JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAIʻI
KE KIAʻĀINA O KA MOKUʻĀINA ʻO HAWAIʻI

DEPT. COMM. No. 295

KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.P.H., M.G.A.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HOʻOKELE

STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA ʻOIHANA OLAKINO
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

January 9, 2026

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura,
Speaker
and Members of the House of
Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Annual Report from the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee to the Legislature, pursuant to Chapter 342L, Section 62, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at:

https://health.hawaii.gov/opppd/department-of-health-reports-to-2026-legislature/

Sincerely,

Kenneth S. Fink, M.D., M.P.H., M.G.A.
Director of Health

Enclosures

c: Legislative Reference Bureau
Hawaii State Library System (2)
Hamilton Library

Fuel Tank Advisory Committee

Report to the 2026 Regular Session Legislature



Prepared by
Hawai‘i Department of Health
Solid & Hazardous Waste Branch
Underground Storage Tank Section
December 2025

Contents

Contents 2
I. Statutory Requirement 3
II. 2025 Meetings by the Numbers 4
III. April 9, 2025 Meeting Summary 5
A. Meeting Resources 5
B. Meeting Summary 5
1. Welcome (00:00:00) 5
2. Red Hill Health Effects (00:09:45) 5
3. Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (00:44:15) 6
4. UH Red Hill Dye Tracer Study (01:43:45) 6
5. Field-Constructed Underground Fuel Storage Tanks (02:14:05) 6
6. Proposal for Quarterly FTAC Meetings (02:29:25) 7
7. Public Comments (02:57:20) 7
IV. October 1, 2025 Meeting Summary 7
A. Meeting Resources 7
B. Meeting Summary 7
1. Welcome (00:00:00) 8
2. Red Hill Health Effects (00:11:40) 8
3. Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (00:32:05) 8
4. Field-Constructed Underground Fuel Storage Tanks (01:49:40) 8
5. UH Red Hill Dye Tracer Study (02:06:45) 9
6. Administrative Items and Public Comments (02:58:35) 9
7. Public Comments on Non-Administrative Items (03:54:30) 9
V. November 19, 2025 Meeting Summary 9
A. Meeting Resources 9
B. Meeting Summary 10
1. Public Comments on Presentations at October 1, 2025 FTAC Meeting (00:05:45) 10
VI. FTAC Member Comments on This Report 10
A. Comments from BWS 10
B. Comments from Dr. Melanie Lau, Public Appointee 11

I. Statutory Requirement

The Fuel Tank Advisory Committee (FTAC) was established under Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) §342L-61. According to HRS §342L-62 Duties:

> (a) The advisory committee shall study issues related to leaks of field-constructed underground fuel storage tanks at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, Kuahua Peninsula, Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands, Hickam Pol Annex, and Schofield Barracks Military Reservation. The advisory committee shall consider:
>
> (1) The short- and long-term effects of leaks of the fuel tanks, including effects relating to the health of residents, safe drinking water, and the environment;
>
> (2) Response strategies to mitigate the effects of leaks from fuel tanks;
>
> (3) Methods to improve communication between the United States Navy, Air Force, and Army; the State; any local board of water supply; and the public in the event of a leak of any fuel tank;
>
> (4) Groundwater test results in relation to the surrounding areas of fuel tank facilities, with a particular emphasis on the groundwater near the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility;
>
> (5) The implications of shutting down any fuel tank facility; and
>
> (6) Updates on progress toward meeting goals of agreement between the State, the affected county, and the federal government.
>
> (b) No later than twenty days before the convening of each regular session, the advisory committee shall submit a report of its findings, including groundwater test results, and recommendations, including any proposed legislation to the legislature.

The FTAC members continue to report groundwater test results on these websites:

