

2025 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

This 2025 Community Engagement Plan is prepared in accordance with the 2023 Administrative Consent Order (ACO) Amendment 1 entered between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of the Navy (Navy), and Defense Logistics Agency (DLA).

Navy and DLA participate in a variety of community engagement forums and regularly meet with interested community stakeholders, both on and off Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH). These community stakeholder engagements will include discussions on defueling, closure, and drinking water requirements conducted by Navy and, as applicable, DLA, pursuant to the 2023 ACO and Statement of Work (SOW). This Community Engagement Plan covers the period of February 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026.

The operating concept for the Community Engagement Plan is for Navy Closure Task Force – Red Hill (NCTF-RH) to participate in or host three rotating monthly public events executed in a quarterly cycle of an educational events (webinars, livestream meetings, etc.), open houses, and other public engagement events. Other engagements include small conversations, participating in neighborhood boards, and various community relations activities. The 2025 Community Engagement Plan cycle is designed to be robust and continuous throughout the year. The plan follows Amendment 1 of the 2023 ACO SOW Section 2.3.1.

1.1 QUARTERLY OPEN HOUSES

NCTF-RH will continue to host open houses once per quarter throughout the year providing public updates and addressing questions or concerns from the community related to the closure of Red Hill, remediation of the environment, and provision of water that meets all state and federal safety guidelines. The Navy will host open houses at varying locations in areas impacted by the November 2021 fuel spill. These open houses are conducted in person and open to public participation. The Navy team will continue to create interactive and innovative information products to educate the public on key missions such as:

- Tank Ventilation / Degassing / Air Quality Monitoring
- Sludge / Residual Fuel Removal
- Tank Cleaning and Decommissioning
- Water Quality Response
- Environmental Remediation
- Compliance Monitoring
- Water System Resiliency

They Navy posts all quarterly Open House information and products on our public website (www.navyclosuretaskforce.navy.mil).

1.2 QUARTERLY WEBINARS

Navy and DLA will continue to livestream interactive quarterly webinars designed to educate the public on various aspects of our mission set and answers their direct questions. When possible, the Navy will partner with external stakeholders to jointly host webinars on various cross boundary topics.

1.3 QUARTERLY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

Engaging with the community is crucial for building trust, fostering mutual understanding, and promoting collaborative decision-making. These interactions create opportunities to strengthen relationships, address concerns, and work together toward shared goals. Examples of community engagements include attending meetings with the Community Representation Initiative, information booths, kūpuna engagements, neighborhood boards, Hawaiian civic clubs, veteran organizations, and other state and local committees and commissions—each offering valuable perspectives and contributions. The Navy and DLA actively pursue relationships with community stakeholder groups to ensure inclusivity and representation of diverse voices and perspectives. The Navy and DLA will attend at least one community engagement per quarter.

1.3.1 COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE INITIATIVE

1.3.1.1 Community Representation Initiative (CRI) was incorporated into the 2023 ACO in response to public feedback. It provides ten members of the Hawaiian community a platform to collaborate directly with the Navy, DLA, and EPA on issues concerning defueling, closure, and the safety of drinking water at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

1.3.1.2 EPA shall provide a neutral facilitator who shall facilitate each quarterly CRI meeting and finalize the agenda with input from the Navy, DLA, EPA, and the CRI. Each quarterly CRI meeting shall be open for participation both in-person and by video conference. All participants in the quarterly CRI meeting shall follow the ground rules agreed to by EPA, the Navy, and DLA.

1.3.1.3 If the CRI participants do not agree to have an EPA-provided facilitator finalize the agenda and facilitate each quarterly CRI meeting, or do not follow the ground rules, then the Navy and DLA shall not be required to attend the quarterly CRI meeting or perform any of their roles and responsibilities under the ground rules.

1.3.1.4 If the CRI complies with the requirements as outlined in above, the Navy and DLA intend to meet with the CRI once per quarter to satisfy the Section 1.3 quarterly community engagement requirement. If the CRI does not comply with the requirements outlined above, the Navy and DLA intend for any of their community engagements outlined below to satisfy the quarterly requirement in lieu of meeting with the CRI.

1.3.2 LOCAL AND STATE COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

The Navy and DLA will continue to participate throughout the duration of the 2025 Community Engagement Plan at various State of Hawaii and Honolulu County government meetings where project updates are delivered, and public testimony is commonly offered. These meetings include the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee Meeting, the Commission on Water Resource Management, Hawaii State Emergency Response Committee, the Local Emergency Planning Committee and the House Special Committee on Red Hill.

