RED HILL
HIGHLIGHTS

52nd Edition; Oct. 27, 2026

The mission of Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (NCTF-RH) is to execute the permanent decommissioning of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (RHBFSF) safely and expeditiously, and continue long-term environmental remediation in coordination with State and Federal regulators in order to protect public health and the environment.

NCTF-RH Updates Fuel Tank Advisory Committee



Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (NCTF-RH) participated in the Hawaii Department of Health's (DOH) Fuel Tank Advisory Committee (FTAC) meeting Oct. 22 to share a comprehensive update on our decommissioning and environmental efforts. NCTF-RH Deputy Commander Rear Adm. Lester Ortiz highlighted major milestones since the last FTAC meeting six months ago, including reaching 99% completion of pipeline cleaning and beginning the removal of approximately 10 miles of pipeline for recycling. The team also briefed the committee on the Navy's 49 groundwater monitoring wells, which continue to show no evidence of fuel contamination moving off-site, and discussed DOH's recent conditional approval to reactivate the Navy's Aiea-Halawa Shaft to restore water redundancy for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

During their respective regulatory updates, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and DOH discussed groundwater monitoring, that conditions of historical fuel releases onsite are stable, and that there is evidence of natural breakdown of fuel in the environment.

In addition to technical progress, NCTF-RH highlighted its ongoing commitment to staying connected with the Oahu community. Over the last six months, NCTF-RH has engaged directly with residents at on- and off-base town halls, local neighborhood board meetings, and youth STEM events.

All FTAC presentations are available on the DOH's website: https://health.hawaii.gov/ust/ust-home-test/ust-red-hill-project-main/red-hill-task-force-meeting/

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NCTF-RH Participates in 25th Annual Astronaut Lacy Veach Day of Discovery



Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (NCTF-RH) participated alongside local families, educators, and science enthusiasts at the University of Hawaii Institute for Astronomy in Manoa for the 25th Annual Astronaut Lacy Veach Day of Discovery Oct. 18. During the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) event, the team had the privilege of engaging with hundreds of attendees and bringing environmental science to life through hands-on learning.

Through a hands-on soil boring and core sampling demonstration, participants explored how environmental scientists extract and analyze underground geological layers to understand subterranean environments. A water chromatography display demonstrated chemical separation techniques, visually showing how substances travel through different mediums to mirror water filtration and monitoring principles.

NCTF-RH remains committed to proactive community outreach, scientific transparency, and inspiring the next generation of STEM leaders in Hawaii.

For further information, please visit
www.navyclosuretaskforce.navy.mil
www.jbphh-safewaters.org