

Navy Report – May 2024

1. **Navy Region Hawaii Mo'olelo.** Navy Region has a weekly two-page newsletter that highlights stories and items of interest on Oahu and Kauai. We post it every Wednesday and appreciate your feedback and comments. You can find the most current and other issues here: [The Weekly Mo'olelo - News from around the Region \(afpims.mil\)](http://afpims.mil).
2. Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) have partnered with Hawaiian Telcom on a new fiber connection directly linking West and Metro Oahu. Formal announcement is schedule for May 28. The protected fiber connection significantly increases network reliability not just for the military but the entire island. With support from CNRH and JBPHH staff, Hawaiian Telcom has successfully completed a pivotal commercial fiber project that substantially enhances communications connectivity on Oahu. Completed in early 2024, this multi-million dollar collaborative project included deploying the largest count fiber-optic cable ever installed in the State of Hawaii.
3. **Hiring Fairs.** We host frequent hiring fairs for a variety of positions. Please check our LinkedIn page and Facebook for more information on hiring opportunities.
4. **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 notice of the draft EA will allow an opportunity for communities in Hawaii to learn about the projects and provide feedback. 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/> Comments on the Draft EA and on the NHPA documentation may be submitted during the public comment period (April 3 - May 20) via email at NFPAC-Receive2@navy.mil,
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 they 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 that warns 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.
6. **RIMPAC:** The biennial Rim of the Pacific multi-national exercise starts in June, and there will be an in-port period around July 4. We will share more information as soon as it's available.

7. **Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (NCTF-RH)**

- **Open House:** Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (NCTF-RH) held their first public open house event on Wednesday, May 15, at the Oahu Veteran’s Center from 5 – 7 PM. The Open House featured a range of booths that laid out specific information about the command and tank cleaning process, to include ventilation, air quality monitoring, sludge removal, and layers of protection used to protect the environment and personnel. A video tour was also presented for visitors to get a glimpse of the inside of the Red Hill facility. The video tour and posters can be viewed on the NCTF-Red Hill App and on the website: www.navyclosuretaskforce.navy.mil
- Other Updates:
 - On Apr.20, NCTF recognized Earth Day by partnering with the City/County of Honolulu to clean four sections of the Pearl Harbor Historic Trail/Bike Path.
 - On Apr. 23, NCTF-RH safely removed 32 55-gallon drums of aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) concentrate from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (RHBFSF).
 - On Apr. 24, the Navy announced Swarm Team results: Recently detected low levels of total petroleum hydrocarbons, or TPH, in the Navy’s drinking water system were the result of lab activity and not associated with the release of jet fuel from RHBFSF.
 - On Apr. 29, the Navy began reducing water pumping operations at the Red Hill Shaft from 4.2 million gallons a day (MGD) to 1.8 MGD after working with state regulators for months on the planned reduction.
 - 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

8. **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, 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 in April an extensive sampling of the JBPHH water distribution system for an additional year. “We are doing this because it is the right thing to do,” said Rear Adm. Stephen Barnett, commander of the Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (NCTF-RH) and Navy Region Hawaii. The Extended Drinking Water Monitoring (EDWM) program, which the Navy developed, will run for 12 additional months. Data collected demonstrates that Navy’s drinking water continues to meet all Federal and State drinking water standards. Results can be found at www.jbphh-safewaters.org.

9. **The Drinking Water Information Booth** has been 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 offered by the Navy and allows affected residents to view testing results from their homes and neighborhoods, request sampling for their residence, and ask questions. The next engagement for the booth:

- 29 May: Kapilina Night Market, Pilikai Beach Park, Iroquois Point (1600-2000)
- A community outreach schedule will be available on the JBPHH Safe Waters website at www.jbphh-safewaters.org