



Volume 4, Issue 1, April 2003

### DOW DEFERS THE NEXT SCHEDULED RATE INCREASE

The County of Kaua'i, Board of Water Supply has reviewed the financial status of the Department of Water and has decided it will be possible to defer the rate increase that was scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2003. The scheduled rate increase is the second of two rate increases adopted in 2001 to maintain and upgrade the island's public water systems, as identified in the Department's long-term master plan called Water Plan 2020. The proposed rate increase deferral will delay the rate increase by one year, with a new effective date of July 1, 2004. A public hearing on this matter was held on April 16, 2003 at the Board's regularly scheduled meeting held at the Department's Pua Loke offices. Following the public hearing, the Board formally adopted the rate increase deferral.

The rate increase deferral is possible at this time because the Department's expenses and spending for capital improvements have not been as high as originally projected when the Water Plan 2020 rates were adopted. The Department's revenues, water sales and energy costs have been very close to those projected in the financial plan, and the Department has been able to obtain low interest loans from the State for several projects. All of the Department of Water's revenues are obtained from the sale of water; County general funds from taxes are not used by the Department.

### EDWARD TSCHUPP APPOINTED MANAGER AND CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER

At February's monthly meeting, Board Chair Curtis Tom was pleased to announce that the Kaua'i Board of Water Supply has appointed Edward Tschupp as Manager and Chief Engineer of the Department of Water.



Ed has been with the Department as Deputy Manager for more than 5 years, and is already up to speed on the programs and key issues faced by the Department. The Board agreed with the recommendation of former Manager Ernie Lau that Ed is well prepared to lead the Department, and will provide a continuity of vision as the Department moves forward with the implementation of Water Plan 2020.

Ed is a graduate of Santa Barbara High School in California, and received his Bachelors Degree in Earth Sciences (Geology) from the University of California, Santa Cruz. He worked for a couple of years for a Washington DC consulting firm, then returned to school and received his Master's in Geological Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado. He worked for approximately 10 years in water resources and environmental consulting in the central coastal area of California before moving to Oahu in 1995. On Oahu, he spent 2 years working in environmental and engineering consulting.

Mr. Tschupp moved to Kaua'i in 1997 where he has been the Deputy Manager with the Department of Water for the past 5 years. His wife, Carolyn is a Nursing Supervisor with Wilcox Hospital. He has one son, Eric and a granddaughter, Sophie, who live in California.

### WATER PLAN 2020 UPDATE

We are faced with the challenges of aging infrastructure, system deficiencies, wells with decreasing water levels, geology, and new drinking water regulations. Through the Department's long term master plan, Water Plan 2020, we are addressing existing deficiencies where water is presently limited, and providing for the future.

To address current deficiencies, the Department of Water has six new wells in various stages of construction.

We are working closely with Grove Farm on their plans for a surface water treatment plant under development now, which will solve some of the source problems in Lihu'e. Also we are working on the design of several new or renovated storage tanks and we have several pipeline replacement projects in various stages of design.

Some of the current Water Plan 2020 projects are listed in the tables below.

Water Plan 2020 Projects Nearing Completion			
Project Title	Completion Date	Estimated Cost	
1. Puhi 5A & 5B Well Development	July 2003	\$960,000	
2. Kapa'a Homesteads Well #2	July 2003	\$1,600,000	
3. Hanapepe River Pipeline	June 2003	\$1,050,000	
4. Hanapepe 27" Steel Pipeline Renv.	June 2003	\$500,000	
5. Kapilimao Valley Well Development	Aug. 2003	\$985,000	
6. Waimea - Kekaha Booster Pump	Aug. 2003	\$270,000	

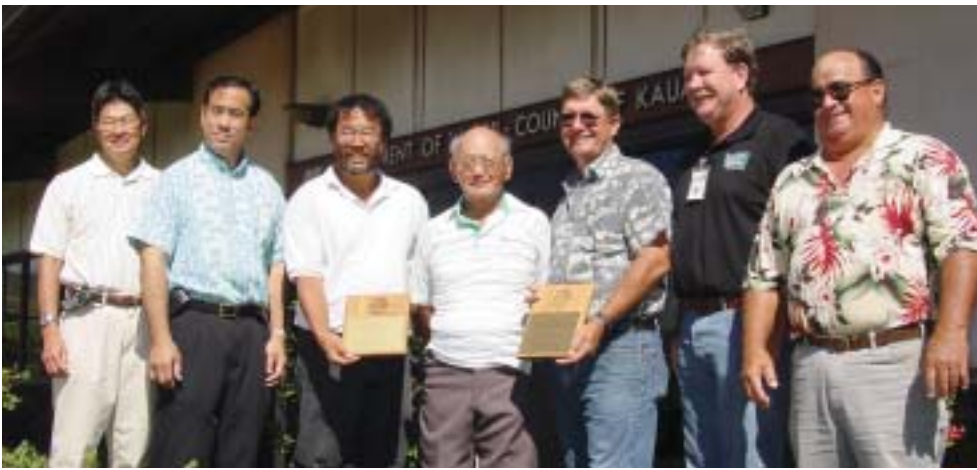
Projects to Start Construction Soon			
Project Title	Start Date	Estimated Cost	
1. Wainiha Tank Replacement	July 2003	\$320,000	
2. Lihue Steel Tank Renovation	Aug 2003	\$700,000	
3. Drill Wailua Homestead Well #3	Aug. 2003	\$450,000	
4. Kuhio Hwy. Pipeline Replacement, Kapa'a	Sep. 2003	\$1,200,000	
5. Ornellas Tank Revovation	Sep. 2003	\$400,000	
6. Koloa Well F Development	Sep. 2003	\$1,700,000	