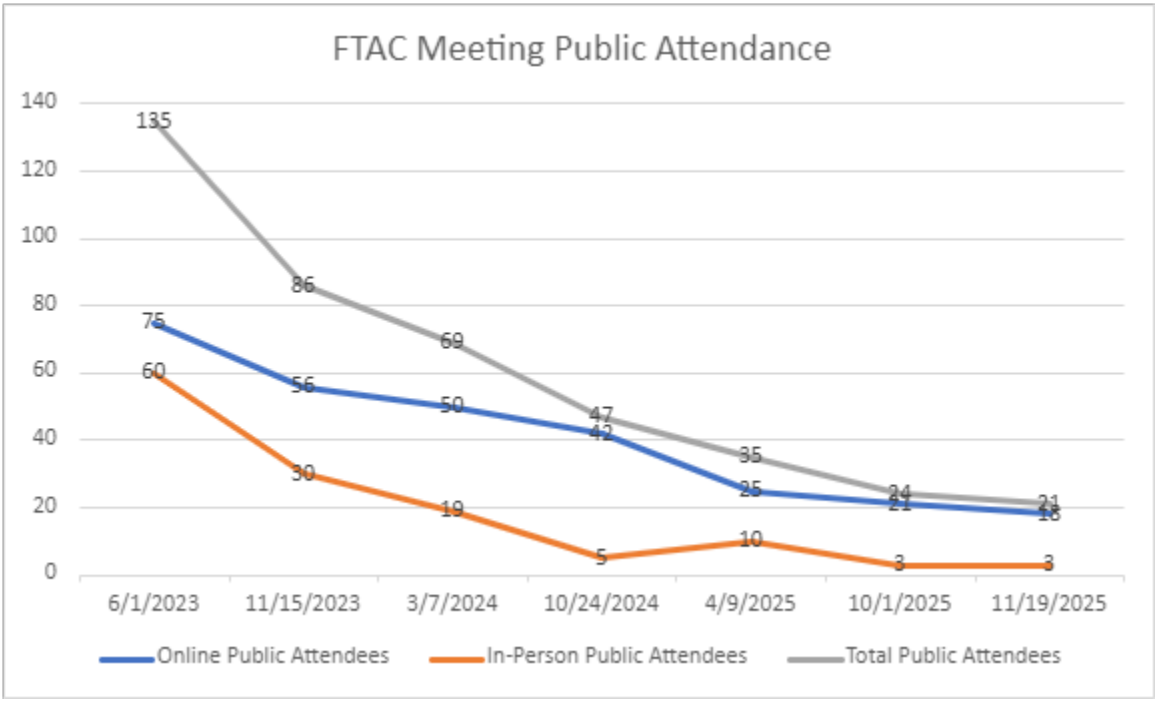
- U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy): https://jbphh-safewaters.org/public/framework/bannerhtml.aspx?idhtml=10769&banner=jbphh_environmental.png&title=JBPHH%20Red%20Hill%20Environmental&Domain=env.jbphh-safewaters.org&idMenu=90120&ddlDSN=SYSTM&DSN=SYSTM
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): https://www.epa.gov/red-hill/groundwater-results-application

Since the 2021 releases from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, the FTAC has focused solely on Red Hill. This year, the FTAC added the other field-constructed underground fuel storage tanks listed in HRS §342L-62 to its agendas. The FTAC held meetings on April 9, 2025; October 1, 2025; and November 19, 2025.

The FTAC did not concur on any recommendations or proposed legislation this year.

II. 2025 Meetings by the Numbers

	04/09/2025 Meeting	10/01/2025 Meeting	11/19/2025 Meeting
Online Public Attendees	25	21	18
In-Person Public Attendees	10	3	3
Total Public Attendees	35	24	21
Live Public Commenters	5	7	9
FTAC Member Attendance	10	11	7



Unlike previous FTAC reports to the legislature, the public attendance numbers above do not include government employees, such as staff from the Hawai‘i Department of Health (DOH), Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS), or EPA. This change was made to provide a more accurate representation of public attendance.

III. April 9, 2025 Meeting Summary

A. Meeting Resources

The following resources are available to the public. Speaker presentations were posted before the meeting.

- **Agenda:** https://health.hawaii.gov/ust/files/2025/04/April-2025-FTAC-Agenda-Final.pdf
- **Presentations:** https://health.hawaii.gov/ust/ust-home-test/ust-red-hill-project-main/red-hill-task-force-meeting/
- **Recording:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbU29NX4IVA&list=PLQ_ZpnRO72lgN6qt8bqr9Kf0D107CSOPh

B. Meeting Summary

The DOH convened the 14th FTAC meeting on April 9, 2025. It was a hybrid meeting that took place at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center and on Zoom.

1. Welcome (00:00:00)

Chair Kathleen Ho (DOH Deputy Director for Environmental Health) convened the meeting. Other members present were: Alison Fong (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), Ryan Imata (DLNR, Board of Land and Natural Resources), Ciara Kahahane (DLNR, Commission on Water Resource Management), Dr. Melanie Lau (public appointee), Joyce Lin (BWS), Hawai‘i State Representative Nicole Lowen, Ashley Nishihara (public appointee), Meg Turner (office of Hawai‘i State Senator Mike Gabbard), and RDML Marc Williams (Pacific Fleet of the United States Navy). The meeting was facilitated by DOH contractor, Keith Mattson.

2. Red Hill Health Effects (00:09:45)

Elizabeth Boyle (Program Officer for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM)) provided an update on NASEM’s consensus study on people impacted by the 2021 JP-5 Red Hill releases.
Presentation: https://health.hawaii.gov/ust/files/2025/04/Item-1-Red-Hill-Presentation-for-Jet-Fuel-Advisory-Committee-Meeting-April-2025.pdf

Tara Sutton (Director of Community Engagement for the Red Hill Registry) provided an update on the University of Hawai‘i’s (UH’s) Red Hill Registry.
Presentation: https://health.hawaii.gov/ust/files/2025/04/2025.04.09-Red-Hill-Registry_FTAC.pdf

Presentations were followed by a question and comment period for FTAC members.

