



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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WINDS IMPROVE NEW YEAR'S AIR QUALITY

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i State Department of Health's Clean Air Branch recorded lower levels of smoke in Hawai'i's atmosphere during this New Year's compared to last year's fireworks celebration. The monitored results for particulates were lower at all the monitoring stations and did not exceed the 24-hour state and federal air quality standards.

The Clean Air Branch tracks the air quality and the smoke level through air monitoring stations located at four sites in Hawai'i in Honolulu, Pearl City, Kapolei, and Kihei, Maui.

Of the four sites, the highest hourly particulate level was recorded at Kapolei at 1 a.m. followed by lower levels at Pearl City, Honolulu, and Kihei. The levels began to increase around 9 p.m. peaked after midnight, and continued to improve returning to normal by 3 a.m.

The trade winds and light rain helped disperse the smoke and clear the particulates from the air.

The use of fireworks during the New Year's celebration will always have an impact on the air quality, but the degree of impact for any location is greatly influenced by the weather conditions such as wind and rain, the amount of fireworks burned in the area, and the configuration of the land.

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