

## Navy Update

### Navy Report – August 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://www.afpims.mil).
2. **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.
3. **JBPHH – WWTP Centrifuge** – In July, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) working with the State of Hawaii, transferred two centrifuge units to the County of Maui this week to support their wastewater operations. Weighing nearly 7,300 pounds each, the centrifuge operates by separating water from digested sludge so that the solid waste can be properly disposed of.
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 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. **RIMPAC**: The biennial Rim of the Pacific multi-national exercise, which started June 27, wrapped up on Aug. 1. Twenty-nine nations, 40 surface ships, three submarines, 14 national land forces, more than 150 aircraft, and 25,000 personnel participated in RIMPAC in and around the Hawaiian Islands. The world's largest international maritime exercise, RIMPAC provides a unique training opportunity while fostering and sustaining cooperative relationships among participants critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans. RIMPAC 2024 is the 29th exercise in the series that began in 1971. More information can be found at [RIMPAC \(Rim of the Pacific\) — U.S. Pacific Fleet \(navy.mil\)](http://www.cpf.navy.mil/RIMPAC/) - [www.cpf.navy.mil/RIMPAC/](http://www.cpf.navy.mil/RIMPAC/)
6. **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

## Navy Update

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.

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

- **OPEN HOUSE: Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill will host an open house on Aug. 21 from 5-7 p.m. at the Moanalua Terrace Community Center. The public is invited to learn about current tank cleaning, ongoing closure operations and drinking water updates.**
- Additional upcoming Community Meetings:
  - 15 AUG - Governor's Water Committee Meeting
  - 12 SEPT - Navy Information Sharing Forum (NISF) Meeting
  - 16 SEPT - Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) Meeting
  - 20 SEPT - Hawaii State Emergency Response Commission (HSERC) Meeting
  - 09 OCT - Fuel Tank Advisory (FTAC) Meeting - Hawaii Department of Health
  - 15 OCT - Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) Meeting
- NCTF-RH submitted Red Hill Tank Closure Plan Supplement 3 to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) for a 45-day review period on June 28. Supplement 3 builds upon previous Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (RHBFSF) closure plan submissions and includes a revised integrated master schedule, facility closure updates, and Phase 1 of the Closure Site Assessment Work Plan (SAWP).
- The week of August 12, Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (NCTF-RH) will publish a press release outlining the latest NCTF-RH Operational Update since July. During the last update:
  - Workers completed the initial venting, or degassing phase, removed sludge on tanks 8 and 7, installed lighting, and started the engineer assessments of scaffolding in support of future cleaning and power washing operations.
  - NCTF-RH opened tank 7 for personnel to gain access on June 21. This was a key step for workers to install safety and lighting equipment required for sludge removal and cleaning operations. A similar process started with tank 8 the week before.
- Air quality monitoring continues at the RHBFSF and is done in a manner that will not pose a risk to human health.
- Partnering with Navy Region Hawaii and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, NCTF-RH conducted a “spill drill” on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The exercise included a Fed Fire and other

## Navy Update

emergency responders and was designed to measure spill containment and public advisory abilities of the NCTF-RH team. Representatives from the Hawaii Department of Health and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency observed the drill.

- 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).

**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. 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.
- NCTF-RH continues to encourage anyone on the JBPHH drinking water system who have 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.

**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:

- 13 AUG – JBPHH, Newcomers Fair, Hickam Chapel
- 28 AUG: Kapilina Night Market (a change due to NCTF-RH Open House)
- 29 AUG – Pearl City NEX Mini-Mart
- 18 SEP: Kapilina Night Market
- A community outreach schedule is available on the JBPHH Safe Waters website at [www.jbphh-safewaters.org](http://www.jbphh-safewaters.org)