

## **Navy Report – September 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. **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.

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

- Honolulu City Council Resolution

- The Navy submitted written testimony to the Honolulu City and Council regarding Resolution 24-216
- The Navy looks forward to continuing working with our regulators and stakeholders on current and future actions regarding the long-term environmental assessment and remediation of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility and surrounding areas.
- The Navy conducts bi-weekly sampling of its network of more than 40 groundwater monitoring wells in and around the Red Hill facility in coordination with the Hawaii Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency.
- To date, this extensive sampling indicates that the contamination continues to be isolated directly underneath the Red Hill tank gallery.
- Drinking water and groundwater sample results are available to the public on the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Safe Waters website [www.jbphh-safewaters.org](http://www.jbphh-safewaters.org).
- Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill hosted a well-received open house on Aug. 21 from 5-7 p.m. at the Moanalua Terrace Community Center. The topics for this engagement: current tank cleaning efforts, ongoing closure operations and drinking water updates.
- Additional upcoming Community Meetings:
  - 17 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
- BWS PAH Claims in their Aiea Wells
  - On July 8, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) sent a letter to the Hawaii Department of Health and Environmental Protection Agency alleging a plume of contaminants may be migrating from Red Hill based on a BWS detection of PAH at BWS's Aiea wells in water samples collected May 13 and June 4, 2024.
  - On Aug. 9, the HI DOH and EPA requested BWS to provide more information to substantiate their claims. The Navy concurs with the regulators' assessment and has offered to collaborate with BWS in the interest of developing a comprehensive understanding of groundwater flow to protect the aquifer.
- Questions regarding lead detections
  - The water system remains in compliance with state and federal drinking water standards.
  - The Navy routinely tests the Waiawa Shaft – the Navy's sole source of drinking water, located over six miles from Red Hill – which remains in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Rule.
  - Lead detections are below the Environmental Protection Agency's action level of 15 parts per billion. Lead can come from different sources including pipes, faucets and fixtures. The Navy tests for lead through multiple efforts: as part of its voluntary Extended Drinking Water Monitoring program, ongoing groundwater monitoring, annual water quality testing and the EPA-mandated Lead and Copper Rule program.

- JP-5 does not contain lead. The Navy follows Military Standard testing requirements, that do not require testing JP-5 for lead.
- The Navy fully complies with the Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Rule protocols, which requires the first draw for sampling.
- NCTF-RH announced August 29 that personnel will begin cleaning the second set of tanks at the RHBFSF on September 4. With approval from HI DOH, NCTF-RH will start venting tank 6, replicating the process previously used during the safe and deliberate venting and initial cleaning of tanks 7 and 8.
  - NCTF-RH air quality monitoring (AQM) stations in and around the facility will continue to track changes in air quality, measure potential VOC levels, and collect atmospheric data.
  - During the degassing, AQM data will be updated hourly on the NCTF-RH mobile app and daily on the website.
  - NCTF-RH has a series of fail-safes and redundancies to mitigate risk and safeguard the area around the tanks.
  - In the event of a VOC exceedance during operations, NCTF-RH will alert regulators, Hawaii emergency management officials, and the public via the NCTF-RH app, website, and a press release to the media.
  - For any questions or concerns, please contact the Navy Call Center at (808) 210-6968.
- 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).
- On August 20, 2024, Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (NCTF-RH) published a press release outlining the latest NCTF-RH Operational Update since July. The Navy is working to accelerate remediation efforts, and included these highlights:
  - NCTF currently has more than 40 groundwater monitoring wells in and around Red Hill. Since 2021, the Navy has installed installing 21 new wells and is anticipating a 22<sup>nd</sup> well by the end of this month. All new well locations were extensively coordinated with regulators and numerous stakeholders, including the state Commission on Water Resource Management, Honolulu Board of Water Supply, and University of Hawaii. This comprehensive well network provides a better understanding of groundwater conditions in and around Red Hill. The Navy conducts bi-weekly groundwater sampling of those groundwater monitoring wells in accordance with the Revised Consolidated Groundwater Monitoring Sampling Plan, which was approved by EPA and DOH.
  - The Navy submitted its draft Groundwater Flow Model to DOH, EPA and University of Hawaii researchers in July 2024 and remains on plan to submit the final plan in September 2024. The Groundwater Flow Model includes a contaminant fate and transport model that helps understand how contaminants move, change, and interact with the environment over time.

- After sludge removal operations concluded in early July, the interior infrastructure in both Tanks 7 and 8 were inspected. During the inspections, personnel identified structural repairs that must be completed before pressure washing equipment can be installed. These repairs are currently in progress.
- 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:

- 5 SEP: Hickam Exchange
- 18 SEP: Kapilina Night Market
- 21 SEP: West O’ahu Emergency Preparedness Fair
- 26 SEP: Halsey Terrace Mini Mart
- A community outreach schedule is available on the JBPHH Safe Waters website at [www.jbphh-safewaters.org](http://www.jbphh-safewaters.org)