

Hawaii's Water Quality: Mauka to Makai

Troy Maeda is an Environmental Health Specialist with the Department of Health's Clean Water Branch. He is one of the two primary water quality samplers for the island of Oahu. Troy is a part of the Monitoring Section of the Clean Water Branch, which helps to provide water quality data for the State. Prior to accepting a full-time position in 2018, Troy worked for the Clean Water Branch as a contractor and emergency hire. Troy also has experience working in aquaculture cultivation with Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) in Kona, Hawai'i.

Stephen Anthony is the Director of the USGS Pacific Islands Water Science Center in Honolulu, Hawai'i. His career with the USGS began in 1985 with a focus on groundwater-resource appraisals of atoll islands in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. Between 1996 and 1999, he served as Project Chief for the USGS National Water-Quality Assessment of the Island of O'ahu. Stephen has authored numerous publications on atoll hydrogeology and water quality. Between 1999 and 2009, he served as the Associate Director of the USGS Pacific Islands Water Science Center. He has been the Director of the USGS Pacific Islands Water Science Center since 2009.

A critical strategy to protect any ecosystem is to lower the number of external pressures it is exposed to. Many challenges faced by nearshore systems and coral reefs are difficult to take on locally, such as rising and warming seas, acidification, and exotic invasive species. However, there are some issues within our direct realm of influence.

The quality of our waters, both terrestrial and coastal, support all of our ecosystems in Hawaii. When impaired, stream and beach waters exacerbate the stressors of other environmental challenges and reduce ecosystem resilience. This month, our presenters will share their insights on the state of our waters, current monitoring practices, knowledge gaps, and the importance of maintaining both stream and nearshore water quality for comprehensive coastal management.

MP #3 and #5 Implementation

MP 3 Goal B: Improve coastal and stream water quality

Metric B-1: Decrease the number of impaired streams (DOH)

Improve the health and productivity of coral reef MP 5 Goal A:

ecosystems at priority sites identified by the Hawaii

Coral Reef Program

Metric A-1: Decrease in number of impaired coastal waters listed (DOH) Metric A-2:

Decrease in number of shoreline postings due to sewage

pollution (DOH)

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Questions? Contact Melanie Lander