

Navy Report – November 2024

- Navy Region Hawaii Mo'olelo.** Navy Region has a weekly two-page newsletter that highlights Navy stories and items of interest in Hawaii. You can find the most current and other issues here, and we appreciate your feedback. [The Weekly Mo'olelo - News from around the Region \(afpims.mil\)](https://www.afpims.mil). Highlights:
 - This fall, the Navy will begin the first large scale removal of invasive octocorals in Pearl Harbor, working with state agencies.
 - The Navy joined community members and elected officials for a community workday at Nioi'ula Heiau, an ancient Hawaiian cultural site on Lualualei Naval Annex. This is ongoing work to preserve the site.
 - Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Hawaii worked with NOAA fisheries to collect data for a turtle tagging project, part of a 10-year interagency agreement.
 - PMRF has been very active – they hosted a ceremony to rededicate the Lua Kupapau O Nohili crypt expansion, they are growing native plant species for planting around the base, and they also recently did a roadside cleaning alongside their adopted section of Kaumualii Highway.
 - The Navy recently partnered with the State of Hawaii – Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) to transfer \$18 million to HCDA to upgrade electrical infrastructure in Kalaeloa and transfer existing non-Navy customers from the Navy electrical distribution system to the Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) distribution system. This is accomplished through the Navy's first Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA) in Hawaii.
 - And we always have a “This Week in History” story as well.
- Laulima Navy.** In October, the Navy in Hawaii launched Laulima Navy to celebrate the Navy's 250th birthday in 2025. During the next 12 months, we will highlight 250 acts of voluntary community service performed by Sailors and civilian personnel in Hawaii. Reflecting the Hawaiian value of laulima, translated as “many hands working together,” the 12-month commemoration underscores the Navy's responsibility to the community and the ways Navy personnel volunteer alongside partners to help and support their neighbors. On Oct. 19, we kicked off Laulima Navy by joining the community volunteers to clean the Pearl Harbor Bike Path. About 120 Sailors and civilian tuned out for the clean-up.
- Hiring Fairs.** We host hiring fairs for a variety of positions several times a year and promote them on social media. Follow our LinkedIn and Facebook pages and keep up to date.
- 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

Navy Report – November 2024

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 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 warning that 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:

- NCTF-RH had the quarterly Open House on Nov. 14 at the Hokuani Community Center. The event was open to the public. The next open house will tentatively be in February 2025. More to follow once a location is confirmed.
- **Let’s Talk Red Hill Podcast:**
 - Weekly series on latest updates and insights regarding the Navy’s progress in closing the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.
 - Available on the NCTF-RH YouTube page, mobile app, Apple and website.
- **Decommissioning Dashboard:**
 - Available on NCTF-RH mobile app and provides information on sludge and residual fuel removal, tank cleaning and air quality monitoring.
- **Groundwater monitoring well network:**
 - Completed installation of the 22nd monitoring well since 2021. Overall groundwater monitoring network stands at more than 40 monitoring wells in and around Red Hill.
 - Network provides a better understanding of groundwater conditions in and around the facility.
 - The Navy conducts bi-weekly groundwater sampling of those wells in accordance with the Revised Consolidated Groundwater Monitoring Sampling Plan that was approved by the Environmental Protection Agency.
- **Groundwater Flow Model:**
 - In September 2024, the Navy submitted the newest iteration of the Groundwater Flow Model to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Hawaii Department of Health. The submission included:
 - Groundwater Flow Model Report -- summarizes the outputs of the model scenarios and provides details regarding inputs to the model; and
 - Groundwater Flow Model -- estimates flow direction and flow rates of groundwater.
 - This month, the Navy will publicly release a redacted version of the GWFM report at www.jbphh-safewaters.org. The report provides a summary of key modeling

Navy Report – November 2024

assumptions, updates made from the previous model, and various pumping scenarios, in order to provide an understanding of how groundwater moves in and around Red Hill. The Navy's GWFM model also incorporates a fate and transport model which estimates how chemicals move within groundwater.

