

## Navy Report – October 2024

1. **Navy Region Hawaii Mo'olelo.** Navy Region has a weekly two-page newsletter that highlights Navy stories and items of interest in Hawaii. You can find the most current and other issues here, and we appreciate your feedback. [The Weekly Mo'olelo - News from around the Region \(afpims.mil\)](#). Highlights:
  - USS Chung-Hoon Sailors came to Hawaii for a namesake recently. This is the 20-year anniversary of their commissioning. Rear Admiral Gordon Pai'ea Chung-Hoon graduated from Punahou in 1929. His niece is the ship's sponsor.
  - Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Daniel Inouye (DDG 118) returned to its homeport of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Oct. 4 after completing a historic maiden deployment. While in the U.S. 5th and 7th fleet areas of operation as part of the Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group (TRCSG), Daniel Inouye promoted regional stability and security, deterred aggression, and protected the free flow of commerce throughout its nine-month deployment.
  - New Rear Adm. Ryan Mahelona, a native of Kaneohe, was promoted recently on the USS Missouri. While in Hawaii, he met with Kamehameha Schools students, where he attended school. He is assigned as reserve deputy commander, Tenth Fleet.
  - Navy Region Commander Rear Adm. Steve Barnett spoke at the 19<sup>th</sup> Joint Memorial Service at Punchbowl, honoring the men who served in the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and 1399<sup>th</sup> Engineer Construction Battalion, who died in WWII or have passed on since.
  - Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Hawaii worked with NOAA fisheries to collect data for a turtle tagging project, part of a 10-year interagency agreement.
  - PMRF is growing 23 native plant species for planting around the base.
  - The Navy recently partnered with the State of Hawaii – Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) to transfer \$18 million to HCDA to upgrade electrical infrastructure in Kalaeloa and transfer existing non-Navy customers from the Navy electrical distribution system to the Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) distribution system. This is accomplished through the Navy's first Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA) in Hawaii.
  - And we always have a “This Week in History” story as well.
2. **Laulima Navy.** This month, the Navy in Hawaii launched Laulima Navy to celebrate the Navy's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2025. During the next 12 months, we will highlight 250 acts of voluntary community service performed by Sailors and civilian personnel in Hawaii. Reflecting the Hawaiian value of laulima, translated as “many hands working together,” the 12-month commemoration underscores the Navy's responsibility to the community and the ways Navy personnel volunteer alongside partners to help and support their neighbors. This Saturday (Oct. 19), we kicked off Laulima Navy by joining the community volunteers to clean the Pearl Harbor Bike Path. About 120 Sailors and civilian tuned out for the clean-up.

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3. **Hiring Fairs.** We host hiring fairs for a variety of positions several times a year and promote them on social media. Follow our LinkedIn and Facebook pages and keep up to date.
4. **Enhanced Use Leasing (EUL):** The Department of the Navy submitted a public notice of availability for a draft environmental assessment (EA) that will cover two land leases for clean/renewable energy projects on JBPHH. The proposed action is to lease Navy land to a commercial developer to construct and operate renewable energy infrastructure on two separate sites on JBPHH. One proposed site near PHNSY would house a biofuel-powered Firm Renewable Generation plant, and the other proposed site in Salt Lake on Navy land would house a photovoltaic solar generating system. Also, the sites would be connected to the existing Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) electric infrastructure. The public may view a copy of the Draft EA for this action at the following website:  
<https://pacific.navfac.navy.mil/About-Us/National-Environmental-Policy-Act-NEPA-Information/>.
5. **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):** The Navy is aware of several invasive aquatic species in Pearl Harbor and is working with local, state, and federal agencies for effective management, and the development of methodologies for strategic removal, eradication, and preventing the spread here in Hawaii waters. The Navy does not know how these invasive aquatic species came into the area. They are not known to attach and travel on the hulls of ships but are a popular aquarium species and have been sold illegally within the state. JBPHH issued an updated base instruction that re-stated the Hawaii Department of Health 1998 health advisory warning that fish and shellfish from Pearl Harbor should not be eaten. In addition to stating that fishing in these areas is “catch-and-release” only, the new instruction also restricts fishing in other designated areas due to invasive octocorals.

