RED HILL
HIGHLIGHTS

53rd Edition; Nov. 12, 2026

The mission of Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (NCTF-RH) is to execute the permanent decommissioning of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (RHBFSF) safely and expeditiously, and continue long-term environmental remediation in coordination with State and Federal regulators in order to protect public health and the environment.

FACT CHECK: Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) is a term used to describe a wide family of chemical compounds that are naturally found in the environment and in everyday items including cooking oils, cosmetics, and cleaning products. This means that a TPH detection in water does not automatically mean that there is a presence of fuel. A TPH fact sheet is available at this link.

New Navy Aiea-Halawa Shaft Reactivation Documents Are Now Available Online

Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (NCTF-RH) recently updated the reference documents related to the reactivation of the Navy's Aiea-Halawa water shaft on the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Safe Waters drinking water resiliency webpage. The two newest additions are the Navy Aiea-Halawa Shaft (NAHS) Reactivation Pilot Study Fact Sheet and the NAHS Reactivation Supplemental Study of Ion Exchange Interferences.

The NAHS was originally shut down in December 2021 in an abundance of caution. NAHS has not shown any signs of fuel contamination from the 2021 Red Hill spill. Every phase of this reactivation process, including all engineering plans, study results, and filtration design, is completed under the oversight and review of the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) to ensure the water meets the highest safety standards before it is approved for public use. Bringing this water shaft back online will restore a water supply that will add additional drinking water resiliency to the JBPHH drinking water system.

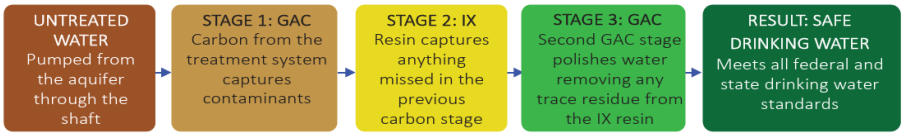


Figure 1. Water Treatment System Process at Navy Aiea-Halawa Shaft

The new NAHS fact sheet provides a clear explanation of how the shaft's filtration system works to keep the JBPHH drinking water clean. It outlines the physical configuration of the treatment system, explains the rigorous testing process, and shows that the system removes target contaminants to meet or exceed all state and federal safety standards, including the most current Environmental Protection Agency guidelines.

The supplemental study also explains a technical detail from earlier testing: initial trace readings of "diesel-range" compounds were not fuel related. Instead, they were non-hazardous chemical byproducts washing off the brand-new, unused filter beads during the ion exchange treatment stage's first "break-in" run. To ensure safety, the Navy is using a multi-step filter process that runs the water through carbon filters both before and after the ion exchange filter beads, catching and removing potential target contaminants and any trace residue before water enters the JBPHH drinking water distribution system.

To read the full reports, see the official state health department approvals, and track ongoing water quality tests please visit www.jbphh-safewaters.org.



New *Let's Talk Red Hill*: Operational Update

Check out the latest episode of Let's Talk Red Hill featuring an operational update by Rear Admiral Lester Ortiz. In this update, RDML Ortiz shares NCTF-RH's progress on dismantling nearly 10 miles of pipeline (now 10.3% complete), tank cleaning, and recent community engagements.

For further information, please visit
www.navyclosuretaskforce.navy.mil
www.jbphh-safewaters.org