



## NEWS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF WATER, COUNTY OF KAUA'I

MEDIA CONTACT: JONELL KAOHELAULI'I, INFORMATION & EDUCATION SPECIALIST  
808-245-5461 | PUBLICRELATIONS@KAUAIWATER.ORG | FACEBOOK: @KAUAIDOW

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### Leak detection toilet tablets, kits offered during EPA 'Fix a Leak Week'

LIHUE – In honor of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) WaterSense, National "Fix a Leak Week" the Department of Water (DOW) is offering free leak detection toilet tablets and kits at its Lihu'e office on March 14-18, 2022.

"'Fix-a-leak week' serves as an annual reminder for residents and businesses to take the necessary steps to fix long-standing leaks, no matter how big or small," said DOW Manager and Chief Engineer, Joe Tait. "Producing high quality drinking water utilizes vital resources and together, we can help minimize excessive demand over time, if we all do our part to eliminate leaks."

In honor of national "Fix a Leak Week", DOW is offering free leak detection starter kits and toilet tablets to help customers start leak detection at home. Kits are offered one (1) per household, while supplies last.

Additionally, free toilet tablets are available at the Tanaka Hardware Store located at 2974 Kalena Street in Lihu'e, Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Tanaka Hardware Store to offer free toilet tablets in-store, just in time for 'Fix a leak week'," said Jonell Kaohelauli'i, DOW's Information and Education Specialist. "As an added bonus, their friendly associates can help locate the right hardware to fix or replace a leaking toilet or plumbing fixture."

The most common household leak is a leaky toilet, which is typically caused by a worn-out toilet flapper. DOW recommends checking toilets for leaks monthly. Undetected leaks can result in an increase on monthly water bills if not checked and repaired right away.

To help conserve our natural resources, DOW and the EPA is also encouraging consumers to visually inspect household plumbing fixtures and outdoor leaks by following three simple steps: **Check. Twist. Replace.**

1. **Check for leaks.** Look for dripping faucets, showerheads, sprinklers and other fixtures. For toilets, put a few drops of food coloring or a toilet tablet into the tank and wait 10 minutes. If any color appears in the bowl, your toilet has a leak. Don't forget to also check irrigation systems and outdoor spigots. Examine your lawn for wet spots where grass seems greener. This could indicate a broken underground pipe. If you find a leak, have it repaired as soon as possible.
2. **Twist and tighten hose and pipe connections.** For additional savings, twist on a low-flow aerator to each faucet to save water without noticing a difference in flow.

3. **Replace the fixture if necessary.** Look for WaterSense labeled models, which are independently certified to use reduce water use by 20 percent and perform as well as or better than standard models.

For more information about Fix a Leak Week and other leak detection tips from the EPA WaterSense program, visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense). Follow the trend at #FixALeakWeek #LeakDetective and #FALW and visit [www.facebook.com/KauaiDOW](http://www.facebook.com/KauaiDOW).



Photo 1: Toilet tablets with instructional brochure. Available at DOW office and Tanaka Hardware Store in Līhu'e.

Photo 2: DOW's Leak detection starter kit includes: Toilet tablets and instructional brochure, water savings tips, standard toilet flapper and a 9-spray hose nozzle. Available at DOW office. One (1) per household, while supplies last.



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