

Navy Region Hawaii

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 \(afpims.mil\)](https://www.afpims.mil/The-Weekly-Mo-olelo-News-from-around-the-Region). Highlights:
  - U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and the Vietnam Veterans of America, Oahu Chapter 858, co-hosted a Vietnam War Veterans Day ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific on Friday. Adm. Samuel J. Paparo, commander of USINDOPACOM, was the keynote speaker.
  - Seabees, Sailors and joint engineering teams recently competed in the 2025 Seabees Olympics. The annual event builds cohesion, esprit de corps and camaraderie among the different construction battalions in Hawaii.
  - Volunteers from Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii and Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Facility served as mentors and coaches for high school teams competing in the Hawaii Regional FIRST Robotics competition at Saint Louis High School.
  - Navy volunteers joined Scouts from Troop 75 last month to cover up graffiti and repaint “no parking” curbs at Keehi Lagoon Beach Park. The effort was in support of Moanalua sophomore Casey Kobayashi, who is working on his Eagle badge.
  - Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) completed repairs and maintenance at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.
  - And as always, the newsletter has a “This Week in History” story as well.
2. **Monthly Ship Tours.** We are scheduling tours on Navy ships on Saturday mornings, from approximately 9-11 a.m. We were honored to host members from the Pearl City Neighborhood Board on April 5, for a ship tour. We have tour dates available for May 3, 10 & 17. If you have a civic or school group you'd like to have attend, please contact me and we'll coordinate the logistics.
3. **Community White Boats.** We are scheduling monthly white boats to visit USS Arizona and do a Pearl Harbor tour. Please let us know if you have a group that would be interested in joining. They leave late afternoon from the Pacific Fleet boat house, just past the Arizona Memorial Visitor Center. Our next scheduled event is April 22.
4. **Laulima Navy.** In October, the Navy in Hawaii launched Laulima Navy to celebrate the Navy's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2025 and reinforce the Navy's longstanding commitment to the community. Over a 12-month period, we will highlight 250 acts of voluntary community service performed by Sailors and civilians in Hawaii. As of April 1, Navy personnel have worked alongside community members on Oahu and Kauai to support more than 120 projects and programs that benefit the community, residents and the environment. Most recently, volunteers helped at the Aiea Library. Navy and JBPHH personnel will again join volunteers from the community in the biannual Bike Path Cleanup next weekend, 19 APR 2025.

5. **Red Hill Water Treatment Facility.** The Department of the Navy submitted a public notice of availability for a draft environmental assessment (EA) to construct and operate a new water treatment facility to reconnect water from the Navy's Red Hill Shaft to the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) drinking water system and discontinue the discharge of water into Halawa Stream. The proposed action would include the construction of a new, permanent water treatment facility and the associated utilities, infrastructure, and site improvements, as well as the connection of an interim, modified granular activated carbon (GAC) water treatment facility that is currently under installation at Red Hill to the Navy drinking water system. The document is available for download on the NAVFAC Pacific – National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Information page: [NEPA Information Page https://pacific.navy.mil/About-Us/National-Environmental-Policy-Act-NEPA-Information/](https://pacific.navy.mil/About-Us/National-Environmental-Policy-Act-NEPA-Information/) Hard copies are also available for review at the Aiea Public Library and Hawaii State Public Library. Deadline for comments is April 20, 2025.
6. **Draft EIS for the Hawaii-California Training and Testing.** The Hawaii-California Training and Testing (HCTT) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas EIS (OEIS) includes an analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with conducting at-sea training and testing activities, and modernization and sustainment of ranges offshore of Hawaii and California. In-person and virtual public meetings were held earlier this year to provide more information about the project and the environmental analysis. To learn more, visit [Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing EIS/OEIS](#). The Oahu public meetings were Jan. 15 and 16 here on Oahu and in Kauai, and the virtual public meeting was Jan. 22.
7. **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. The sites would also 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.navy.mil/About-Us/National-Environmental-Policy-Act-NEPA-Information/>.
8. **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:**

