

Navy Update

Navy Report – June 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. **Hawaii Telcom Fiber.** Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) partnered with Hawaiian Telcom on a new fiber connection directly linking West and Metro Oahu. 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. **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 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/>.
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.

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6. **RIMPAC:** The biennial Rim of the Pacific multi-national exercise starts June 27, and there will be an in-port period around July 4. More information can be found here - [RIMPAC \(Rim of the Pacific\) — U.S. Pacific Fleet \(navy.mil\)](#)

7. **Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (NCTF-RH) Updates:**
 - **Open House:** Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (NCTF-RH) held their first public open house event May 15, at the Oahu Veteran’s Center from 5 – 7 PM. The Open House included booths with specific information about the command and tank cleaning process, to include ventilation, air quality monitoring, sludge removal, and the 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. The task force will host another open house in August. More information will be provided later.
 - NCTF-RH began tank ventilation and air quality monitoring at the RHBFSF on May 30. Working closely with DOH, the ventilation is done in a manner that will not pose a risk to human health. Part of the operation included installation of nine air quality monitoring (AQM) stations at the RHBFSF perimeter, including the Halawa Correctional Facility:
 - The monitors track changes in air quality, measure potential volatile organic compound (VOC) levels, and collect atmospheric data (i.e., air speed, wind direction, temperature, humidity, and barometric pressure).
 - During venting operations, AQM data will be updated hourly on the NCTF-RH mobile app, and daily on the NCTF-RH website.
 - Fact sheets on Ventilation and the AQM stations are posted on the NCTF-RH website and app.
 - NCTF-RH has a series of fail-safes and redundancies to mitigate risk and safeguard the public. In the event of an exceedance, NCTF-RH will alert regulators, Hawaii Emergency Management (DEM), and the public via the app, website, and a press release to the media. Anyone with questions or concerns is requested to contact the Navy Call Center at (808) 210-6968.
 - 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 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

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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. 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.

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:

- 20 JUN: Halsey Terrace Mini-Mart
- 17 JUL: Kapilina Night Market
- 21 AUG: Kapilina Night Market
- 18 SEP: Kapilina Night Market
- 16 OCT: Kapilina Night Market
- 06 NOV: Kapilina Night Market
- 18 DEC: Kapilina Night Market
- A community outreach schedule is available on the JBPHH Safe Waters website at www.jbphh-safewaters.org

10. **Red Hill in Focus Webinar Series: Drinking Water Monitoring Update for Red Hill**

June 18, 5-7 p.m. - Navy Region Hawaii will present findings from Long-Term Monitoring program for JBPHH water system, overview of new Extended Drinking Water Monitoring program. EPA updates on oversight and independent evaluations of the Navy’s drinking water system. Webinar link –<https://www.epa.gov/red-hill/red-hill-in-focus-webinar-series-4>