



NEWS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF WATER, COUNTY OF KAUA'I

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

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Water partners expand leak detection awareness to more than 1k homes

LIHUE - The Department of Water (DOW) expanded its local participation of national "Fix a Leak Week" to successfully distribute leak detection tools and information to more than 1,000 households from March 14 to 31, with the support of local partners who joined DOW's efforts to encourage others to check, fix and replace leaky fixtures and avoid wasting valuable drinking water.

"Thanks to our water partners, Tanaka Hardware Store and the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority, we were able to increase awareness in our communities and expand our reach to residents that receive water service as part of their rent, but do not directly receive a water bill," said Jonell Kaohelalii, DOW's Information and Education Specialist. "Understanding your water use and leak detection are key to being a responsible water user."

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a leaking toilet could waste approximately 200 gallons of water per day; or 6,000 gallons of water per month, which is also the estimated monthly average water use of a single-family household. DOW's efforts to help residents check for toilet leaks and encourage repairs involved providing 323 leak detection starter kits and 756 leak detection toilet tablets at no cost to them.

"If just 500 customers were able to find and fix their leaking toilet as a result of this effort, that's a potential savings of approximately 3 million gallons of water that could be realized within a month," said Joe Tait, DOW's Manager and Chief Engineer. "Water consumption plays a huge role in determining the current and future needs of our water systems and we'll continue to highlight important topics such as this to educate customers as we work towards building a sustainable water future together."

Tanaka Hardware Store partnered with DOW this year to host an in-store display and distributed 175 toilet tablets during the campaign. "Our customers were curious and enthusiastic to use the leak detecting tablets," said Lori Koga, Manager at Tanaka Hardware Store. The locally owned hardware store has agreed to continue offering the free toilet tablets throughout the year. "Leak detection is a simple and easy step in helping save our precious island water supply. The quicker you can find the leak, the quicker you can fix it." said Koga.

DOW also received interest from the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority (HPHA) and provided leak detection tablets for more than 350 homes from Kīlauea to Kekaha. "Hawai'i Public Housing Authority thanks the Department of Water for assisting our tenants with the tools to detect leaks that can cause excessive water use," said Gary Gaines, Sr., HPHA's Public Housing Supervisor V. "We believe in water conservation and doing our part to help Kaua'i in this effort and look forward to working the Department of Water on future efforts to save water."

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DOW's toilet leak detection tablets are available in their main lobby throughout the year. Leak detection starter kits will be available upon request, while supplies last. For more information, please call the Department of Water at 808-245-5461.

For more information about Fix a Leak Week, and other leak detection tips from the EPA WaterSense program, visit www.epa.gov/watersense. The Department of Water, County of Kaua'i is an EPA WaterSense Partner and is a recent award winner of the EPA WaterSense 2021 Excellence Award for its outreach and education programs.



Photo 1: Toilet tablets displayed near the registers at Tanaka Hardware store in Līhu'e.

