



NEWS RELEASE FROM THE NAVFAC HAWAII PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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Navy Diverts Recyclable Waste From Local Landfills

PEARL HARBOR – April 1st is the beginning of Environmental Awareness Month and the Navy Region Hawaii's Recycling Program is a great example of how reducing recyclable materials ending up in local landfills on Oahu is mutually beneficial to the Navy and the state of Hawaii.

“We have made tremendous strides since inception in 1994 when the recycling program was run by Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR),” said Richard Vila, Naval Facilities Engineering (NAVFAC) Hawaii environmental protection specialist. “It has now grown into an efficient, self sustaining program with two convenient locations across Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).”

Initially under MWR, the recycling program could only accept a limited supply of materials such as paper and newspaper. Over time, control moved from MWR to the base's First Lieutenants Division and then in 2005 to NAVFAC Hawaii. Since 2005, NAVFAC Hawaii has shaped and expanded the Navy Region Hawaii's Recycling Program into what it is today.

“We have two convenient recycling locations on JBPHH, one on the Pearl-side of the base (Building 159) and the other on the Hickam-side (Building 1715), which both accept a long list of items,” said Vila. “We work with contractors to get the best deal we can on the materials so that dollars made through recycling pays for the program's operation and the recapitalization of our equipment.”

Recyclable items received by the program includes: cardboard, wood, metals, white paper, newspapers/phone books, magazines, plastics and toner cartridges. Some items not accepted at the centers include and are not limited to the following: pressurized cylinders, light bulbs, treated lumber, envelopes with plastic windows and food waste.

“When we get a lot of a certain commodity such as paper or cardboard we first have to bale it, then weigh and track it.” said Vila. “We are busy baling various materials every day.”

NAVFAC Hawaii has implemented a number of developments to the program over the years including the addition of a Redemption Center at the Hickam location on one end of Building 1715. Its hours of operation are Tuesday – Friday, 12 p.m. – 6 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. The Redemption Center operates with a voucher system where the customer can recycle their HI-5 cans and bottles in exchange for cash at the Hickam Bowling Center. The cans and/or bottles returned are equivalent to .05 cents each.

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Customers can also request special pickups for bulk recyclable items such as metal furniture and other household appliances not in use. In addition, military, Department of Defense (DoD) civilian, or contractor personnel may drop off their recyclables at either facility at their own convenience within the designated hours of operation. At Building 159, on the Pearl-side, the facility is open Monday – Thursday, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., and on Friday, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. For the facility on Hickam, it is open Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Customers can also drop off plastic containers, glass bottles, aluminum cans, paper, and corrugated cardboard in designated 24-hour drop off bins at Buildings 159 and 1715.

“There is never a shortage in the supply of recyclable paper and cardboard,” said Vila. “The annual report indicates we received, processed, and recycled 1.4 million pounds of cardboard in FY12. White paper places 2nd at 736,000 pounds which is equivalent to 368 small cars. However, the most valuable and profitable recycled goods are the ferrous and non-ferrous metals.

The discarded ferrous and non-ferrous metals are handled at the Pearl Harbor location. Out of all recyclable materials, metals reap the most benefits for the program both quantitative and monetarily. In FY12 alone, the metals collected and sold amounted to 2.1 million pounds which brought in \$272,123.29 in support of the program.

The Navy Region Hawaii Recycling Program is an important way the service can contribute towards being good stewards of the environment and help work towards a sustainable future in Hawaii. With limited land resources, it is vital that everyone do their part to reduce waste being buried in local landfills. The Navy has made progressive steps towards achieving energy goals and will continue these recycling efforts wherever it can.

If you want to contribute to the Navy Region Hawaii Recycling Program or have inquiries, please call 474-9207.

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Photos/cutlines: High-resolution images are available. Please contact Denise Emsley.



130215-N-YL258-006
PEARL HARBOR (Feb. 15, 2013) A Navy Region Hawaii Recycling Program employee dismantles an old warehouse light fixture to separate the metal portions into the correct bins at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Feb. 15. (U.S. Navy photo by Sila Manahane, NAVFAC Hawaii Public Affairs Assistant/Released)



130215-N-YL258-029
PEARL HARBOR (Feb. 15, 2013) Worker stacks wooden pallets to be recycled at the Navy Region Hawaii Recycling Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Feb. 15. (U.S. Navy photo by Sila Manahane, NAVFAC Hawaii Public Affairs Assistant/Released)

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PEARL HARBOR (Jan. 22, 2013) Aluminum cans are collected at the Navy Region Hawaii Recycling Program's Hickam Redemption Center (Bldg. 1715) for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Department of Defense employees and their families for recycling convenience. *(U.S. Navy photo by Denise Emsley, NAVFAC Hawaii Public Affairs Officer/Released)*



130122-N-OF713-021

PEARL HARBOR (Jan. 22, 2013) Navy Region Hawaii Recycling Program personnel transport recycle bins to customer requested locations throughout Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to assist in the ease of recycling. *(U.S. Navy photo by Denise Emsley, NAVFAC Hawaii Public Affairs Officer/Released)*



130122-N-OF713-022

PEARL HARBOR (Jan. 22, 2013) Baled aluminum cans are stacked at the Navy Region Hawaii's Recycling Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam waiting for transport to a recycling contractor. *(U.S. Navy photo by Denise Emsley, NAVFAC Hawaii Public Affairs Officer/Released)*

For more information about NAVFAC Hawaii and/or Naval Facilities Engineering Command visit:
www.navfac.navy.mil.

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