1.3.3 NEIGHBORHOOD BOARDS

Neighborhood boards represent grassroots-level community governance, addressing local issues and concerns. Meetings with these boards often include discussions on land use, development projects, public safety, and environmental impacts. Engaging with neighborhood boards ensures that diverse voices are heard, and local priorities are incorporated into broader initiatives.

1.3.4 HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

Hawaiian civic clubs are advocacy organizations dedicated to advancing Hawaiian cultural, social, and economic well-being. These meetings often involve discussions on issues such as education, housing, health, and cultural preservation. Partnering with Hawaiian civic clubs can enhance efforts to address systemic challenges and promote policies aligned with Hawaiian values.

1.3.5 KŪPUNA ENGAGEMENTS

Kūpuna serve as guiding voices of wisdom within the community. These groups consist of respected elders who provide cultural insight, historical knowledge, and a deep connection to Hawaiian values and traditions. Meetings with kūpuna focus on cultural protocols, preserving ancestral practices, and addressing issues affecting their communities, such as environmental stewardship and social well-being.

1.3.6 INFORMATION BOOTHS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY

The Navy and DLA provide information booths on drinking water monitoring on a monthly basis in areas that are served by the JBPHH drinking water distribution system. This is an opportunity for those on the water system to ask any question they have regarding their drinking water. It's a one-on-one experience to reach people that may be new to the area with questions about their drinking water. Information booths are regularly placed at various Navy Exchange Mini Marts located within the housing communities, at Base Newcomers and Ombudsman events, the Hickam and Navy Main Exchanges, at the Kapilina Night Markets at Iroquois Point, and at other various locations by request across commands on JBPHH. These booths have drawn new people at each monthly event. We anticipate transitioning the booths to broaden and include more topics from the Red Hill environmental remediation projects once the Extended Drinking Water Monitoring (EDWM) program is completed in Spring 2025.

1.3.7 VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS

Veteran organizations, which include groups of retired service members, play a significant role in bridging military and civilian communities. Their perspectives are invaluable, particularly on issues like honoring military history, supporting veterans' services, and fostering understanding between the military and local communities. Meetings with veteran organizations often focus on shared projects, community support initiatives, and recognition of service.

1.4 NOTICE OF NAVY AND DLA HOSTED MEETINGS

Two weeks prior to each meeting hosted by the Navy or DLA, the Navy and DLA shall announce the meeting on Navy's and DLA's social media accounts and the Navy and DLA websites.

1.5 2024 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RECAP

In 2024, Navy and DLA representatives actively engaged with community stakeholders by participating in a variety of public forums and events across O‘ahu. Navy representatives attended a total of 90 Neighborhood Board meetings, ensuring representation in key areas such as Wai‘anae, ‘Aiea, ‘Ewa Beach, Salt Lake, Nānākuli, Wahiawā, and Pearl City. These meetings served as vital platforms for addressing community concerns, sharing updates, and fostering open dialogue between the Navy and local residents.

The Navy and DLA hosted four Open Houses at various locations, including Ke‘ehi Lagoon, Moanalua Terrace, Hokulani Community Centers, and the O‘ahu Veterans Center. These Open Houses offered an inclusive space for community members to learn more about Closure activities, ask questions, and provide feedback directly to Navy representatives.

In addition to the quarterly Open Houses, the command has attended 14 different community meetings over the past calendar year with Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Veteran Groups, the Navy League, military Ombudsmen assemblies, and Kūpuna engagements. Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (NCTF-RH) was represented at 74 neighborhood board meetings for six districts most affected by the water crisis. Our NCTF-RH Drinking Water Information Booth made 52 appearances in the affected areas, explaining sample procedures and lab results to JBPHH water customers.

NCTF-RH coordinated seven media availabilities for news organizations and responded to 29 inquiries over the past year, published 433 products that included 368 images, 38 videos, and 27 news stories. The NCTF-RH weekly vodcast “Let’s Talk Red Hill” is published on the command website and mobile app, and distributed over the Defense Informational weekly, and the Defense Informational Distribution Service (DVIDS).

The Navy's 2024 participation in community engagements underscored a commitment to transparency, accountability, and fostering partnerships to ensure the safe and sustainable management of resources impacting the surrounding communities. Enclosure #2 provides an overview of the 2024 engagements since NCTF-RH's inception. Collectively, these engagements reflect the Navy's proactive approach to community outreach and our commitment to building trust and understanding with the diverse communities of O‘ahu. This commitment to community engagement will continue through 2025 and beyond.