- **\*NEW\*:**
  - Tank cleaning update: NCTF-RH began cleaning tank 3 at the Red Hill facility in March and has started ventilation for tank 4.
  - Red Hill Highlights 4th Edition available [here](#).
  - Next NCTF-RH webinar will focus on the reactivation of the Navy Aiea-Halawa Shaft. April 29, 5pm.
  - Pressure washing of tanks 7 and 8 that began in January is now complete, and the tanks are being inspected by regulators.
  - The last NCTF-RH open house was March 12 at the Ke`ehi Lagoon’s Los Banos room. The presentation slides can be found on the NCTF-RH website or mobile app. Plans continue to develop on the next Open House in May 21, Hokulani Community Center.
  - Download the NCTF-RH mobile app on the Apple App Store or Google Play Store by searching for “NCTF-RH.”
- **Let’s Talk Red Hill Podcast:**
  - Latest installment is **Episode 24** and the topic is [NCTF RH Communication Plan](#). The weekly series is focused on latest updates and insights regarding the Navy’s progress in closing the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.
  - Podcasts are available on the NCTF-RH YouTube page, mobile app, Apple 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. **The latest update is 01 APR 2025.**
- **Groundwater monitoring well network:**
  - Completed installation of the 22nd monitoring well since 2021. Overall groundwater monitoring network currently stands at 44 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.
- **Groundwater Flow Model:**
  - In September 2024, the Navy submitted the newest iteration of the Groundwater Flow Model to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Hawaii Department of Health. The submission included:
    - Groundwater Flow Model Report -- summarizes the outputs of the model scenarios and provides details regarding inputs to the model; and
    - Groundwater Flow Model -- estimates flow direction and flow rates of groundwater.

- The Navy publicly released a redacted version of the GWFM report at [www.jbphh-safewaters.org](http://www.jbphh-safewaters.org). The report provides a summary of key modeling assumptions, updates made from the previous model, and various pumping scenarios, in order to provide an understanding of how groundwater moves in and around Red Hill. The Navy's GWFM model also incorporates a fate and transport model which estimates how chemicals move within groundwater.
- The Navy's model remains a living document and will be updated as more is learned about Red Hill and the surrounding area through ongoing efforts. The Navy will update its GWFM in 2026, with information gained from: continued groundwater monitoring, the drilling and completion of additional GW wells and various field studies, as well as the completion of an independent GWFM by the University of Hawaii.
- The report is redacted to ensure details and sensitive information about the Navy's critical infrastructure remain secure – details such as utility infrastructure capacity, operating conditions, and exact locations of wells and pumps.
- The groundwater flow model includes information that helps demonstrate how contaminants move, change and interact with the environment over time. The model will be updated as additional data becomes available.
- **Tank Cleaning Operations:**
  - Tank 5, 6, 7 & 8: Degassing is complete.
  - Structural assessment and necessary repairs are ongoing to tanks 5 & 6 to prepare tanks for pressure washing in the upcoming months.
- **Air Quality Monitoring:**
  - Degassing/ventilation began for tanks 3 & 4 on 12 MAR and 26 MAR 2025 respectively.
  - Monitoring continues during degassing and ventilation operations
  - Data can be viewed on the NCTF-RH mobile app and website
- **Questions regarding lead detections**
  - The Navy conducts robust and comprehensive EPA-approved lead sampling under the following programs:
    1. Compliance Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) monitoring
    2. Lead in Priority Areas (LIPA) program
    3. Safe Drinking Water Act (SOWA) compliance sampling
    4. Supplemental, enhanced Drinking Water Long Term Monitoring (LTM) - completed
    5. Voluntary, investigatory Extended Drinking Water Monitoring (EDWM)
    6. Water Quality Action Team response sampling
  - The Navy's lead sampling is substantially more comprehensive than that of the traditional water purveyor.
  - 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-RH app, available on AppStore or Google Play. Website: [www.navyclosuretaskforce.navy.mil](http://www.navyclosuretaskforce.navy.mil).

- **BWS PAH Claims in their Aiea Wells**
  - On July 8, 2024, 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.
- **BWS Consultants' Claims -- Swarm Team Tech Memo**
  - The Navy stands firm in the analysis, findings and recommendations of the Swarm Team.
  - The Navy met with the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) and their consultants on Dec. 10 to discuss the comments and recommendations from the Swarm Team Tech Memo that was published in April 2024.
  - EPA, DOH and the University of Hawaii also attended.
  - The goal was to provide a forum for meaningful technical discussion to assure consistency and address any misunderstandings.
  - The Navy provided additional clarification on the Swarm Team analysis, address BWS consultants' comments, and present the final EDWM Plan.
- **Questions about why the Navy REDACTS Red Hill documents**
  - The Department of Defense (DoD) has determined that Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility must comply with DoD Critical Infrastructure Security Information (DCRIT) regulations. DCRIT regulations require the DoD to protect information that, if disclosed, would reveal vulnerabilities that could cause harm to people or property. While we understand the public's desire for unredacted documents, we do not have the authority to grant it.
  - We must ensure that details about the operation, structure, and vulnerabilities of DCRIT are closely guarded and shared only with authorized personnel to prevent potential exploitation. Examples of redacted information includes:
    - Well pumping rates
    - Geo-locations of wells
    - Valve locations
    - Size and location of piping

**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. The Navy has recently proposed adding the Extended Drinking Water Monitoring (EDWM) plan

into the 2023 Administrative Consent Order (ACO) for the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility Defueling, Closure and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Drinking Water System.

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

- **24 APR – Hickam Exchange (new date)\***

*\*Base access required*