- The Navy's model remains a living document and will be updated as more is learned about Red Hill and the surrounding area through ongoing efforts. The Navy will update its GWFM in 2026, with information gained from: continued groundwater monitoring, the drilling and completion of additional GW wells and various field studies, as well as, the completion of an independent GWFM by the University of Hawaii.
- The report is redacted to ensure details and sensitive information about the Navy's critical infrastructure remain secure – details such as utility infrastructure capacity, operating conditions, and exact locations of wells and pumps.
- The groundwater flow model includes information that helps demonstrate how contaminants move, change and interact with the environment over time. The model will be updated as additional data becomes available.
- **Tank Cleaning Operations:**
 - Tanks 7 and 8: Structural repairs continue in preparation for pressure washing inside each tank.
 - Tank 5, 6, 7 & 8: Degassing is complete.
 - Structural assessment and necessary repairs are ongoing to prepare tanks for pressure washing in the upcoming months.
- **Air Quality Monitoring:**
 - Monitoring continues during degassing and ventilation operations
 - Data can be viewed on the NCTF-RH mobile app and website
- **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.
 - 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.
- **BWS PAH Claims in their Aiea Wells**

Navy Report – November 2024

- 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.
- **BWS Consultants' Claims -- Swarm Team Tech Memo**
 - The Navy stands firm in the analysis, findings and recommendations of the Swarm Team.
 - The Navy extended an invitation to meet with the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) and their consultants on Dec. 9 or 10 to discuss the comments and recommendations from the Swarm Team Tech Memo that was published in April 2024.
 - EPA, DOH and the University of Hawaii are invited.
 - The goal is to provide a forum for meaningful technical discussion to assure consistency and address any misunderstandings.
 - The Navy will provide additional clarification on the Swarm Team analysis, address BWS consultants' comments, and present the final EDWM Plan.
 - We look forward to gaining alignment and mutual understanding of the work being done to continue to protect the drinking water system now and for generations to come.
- **Questions about why the Navy REDACTS Red Hill documents**
 - The Department of Defense (DoD) has determined that Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility must comply with DoD Critical Infrastructure Security Information (DCRIT) regulations. DCRIT regulations require the DoD to protect information that, if disclosed, would reveal vulnerabilities that could cause harm to people or property. While we understand the public's desire for unredacted documents, we do not have the authority to grant it.
 - We must ensure that details about the operation, structure, and vulnerabilities of DCRIT are closely guarded and shared only with authorized personnel to prevent potential exploitation. Examples of redacted information includes:
 - Well pumping rates
 - Geo-locations of wells
 - Valve locations
 - Size and location of piping

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. In April, the Navy voluntarily continued an extensive sampling of the JBPHH water distribution system for an additional year.

- 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. The

Navy Report – November 2024

Navy has recently proposed adding the Extended Drinking Water Monitoring (EDWM) plan into the 2023 Administrative Consent Order (ACO) for the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility Defueling, Closure and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Drinking Water System.

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

Drinking Water Information Booth: 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 the Navy offers and allows affected residents to view testing results from their homes and neighborhoods, request sampling for their residence, and ask questions.

- 29 OCT – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) Office

A community outreach schedule is available on the JBPHH Safe Waters website at www.jbphh-safewaters.org

- 6 NOV -- Kapilina Night Market
- Hickam Exchange, 11/7/2024, Thursday, 1000-1300
- Newcomers Fair, 11/12/2024, Tuesday, 0930-1000
- Ombudsman & Key Spouse Assembly (Speaking), 11/12/2024, Tuesday, 1700-1830
- Pearl City Mini Mart, 11/21/2024, Thursday, 1000-1300
- NOVEMBER TOTAL, , ,
- NEX Mall, 12/5/2024, Thursday, 1000-1300
- Newcomers Fair, 12/10/2024, Tuesday, 0930-1000
- Kapilina Night Market, 12/18/2024, Wednesday, 1600-2000
- Halsey Terrace Mini Mart, 12/19/2024, Thursday, 1000-1300
-