

1. **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 \(afpims.mil\)](http://www.afpims.mil). Highlights:
 - We were excited to be part of the welcome of Hokulea to Pearl Harbor Saturday, and we appreciate the history, culture, and education that this visit brings.
 - 30 Navy personnel joined Waianae community members to work on restoration of the Nioi'ula Heiaua on Lualualei.
 - On Dec. 9, the University of Hawaii and the Department of the Navy signed a historic 10-year agreement to support the protection and management of natural and cultural resources on Navy and Marine Corps installations in Hawai'i. The agreement, which includes climate resilience support for bases and their surrounding areas, covers Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Marine Corps Base Hawaii on Oahu, and Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands on Kauai.
 - The Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Montana (SSN 794) is now homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. It arrived the day before Christmas from Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia. Montana's arrival marks the ninth Virginia-class fast-attack submarine home ported at JBPHH. The submarine will be assigned to Submarine Squadron 1.
 - The Navy remembers Jimmy Carter and his legacy; we recently posted a story and photos about a visit to Hawaii by then Pres. Carter and a speech he gave at Hickam about energy and the environment.
 - U.S. Space Force Indo-Pacific Guardians celebrated the 5th anniversary of the U.S. Space Force, which was established by Congress on Dec. 20, 2019. It is the sixth military branch and the newest in 73 years.
 - Last month, the U.S. Air Force, Allies and partner nations air-dropped 110,00 pounds of essential supplies last week to nearly 60 remote islands across the Pacific as part of Operation Christmas Drop, the Department of Defense's longest-running humanitarian airlift operation. The tradition began in December 1952 when a B-29 Superfortress aircrew saw islanders waving at them from the island of Kapingamarangi. In the spirit of Christmas, the aircrew dropped a bundle of supplies attached to a parachute, giving the operation its name.
 - USINDOPACOM hosted Hawaii lawmakers in December to discuss strategic security region briefs and discuss key issues affecting local communities in Hawaii.
 - And we always have a "This Week in History" story as well.
2. **Hökūle'a.** The voyaging canoe will sail into Pearl Harbor and dock at Rainbow Bay Marina from Jan. 18-24. The week-long engagement will include school visits and public dockside tours.
3. **Draft EIS for the Hawaii-California Training and Testing.** The Hawaii-California Training and Testing (HCTT) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas EIS (OEIS) includes an analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with conducting at-sea training and testing activities, and modernization and sustainment of ranges

offshore of Hawaii and California. In-person and virtual public meetings will be held this month to provide more information about the project and the environmental analysis. To learn more, visit [Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing EIS/OEIS](#). The Oahu public meetings were last week here on Oahu and in Kauai. A virtual public meeting will be held Jan. 22 from 3-4 HST.

4. **Laulima Navy.** In October, the Navy in Hawaii launched Laulima Navy to celebrate the Navy’s 250th birthday in 2025. Over a 12-month period, 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.
5. **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/>.
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 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.
7. **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.

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

- ***NEW*:**
 - Pressure washing of tanks 7 and 8 began this month (January 2025)

- Next NCTF-RH open house is March 12 from 5-7 p.m. at the Ke’ehi Lagoon Los Banos room.
- NCTF-RH hosted BWS and its consultants for a technical meeting to discuss the Navy’s Swarm Team technical memo regarding drinking water samples collected during the Drinking Water Long-Term Monitoring plan from March 2022-April 2024. The Navy subject matter experts were also available to discuss the Extended Drinking Water Monitoring plan. A video recording of the brief, and the slide presentation are located on the NCTF-RH website and Safe Waters website. <https://www.navyclosuretaskforce.navy.mil/Media/Videos/>
- **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.
 - [Episode 9](#) is the latest podcast, dated Dec. 19, 2024. In it, Rear Admiral Williams discusses the year in review, and the progress on Red Hill closure.
 - *All* podcasts are 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. **The latest update is 01 JAN 2025.**
- **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.
 - The Navy publicly released a redacted version of the GWFM report at www.jbphh-safewaters.org. The report provides a summary of key modeling 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:**
 - Tank 5, 6, 7 & 8: Degassing is complete. Pressure washing has begun on tank 7.
 - Structural assessment and necessary repairs are ongoing to tanks 5 & 6 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 Navy executes a robust, layered, and comprehensive lead sampling program, performed in compliance with EPA-approved methodology, including the following:
 1. Compliance Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) monitoring
 2. Lead in Priority Areas (LIPA) program
 3. Safe Drinking Water Act (SOWA) compliance sampling
 4. Supplemental, enhanced Drinking Water Long Term Monitoring (LTM) - completed
 5. Voluntary, investigatory Extended Drinking Water Monitoring (EDWM)
 6. Water Quality Action Team response sampling
 - The Navy's lead sampling is substantially more comprehensive than that of the traditional water purveyor.
 - 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.navyclosurereport.navy.mil.
- **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.

- **BWS Consultants' Claims -- Swarm Team Tech Memo**
 - The Navy stands firm in the analysis, findings and recommendations of the Swarm Team.
 - The Navy met with the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) and their consultants on Dec. 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 also attended.
 - The goal was to provide a forum for meaningful technical discussion to assure consistency and address any misunderstandings.
 - The Navy provided additional clarification on the Swarm Team analysis, address BWS consultants' comments, and present the final EDWM Plan.
- **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 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.

- 14 JAN – Newcomers Fair*
- 14 JAN – Ombudsman Assembly*
- 16 JAN – Hickam Main Exchange*

**Base access required*

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

- 16 JAN – Hickam Exchange
- 29 JAN – Kapilina Night Market (Iroquois Point)
- 05 FEB - Kapilina Night Market (Iroquois Point)
- 05 MAR - Kapilina Night Market (Iroquois Point)
- 02 APR - Kapilina Night Market (Iroquois Point)