

# **ENVIRONMENTAL NOTICE TO ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF OF KEALAKEHE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Furnished by the Department of Health, Safe Drinking Water Branch  
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Just in case you didn't know, the wastewater from your toilets, sinks, showers and drains is being disposed of into 5 injection wells that are located on-site. This means that your wastewater, after sewage processing by the septic-tank sewage treatment systems, is being released into the ground beneath you, and it eventually spreads out into other underground areas of unknown extent.

Because wastewater contains contaminants, groundwater contamination could occur and destroy future underground sources of drinking water. Contaminated wastewater could also migrate to surface water and cause harmful effects to streams or the ocean. In order to minimize the harmful effects of contaminated groundwater, wise and careful use and disposal of toxic or hazardous products should be practiced by everyone.

Listed below are important ways to help protect the groundwater and surface water from becoming contaminated. You can also save money by reducing water consumption and the cost of buying excess household-type chemicals.

1. Use water wisely and, whenever possible, minimize the use of water at your school. The less water sent down the toilets and drains results in less wastewater discharged into the injection wells, and the environment.
2. Look for ways to minimize the purchase and use of hazardous products that could find their way into your toilets and drains. Look for alternatives to hazardous products whenever possible. If you must use hazardous products, use the least hazardous products, and buy only the amount needed to do the job. Use up the product, or let someone else use it up.
3. Some of the more common toxic or hazardous products and unwanted materials that should not be disposed of through your toilet or drains are:
  - Gasoline, Kerosene, Camping Fuel, Lighter Fluid
  - Automotive Liquid Products: Motor Oil, Antifreeze, Brake Fluid
  - Pesticides and Fertilizers
  - Industrial or Strong Household Cleaners, Polishes and Waxes
  - Oil and Lead-based Paints and Thinners
  - Solvents
  - Prescription Medicines
  - Excessive Food Cuttings, Cooking Oils and Grease
4. Dispose of the hazardous products by following the product's label instruction in conformance with applicable County, State and Federal regulations. For more information about hazardous products and their appropriate disposal, please contact the Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch at 586-4226 (Honolulu); or call from Big Island the direct toll free number 974-4000, ext. 64226.
5. If you have any questions about this notice, please contact the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program of the Safe Drinking Water Branch at 586-4258 (Honolulu); or call from Big Island the direct toll free number 974-4000, ext. 64258.