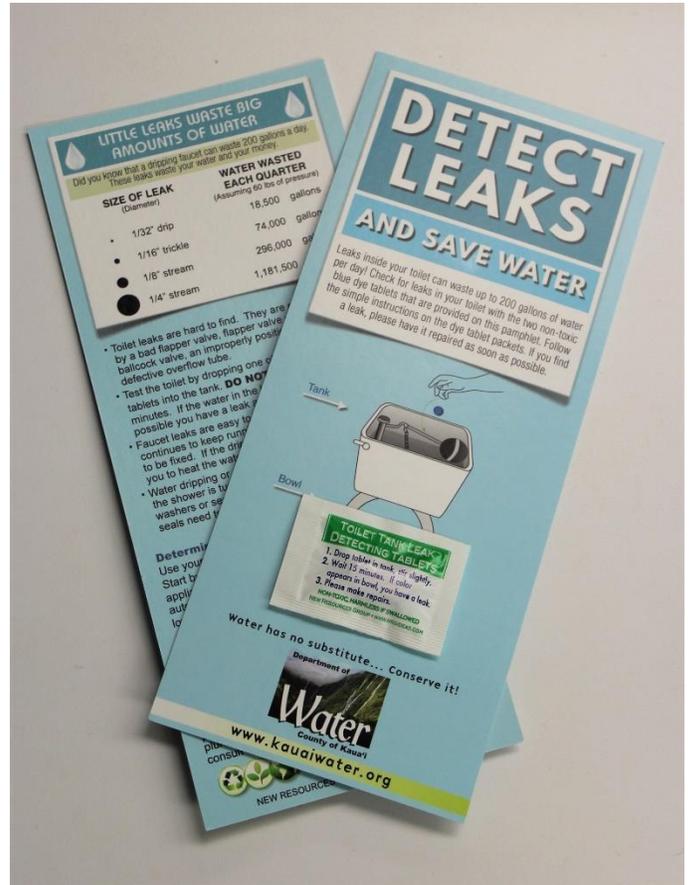
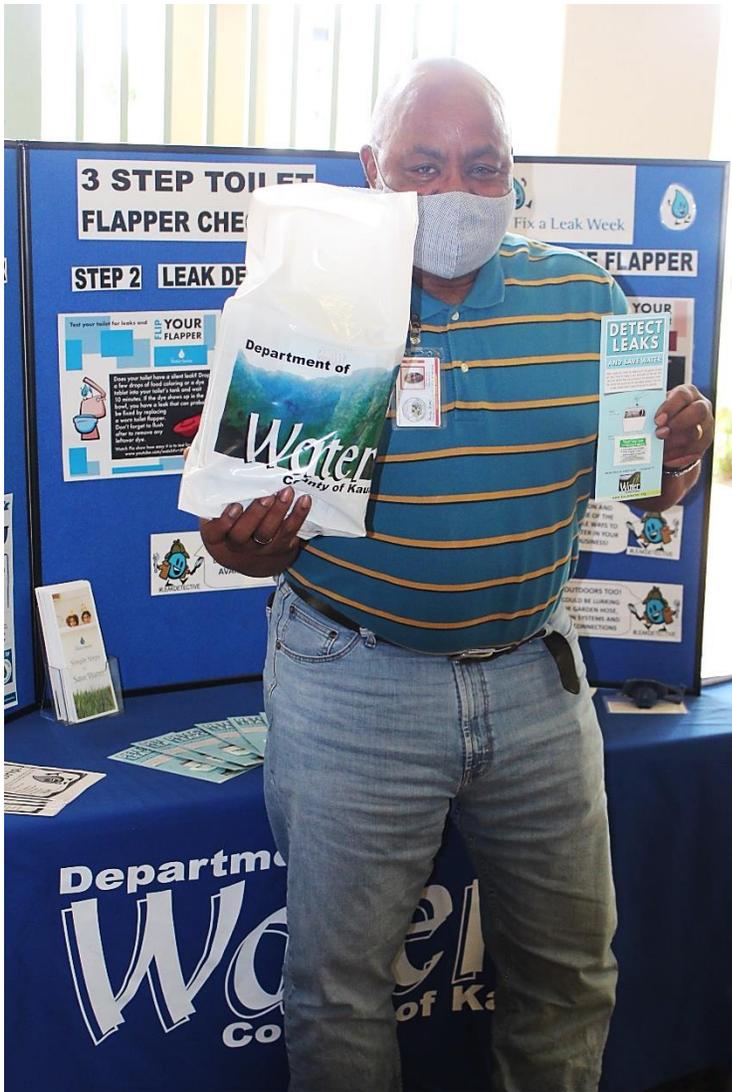


Photo 2: DOW's toilet leak detection tablets.

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Photos by Department of Water

Photo 3: Hawai'i Public Housing Authority Supervisor, Gary Gaines, Sr. stops by the Department of Water office to pick-up toilet leak detection tablets for 352 units.

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