**May 4 – 10, 2003**

During this week, look for water saving ideas and tips to conserve and preserve our precious resource. The Department has also declared this Detect-A-Leak Week and will be offering residential water audits to single family home owners. Please look for additional information in the Garden Island Newspaper.

The purpose of this program is to assist customers on how to check for possible leaks on their property, develop data on residential usage and provide information on water conservation. Our water audit team is trained to conduct a minimal leak detection survey of your property. If a leak is detected, team members will inform you. As part of this survey, Department of Water's outreach workers will inspect toilets, sinks, and bathroom fixtures, check your landscaping and the water meter. Customers will be interviewed on their water use patterns and the information from this survey will be included in a database.

NATIONAL DRINKING WATER WEEK



*Clyde Takekuma, Curtis Tom, Gary Ueunten, Ted Inouye, Jerry Ornellas, Ed Tschupp, and Dennis Baptiste.*

### **East, West Soil Water Conservation District**

On March 13, 2003, the First Annual Water Conservation Award was presented by the East, West Soil Water Conservation District. The award is directed at farmers, ranchers who have developed innovative or alternative methods to use water. They are being recognized for conserving potable drinking water.

This year, the recipients of the award are Gary Ueunten, and the East Kaua'i Water User's Cooperative. Gary has a catchment system at his home in Lawa'i that catches rain water from the roof and then is stored in two 1,350 gallon tanks. Water is piped and distributed by gravity to his farm which is located about 1/4 mile from his home. His

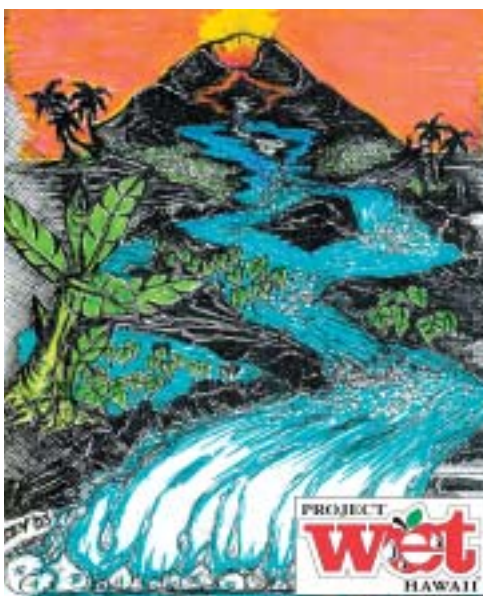
farm consists of 5 acres of fruit trees and vegetables. His bi-monthly water bill is about \$40.

The East Kaua'i Water Users Coop has paying members who purchase water to support diversified agriculture. The state owns the water system, formerly operated by Amfac Sugar for its former Lihu'e Plantation Company fields. The 21 mile system of ditches, reservoirs, and tunnels was originally designed to irrigate 12,500 acres of sugar. Current uses require less water of the system.

Both of these award recipients have realized the benefits of conserving potable water.

The awards presentation was held in front of the DOW building.

### **Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)**



The Department of Water has become the sponsoring agency for Project WET – Water Education for Teachers – and will be the

coordinator for the State of Hawaii.

Founded in 1984, Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is an international, interdisciplinary environmental education program, which utilizes water as its theme. Project WET is a program, a curriculum, and a network of coordinators and water educators.

The program focuses on providing formal and non-formal K-12 educators with water education training and materials, which can be used to promote awareness, appreciation, knowledge, and stewardship of water resources.

Project WET tries to teach students how to think, not what to think about the environment. By giving students the skills they need to analyze environmental issues, Project WET is helping our youth become responsible citizens capable of tackling the water issues we will face in the future.

For more information, please contact Kymm Solchaga, 245-5455.

