



# RED HILL HIGHLIGHTS

19th Edition; July 29, 2025

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 to Meet with CRI this Week

Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill leaders will meet with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Community Representation Initiative this week as part of the Navy's community engagement plan to discuss progress and ongoing efforts to decommission the tanks and close the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, and long-term environmental remediation.

The meeting, which is open to the public, is on Thursday, July 31, from 5-8 p.m. at the Oahu Veterans Center, 1298 Kukila St., Honolulu, HI 96818. The EPA will also live stream the event at <https://www.epa.gov/red-hill/red-hill-cri-meeting>.



## Why the Navy uses Granular Activated Carbon Filtration Systems

According to the EPA, GAC "is a proven technology with high removal (up to 99.9%) for many VOCs (volatile organic compounds)." For more information about GAC systems, visit the EPA's website at <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/HQ/401595.pdf>. This proven technology is also frequently used by municipal drinking water providers across the nation, including on the island of Oahu to remove impurities.

In 2022, the Navy installed a Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration system at the inactive Red Hill Shaft per a Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) emergency order. A GAC system was also installed at the Navy Aiea-Halawa Shaft in 2024 to remove impurities from water in preparation for reactivation and eventual reconnection to the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam drinking water distribution system.

The GAC filtration systems at the Red Hill and Navy Aiea-Halawa shafts use carbon-rich material such as charcoal and wood. Water is pumped into the filter vessel and passes through a bed of GAC allowing impurities to be captured by the internal surface of the carbon. As an added layer of protection, water pumped from the shafts is tested as it enters and exits the treatment system.





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## The Navy Continues GAC Operations at Red Hill per DOH Requirement

As directed by a Hawaii Department of Health 2022 Emergency Order, the Navy continues to pump the Red Hill Shaft and operate a GAC filtration system to maintain a capture zone for groundwater treatment at Red Hill Shaft. Since 2022, approximately 3.5 billion gallons of water has been discharged into the nearby Halawa Stream under a DOH permit supporting the Red Hill Shaft Recovery and Monitoring Plan. NCTF-RH shares monthly average flow rates with DOH and will continue operating the GAC system under the emergency order.

Through coordination with, and approval by, the EPA and DOH, the Navy determined that the adequate capture zone could be maintained while reducing the Red Hill Shaft pumping rate by more than half. Consequently, normal pumping operations at Red Hill Shaft were significantly reduced from approximately 4 million gallons per day (MGD) of water to 1.7 MGD in April 2024, which is the approximate average pumping rate today. Variations to pumping operations are closely coordinated with approval from the EPA and DOH.

Continuing in its commitment to the environment, NCTF-RH is using treated water pumped from the Red Hill Shaft to clean the inside of the tanks at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. This water is otherwise pumped into the Halawa Stream. The Navy is pleased to find a beneficial use for a portion of the water when devising its Tank Cleaning Plan.

A University of Hawaii Ecological Monitoring in Halawa Stream, Oahu report showed no evidence of impacts to Halawa Stream water quality, chemistry, or stream organisms from the Red Hill Shaft discharges during the first two years of its study.







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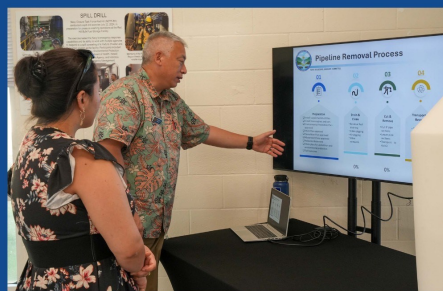
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## NAVY CLOSURE TASK FORCE-RED HILL

# QUARTERLY OPEN HOUSE



- WEDNESDAY, AUG. 20, 2025
- 5 P.M. TO 7 P.M.
- OAHU VETERANS CENTER
  - 1298 KUKILA ST.
- HONOLULU, HI 96818



For further information, please visit  
[www.navyclosuretaskforce.navy.mil](http://www.navyclosuretaskforce.navy.mil)  
[www.jbphh-safewaters.org](http://www.jbphh-safewaters.org)