### **Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (NCTF-RH) Updates:**

- **Let’s Talk Red Hill Podcast:**
  - Weekly series on latest updates and insights regarding the Navy’s progress in closing the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.
  - Available on the NCTF-RH YouTube page, mobile app and website.
- **Decommissioning Dashboard:**
  - Available on NCTF-RH mobile app and provides information on sludge and residual fuel removal, tank cleaning and air quality monitoring.
- **Groundwater monitoring well network:**
  - Completed installation of the 22nd monitoring well since 2021. Overall groundwater monitoring network stands at more than 40 monitoring wells in and around Red Hill.
  - Network provides a better understanding of groundwater conditions in and around the facility.
  - The Navy conducts bi-weekly groundwater sampling of those wells in accordance with the Revised Consolidated Groundwater Monitoring Sampling Plan that was approved by the Environmental Protection Agency.

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- **Groundwater Flow Model:**
  - The Navy submitted its final Groundwater Flow Model to EPA, DOH and University of Hawaii researchers last month.
  - The model includes a model to help understand how contaminants move, change and interact with the environment over time.
- **Tank Cleaning Operations:**
  - Tanks 7 and 8: Structural repairs continue in preparation for pressure washing inside each tank.
  - Tank 6: Ventilation continues
  - Tank 5: Degassing began Oct 1. Degassing is designed to remove volatile organic compounds from the inside of the tank to prepare it for cleaning.
- **Air Quality Monitoring:**
  - Monitoring continues during degassing and ventilation operations
  - Data can be viewed on the NCTF-RH mobile app and website
- **Additional upcoming Community Engagement:**
  - 14 NOV – NCTF-RH Open House (Location TBD). More information will be sent.
- **BWS PAH Claims in their Aiea Wells**
  - On July 8, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) sent a letter to the Hawaii Department of Health and Environmental Protection Agency alleging a plume of contaminants may be migrating from Red Hill based on a BWS detection of PAH at BWS's Aiea wells in water samples collected May 13 and June 4, 2024.
  - On Aug. 9, the HI DOH and EPA requested BWS to provide more information to substantiate their claims. The Navy concurs with the regulators' assessment and has offered to collaborate with BWS in the interest of developing a comprehensive understanding of groundwater flow to protect the aquifer.
- **Questions regarding lead detections**
  - The water system remains in compliance with state and federal drinking water standards.
  - The Navy routinely tests the Waiawa Shaft – the Navy's sole source of drinking water, located over six miles from Red Hill – which remains in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Rule.
  - Lead detections are below the Environmental Protection Agency's action level of 15 parts per billion. Lead can come from different sources including pipes, faucets and fixtures. The Navy tests for lead through multiple efforts: as part of its voluntary Extended Drinking Water Monitoring program, ongoing groundwater monitoring, annual water quality testing and the EPA-mandated Lead and Copper Rule program.
  - JP-5 does not contain lead. The Navy follows Military Standard testing requirements, that do not require testing JP-5 for lead.
  - The Navy fully complies with the Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Rule protocols, which requires the first draw for sampling.
    - The Navy continues to work with stakeholders and regulators on Red Hill operations and work. Stay up to date on latest Red Hill news & events - download the NCTF-

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RH app, available on AppStore or Google Play. Website:  
[www.navyclosuretaskforce.navy.mil](http://www.navyclosuretaskforce.navy.mil).

**Extended Drinking Water Monitoring.** In 2022, the Interagency Drinking Water System Team (IDWST) developed a long-term plan to monitor drinking water quality. The Navy completed Long-Term Monitoring (LTM) in March 2024, with more than 8,000 tests taken. The Navy remains focused on the safety and protection of the environment and community, ensuring the water meets federal and State safe drinking water standards. In April, the Navy voluntarily continued an extensive sampling of the JBPHH water distribution system for an additional year.

- Through the Drinking Water Long-Term Monitoring and the current Extended Drinking Water Monitoring plans, there have been more than 10,000 drinking water quality tests that use EPA-certified laboratories with results available at the JBPHH Safe Waters website (<https://jbphh-safewaters.org/>). All results are reviewed by State and Federal Regulators.
- NCTF-RH continues to encourage anyone on the JBPHH drinking water system who has concerns to contact the Navy Water Quality Action Team on the 24-hour helpline at 808-210-6968. Residents with medical concerns should immediately contact their Primary Care Manager.

**Drinking Water Information Booth:** An important information tool in our outreach to those impacted by the Red Hill spill, the booth provides information regarding several drinking water quality testing programs the Navy offers and allows affected residents to view testing results from their homes and neighborhoods, request sampling for their residence, and ask questions.

- (T) 16 OCT – Kapilina Night Market
- 29 OCT – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) Office

A community outreach schedule is available on the JBPHH Safe Waters website at [www.jbphh-safewaters.org](http://www.jbphh-safewaters.org)