



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**News Release**

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GOVERNOR

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**DOH ORDERS MOLOKA'I PROPERTIES TO CONTINUE  
DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES TO COMMUNITY  
AND ORDERS MAUI COUNTY TO PREPARE  
TO PROVIDE SERVICES IF NEEDED**

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) today issued Notices of Findings and Emergency Orders to Moloka'i Properties, Limited requiring the company and its three subsidiary utilities to continue drinking water and wastewater services. The DOH also issued Notices of Findings and Emergency Orders to Maui County to assess what is needed to provide drinking water and wastewater services, and to prepare to operate the drinking water and wastewater systems if the companies cease operations of the systems. Moloka'i Properties is ordered to continue operation of water and wastewater utilities on Moloka'i for at least the next 90 days. A hearing on the orders is scheduled for tomorrow.

"The Department of Health is exercising its authority to order immediate action to protect the public health from an imminent and substantial danger if the services are stopped," said Laurence Lau, DOH deputy director for environmental health. "The emergency orders also afford the County of Maui time to assess needs and prepare to provide these essential services to the people of Moloka'i if the companies cease operations of these vital systems."

Under one order, Moloka'i Properties and its drinking water utility subsidiaries Wai'ola O Moloka'i, Inc. and Moloka'i Public Utilities, Inc. are required to continue to operate, using certified distribution system operators and certified water treatment plant operators, the Kaluakoi-Maunaloa, Kualapu'u, and Kipu public drinking water systems as well as the surface water treatment plant for the Maunaloa-Kaluakoi water systems at Pu'u Nana.

(more)

A second order to Moloka'i Properties requires the company and its wastewater utility Mosco, Inc., to continue to operate the Kaluakoi, Maunaloa, and Kualapu'u wastewater systems with certified wastewater treatment plant operators.

The company and its utility subsidiaries are also required to submit a written report to the DOH every seven days on the status of their operations of the public water systems and the wastewater systems.

Under two separate orders issued to Maui County, the county is required to assess what is needed to provide drinking water and wastewater services, and to prepare to operate the drinking water and wastewater systems if Moloka'i Properties and its subsidiaries cease operations of the systems.

One order requires Maui County to immediately assess what is needed to provide sufficient safe drinking water, including the potential to operate the Maunaloa-Kaluakoi, Kualapu'u and Kipu public water systems. A second order requires the county to assess what is needed to provide adequate wastewater services as well as to operate the Kaluakoi, Maunaloa, and Kualapu'u wastewater systems.

The needs assessment may include a physical assessment, determination of staffing needs (including certified water or wastewater treatment plant operators), training and preparing staff to perform all necessary functions, and all other steps that are reasonable and necessary to perform all required functions if the companies no longer provide service.

The orders also require the county to take all actions required to be prepared to provide adequate drinking water services and provide sufficient supplies of safe drinking water and prepare to operate the wastewater systems if Moloka'i Properties and its subsidiaries no longer provide service.

The county must submit initial written assessments, including the status of its preparedness, to the DOH within seven days and a written update every seven days thereafter.

“Our priority is to ensure uninterrupted water and wastewater service for the health and safety of the people of Moloka'i,” said Governor Lingle. “While the county has the primary responsibility to operate and maintain public utilities, the State is prepared to assist the county.”

Hearings are scheduled for the companies and county on July 22 at 9:00 a.m. at 919 Ala Moana Boulevard in the 5th floor DOH Environmental Management Division conference room to address the issues raised by the orders in these cases.

DOH may review the status of the emergency orders after 90 days and determine whether the respondents need to continue to provide wastewater services beyond the ninety day period, or what other action may be appropriate.

The DOH issued the orders using its authority under Hawai'i's Safe Drinking Water Law, Hawai'i Law for Mandatory Certification of Public Water System Operators, and Hawai'i Water Pollution Law, as well as various administrative rules relating to emergency plans for safe drinking water, potable water systems, certification of public water system operators, and wastewater systems.

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