

## NOTICE OF DECLARATION OF STAGE 2 WATER SHORTAGE

Pursuant to Chapter 14.06A, Maui County Code, the Department of Water Supply of the County of Maui hereby provides notice of a Stage 2 water shortage for water consumers in the Upcountry, Maui service area. The Upcountry Maui service area includes Makawao, Upper and Lower Kula, Haiku, Pukalani, Kokomo, Kaupakalua, Ulumalu, Keokea, Ulupalakua, and Kanaio. Upcountry Maui is experiencing continued dry weather and lack of rainfall. On October 18 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecasted an extended dry season with below average rainfall.

The Director of Water Supply, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to declare a water shortage whenever the water supply becomes inadequate in any area in the County due to a period of drought, an infrastructure or mechanical malfunction, natural disaster, or other event causing a water shortage. A Stage 2 water shortage exists if the Director determines that anticipated water demand in an area is projected to exceed available water supply by sixteen to thirty percent. Recently, the daily demand for Upcountry Maui is exceeding daily supply by twenty percent. Currently, the levels of the storage reservoirs are now at a level that action is needed to reduce demand. The increased water demand, due to the extinguishment of the Upcountry, August wildfires, coupled with a continued lack of rainfall preventing the reservoirs that rely largely on surface water to replenish to adequate levels; and planned infrastructure improvements which will ultimately increase the treatment capacity of the Kamole Water Treatment Plant, have limited the capacity of the plant until improvements are complete, support the decision to implement a Stage 2 Water Shortage.

When a water shortage is declared, the Director may apply schedules, restrictions, or measures as follows: 1) Prohibit water usage during certain hours or days of the week; 2) Prohibit the use of water for irrigation, lawns, personal washing of vehicles, or other nonessential activities; 3) Prohibit the use of temporary construction meters; and 4) Institute water shortage rates as set forth in the annual budget. Failure of a water customer to comply with any mandated water restriction may result in penalties, including a fine of \$500 for each violation and removal of the water meter for subsequent violations.

At this time, for all Upcountry, Maui water consumers the use of water for irrigating their lawns, personal washing of vehicles, or other nonessential activities and the use of temporary construction meters are prohibited. If the water demand can be reduced by twenty percent, we anticipate that no further restrictions should be necessary.

The Stage 1 water shortage notification was initially issued on October 21, 2023, was effective as of October 26, 2023. The Stage 2 water shortage is effective November 08, 2023 and will remain until further notice.

At this time there are no changes to the water shortage rates, however, rates may increase as set forth in the annual budget if the Stage 2 continues or a Stage 3 water shortage has to be declared.

Agricultural water customers are requested to reduce water consumption to the extent practicable, but are not required to implement any restrictions or mandates for the first one hundred eighty days after the initial publication. After one hundred eighty days, and if the water shortage continues, agricultural consumers are subject to the same provisions as other water customers.

The Department will continue to watch supply and demand and the weather forecast to determine when the Stage 2 water shortage can end or if a Stage 3 water shortage has to be declared.

Please contact the Department Secretary at (808) 270-7816 if further information is needed.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
John Stufflebean, P.E.  
Director  
Department of Water Supply