing the study. "We would welcome additional input."

Storm water utilities provide municipalities with dedicated, fee-based funding available exclusively for storm water management purposes. Already in the United States, there are more than 2,000 storm water utilities across 39 states. The O'ahu study proposes dedicated funding for a storm water utility paid for by all property owners. Currently funding for storm water management is at the discretion of the City and comes from the general fund, primarily from property taxes. The study is in part being funded by the Hawai'i Community Foundation. A stakeholder advisory group has also been convened.

Meetings around O'ahu started on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Upcoming meetings include:

- March 2, 2020 at 5 p.m. at the McKinley High School cafeteria
- March 4, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lā'ie Elementary School cafeteria
- March 5, 2020 at 5 p.m. at the Nānākuli High School cafeteria
- March 9, 2020 at 5 p.m. at the 'Aiea Intermediary School cafeteria
- March 10, 2020 at 5 p.m. at the Waimānalo Elementary cafeteria
- March 11, 2020 at 5 p.m. at Hau'ula Community Center (old Satellite City Hall for Ko'olauloa)

Go to [www.StormWaterUtilityOahu.org/participate-3/](http://www.StormWaterUtilityOahu.org/participate-3/) for more details on the meeting schedule.

A storm water utility will allow the DFM to work in conjunction with the Board of Water Supply and other agencies to find ways to replenish the aquifer, help mitigate flooding and potential hazards from climate change, help solve runoff problems and pollution from construction, among other issues.

“The meetings are designed to educate the public around storm water management issues and what a utility could do to better meet these needs,” said Ross Sasamura, the DFM Director and Chief Engineer. “Public feedback is key to the study and we urge everyone to attend one of the upcoming meetings to find out more.”

More information on the study can be found on the website. To get updates, community members can provide their contact information at [www.StormWaterUtilityOahu.org](http://www.StormWaterUtilityOahu.org).

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