

THE WEEKLY MO'OLELO

Wednesday, May 22, 2024



Keep up with the latest news from across Navy Region Hawaii.
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Upcoming Events

- May 29 at Kapalina Night Market from 4 to 8 p.m.
- Public scoping meetings for Pacific Missile Range Facility and NASA's Koke'e Park Geophysical Observatory, June 4-6 on Kauai. Visit PMRF-KPGO-EIS.com for locations and times.



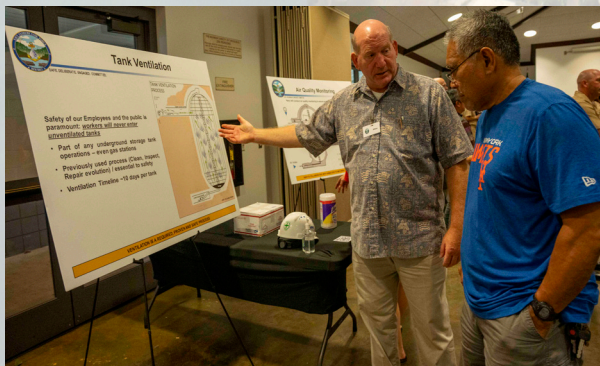
80th Annual West Loch Disaster Remembrance Ceremony

A ceremony was held Tuesday at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to mark the 80th anniversary of the West Loch Disaster. On May 21, 1944, while preparing for the invasion of Saipan, U.S. Army troops loaded ammunition, weapons and fuel on to 34 tank landing ships clustered in Pearl Harbor. An explosion aboard one of the ships ignited a firestorm across West Loch. Fires burned for 24 hours, killing 163 men and injuring 400. Six ships were destroyed in the tragedy.



29 Nations to Participate in 2024 RIMPAC Exercise

Approximately 29 nations, 40 surface ships, 3 submarines, 14 national land forces, over 150 aircraft and more than 25,000 personnel will participate in the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise scheduled June 26 to Aug. 2 in and around the Hawaiian Islands. RIMPAC was established in 1971 and is the world's largest international maritime exercise, combining force capabilities in a dynamic maritime environment to demonstrate enduring interoperability across the full spectrum of military operations.



NCTF Shares Progress Update with Community Members

At last week's open house, Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (NCTF-RH) members answered community questions and reported on its decommissioning progress. NCTF-RH has emptied all of the aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, cleaned and repaired an external tank in preparation for sludge removal, initiated sludge removal in two other tanks, prepared for tank ventilation and initiated a soil vapor extraction pilot.



JBPHH Sailor Competes for CNIC Sailor of the Year

Master-at-Arms 1st Class Franklin E. Mateo Jr. was one of four finalists competing for the prestigious 2023 Commander, Navy Installations Command's Sailor of the Year award. Mateo is Security Operations leading petty officer at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) and is credited with revolutionizing the base's security framework, orchestrating a formidable force across multiple disciplines to secure the installation with unmatched efficiency. Although he was not selected, Mateo called it an honor to be a finalist.



USS Theodore Roosevelt Gets Fresh Supplies While at Sea

U.S. Navy Logistics Specialist Seaman Zyra Mendoza of Kahului, Hawaii, operates a forklift aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) during a recent replenishment-at-sea. The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier is the flagship of Carrier Strike Group Nine and is currently conducting routine operations in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations. U.S. 7th Fleet is the Navy's largest forward-deployed numbered fleet, and routinely interacts and operates with allies and partners in preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific.



Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month: Robert K. U. Kihune

Robert K. U. Kihune, a 1959 Naval Academy graduate, commanded two carrier battle groups, participated in the Navy's response to the Lebanon crisis, the capture of terrorists in the Achille Lauro hijacking, and antiterrorism air strikes against Libya. Promoted to vice admiral in 1988 – the first native Hawaiian to wear three stars – Kihune took charge of the Pacific Fleet Naval Surface Forces, commanding 200 ships, 10 naval stations, and 80,000 military and civilian personnel. He retired in 1994 after 34 years of service.

HO'OKELE
"Navigator"
FOR THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE TEAMS IN HAWAII

Wai Momi

NAVY REGION PRODUCTIONS

Navy Region Hawaii produces a digital magazine and a monthly lifestyle show for Navy and Air Force members and their families in Hawaii. Ho'okele and Wai Momi include news and feature stories, command information and community photos produced by Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs. Current and past editions of both are available for viewing on the Navy Region Hawaii website and DVIDS.

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