

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/newsroom/region-hawaii). Highlights:
  - Rear Adm. Stephen Barnett relinquished command of Navy Region Hawaii to Rear Adm. Brad Collins during a change of command ceremony on Aug. 5 on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Adm. Barnett assumed command of the region in June 2022; he will assume command of Navy Region Mid-Atlantic. Adm. Collins served as Commander, Navy Region Europe, Africa, Central (EURAFCENT) where he led shore operations to support more than 18,000 Sailors, Marines, family members and retirees across nine regional military installations.
  - The Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group (VINCSG) arrived in Pearl Harbor on July 30 for a scheduled port visit. The arrival of the strike group marks the first port visit in 125 days for the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), following more than three months of sustained operations in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.
  - The Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Indiana (SSN 789) and the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Toledo (SSN 769) arrived last month at their new homeport of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and are now part of Submarine Squadron 7.
  - And as always, the newsletter has a “This Week in History” story as well.
2. **Monthly Ship Tours.** Our Saturday morning tours have resumed. Awaiting September dates. All tours run from 9 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
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 tour is scheduled for October.
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 Aug. 4, Navy personnel have worked alongside community members on Oahu and Kauai to support more than 234 projects and programs that benefit the community, residents and the environment. Recent volunteer events include Hawaiian Humane Society pet therapy visits, Salt Lake District Park genki ball toss and a school supplies collection drive for Helping Hands.
5. **Navy Draft EIS for Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai.** The United States Navy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are jointly preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of proposed real estate agreements with the State of Hawaii for the Pacific Missile Range

Facility (PMRF) and the Kokee Park Geophysical Observatory (KPGO). The Navy and NASA invite agencies, organizations, and the public to participate in the environmental review process. The deadline to provide comments is Aug 7. New real estate agreements are needed because the existing real estate agreements are expiring between 2027 and 2030. Public meetings were held July 15-17 in Lihue, Kekaha, and Kapaa. Visit <https://www.pmr-f-kpgo-eis.com/> for more information.

- For portions of PMRF, the Navy has leases or holds easements with the State of Hawai‘i for 8,172 acres, comprised of 684 acres of leaseholds and 7,488 acres of easements.
- The Navy operates on approximately 410 acres of the total 684 acres leased from the state. The remaining leasehold and easements acres are used as buffer zones, conservation areas, infrastructure, and access corridors. No ground-based training occurs on these parcels.

6. **Navy EIS for the Hawaii-California Training and Testing.** The Hawaii-California Training and Testing (HCTT) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas EIS (OEIS) analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with conducting at-sea training and testing activities, as well as the modernization and sustainment of ranges offshore of Hawaii and California. The Navy is currently developing the Final EIS/OEIS and completing associated regulatory processes. The Final EIS will be released in Fall 2025 and will provide responses to comments received during the public review period for the Draft EIS, which ended in February 2025. To learn more, visit <https://www.nepa.navy.mil/hctteis/>.
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.navfac.navy.mil/About-Us/National-Environmental-Policy-Act-NEPA-Information/>.
8. **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):** The Navy continues to work towards eradication of the invasive octocoral issues and will continue the effort into the next fiscal year. The Navy has partnered with Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources to conduct monitoring surveys. The Navy continues to thank to community for supporting the fishing restrictions as we work towards eradication. The Navy has cleared approximately a third of the infestation to date but we need to make sure to maintain and monitor the sites to keep it from re-establishing.”

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

- NCTF-RH will host its quarterly open house on August 20<sup>th</sup> at the Oahu Veterans Center from 5-7 p.m. The open house is free and open to the public.
- Teams are cleaning the pipes to prepare them for cutting and removal in the coming year.
- The latest edition of Red Hill Highlights is available by going to the NCTF-RH app, website, or by clicking [here](#).
- Degassing operations of Tank 2 are complete with no significant impacts to air quality. Air quality monitoring data is available on the task force website and mobile app.
- Pressure washing operations have started in Tank 5. Pressure washing preparations are underway for tank 6.
- Download the mobile app by searching NCTF-RH in the Apple App Store or Google Play and enable notifications to receive updates.

**Tank Cleaning**

- Tanks 7 & 8: Pressure washing complete; tank cleaning verification in progress
- Tanks 5 & 6: Pressure washing ongoing
- Tanks 2, 3 & 4: Degassing operations complete; preparations underway for pressure washing

**Navy Aiea-Halawa Shaft Reactivation**

- Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (NCTF-RH) is preparing for the reactivation of the Navy Aiea-Halawa Shaft (NAHS) following the shaft's completion of a Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) approved pilot study and following its compliance with regulator reactivation conditions.
- NCTF-RH will post test results from these pilot study samples on the Well Recovery and Water Resiliency page of the [www.jbphh-safewaters.org](http://www.jbphh-safewaters.org) website.

**Drinking Water Resiliency**

- The Navy remains committed to strengthening the resiliency and security of the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam drinking water distribution system.

**Enhanced 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. The Navy voluntarily continued an extensive sampling of the JBPHH water distribution system for an additional year following the end of LTM.

- Through the Drinking Water Long-Term Monitoring and the 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. A community outreach schedule is available on the JBPHH Safe Waters website at [www.jbphh-safewaters.org](http://www.jbphh-safewaters.org)

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| • Kapilina Night Market | Wednesday, August 13 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. |
| • Navy Exchange Mall    | Thursday, August 21 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. |