3. **Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (00:44:15)**

FTAC member RDML Marc Williams (Deputy Commander, Navy Closure Task Force – Red Hill) and CDR Benjamin Dunn (Deputy for Environment & Remediation, Navy Closure Task Force – Red Hill) provided updates on Red Hill tank cleaning, pipeline removal, environmental work, and maintenance of the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam drinking water system.
Presentation: https://health.hawaii.gov/ust/files/2025/04/Item-3-2025.04.09-FTAC-brief-NCTF-RH-v2.pdf

Joanna Seto (Administrator, Environmental Management Division, DOH) and Matthew Cohen (Manager, RCRA Site Remediation Section, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9) provided the status of requirements from the DOH's 2022 Emergency Order, EPA's 2023 Administrative Consent Order, and Hawai‘i Administrative Rules for public drinking water systems.
Presentation: https://health.hawaii.gov/ust/files/2025/04/Item-3.d-DOHEPA-Slide-Presentation.pptxRv.pdf

Presentations were followed by a question and comment period for FTAC members.

4. **UH Red Hill Dye Tracer Study (01:43:45)**

Donald Thomas, PhD (Director of UH's Center for the Study of Active Volcanoes) provided updates on UH's Red Hill dye tracer study.
Presentation: https://health.hawaii.gov/ust/files/2025/04/Item-4-UH-Dye-Tracer-Study_4_9_25.pdf

The presentation was followed by a question and comment period for FTAC members.

5. **Field-Constructed Underground Fuel Storage Tanks (02:14:05)**

CAPT James Sullivan (NAVFAC Hawai‘i Commanding Officer) provided updates on field--constructed underground fuel storage tank facilities listed in HRS §342L-62 other than Red Hill.
Presentation: https://health.hawaii.gov/ust/files/2025/04/Item-5-2025-FTAC-Brief_Apr2025-NAVFAC-v2.pdf

The presentation was followed by a question and comment period for FTAC members.

6. **Proposal for Quarterly FTAC Meetings (02:29:25)**

The FTAC discussed a member's proposal from the October 2024 meeting to change the meeting frequency from twice per year to quarterly. The FTAC Chair provided the costs since 2023 of holding FTAC meetings in-person, which one member reiterated their preference for. Due to the cost of holding in-person meetings, the member introduced a motion to hold FTAC meetings quarterly, with every other meeting being fully virtual. Six members voted in favor of the motion. Three members voted against. One member had stepped away during the vote. After the meeting, DOH was advised that the vote was not valid because it was not on the agenda. According to Sunshine Law HRS §92-7(d), "no item shall be added to the agenda if it is of reasonably major importance and action thereon by the board will affect a significant number of persons." In addition, the FTAC cannot hold fully virtual meetings because Sunshine Law HRS §92-3.7 requires remote meetings to have "at least one meeting location that is open to the public and has an audiovisual connection." A vote was agendized and held at the following meeting on October 1, 2025 (see Section IV.6).

7. **Public Comments (02:57:20)**

Members of the public provided oral comments. The meeting was adjourned after approximately 3.75 hours.

IV. October 1, 2025 Meeting Summary

A. Meeting Resources

The following resources are available to the public. Speaker presentations were posted before the meeting.

- **Agenda**: https://calendar.ehawaii.gov/calendar/attachment/111286638/Oct%201%202025%20FTAC%20Meeting%20Agenda.pdf
- **Presentations**: https://health.hawaii.gov/ust/ust-home-test/ust-red-hill-project-main/red-hill-task-force-meeting/
- **Recording**: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xl-mrkex8io

B. Meeting Summary

The DOH convened the 15th FTAC meeting on October 1, 2025. It was a hybrid meeting that took place at the State Capitol Auditorium and on Zoom.

1. **Welcome (00:00:00)**

Chair Kathleen Ho (DOH Deputy Director for Environmental Health) convened the meeting. Other members present were: Col. Greg Hammond (Pacific Air Forces), Ernest Lau (BWS), Dr. Melanie Lau (public appointee), Hawai'i State Representative Nicole Lowen, Ashley Nishihara (public appointee), Kealapono Richardson (DLNR, Board of Land and Natural Resources), Katie Roth (DLNR, Commission on Water Resource Management), Claire Trombadore (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), Meg Turner (office of Hawai'i State Senator Mike Gabbard), and RDML Marc Williams (Pacific Fleet of the United States Navy). The meeting was facilitated by DOH contractor, Keith Mattson.

2. **Red Hill Health Effects (00:11:40)**

The DOH was notified on September 30, 2025, that the NASEM presenter was unable to attend the meeting.

Tara Sutton (Director of Community Engagement for the Red Hill Registry) provided an update on UH's Red Hill Registry.
Presentation: https://health.hawaii.gov/ust/files/2025/10/Item-2b-UH-Red-Hill-Registry.pdf

The presentation was followed by a question and comment period for FTAC members.

3. **Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (00:32:05)**

FTAC member RDML Marc Williams (Deputy Commander, Navy Closure Task Force – Red Hill) and CDR Benjamin Dunn (Deputy for Environment & Remediation, Navy Closure Task Force – Red Hill) provided updates on Red Hill tank cleaning, pipeline removal, environmental work, and maintenance of the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam drinking water system.
Presentation: https://health.hawaii.gov/ust/files/2025/09/Item-3ab-NCTF-RH.pdf

Joanna Seto (Administrator, Environmental Management Division, DOH) and Alison Fong (Assistant Director, RCRA Branch, EPA Region 9) provided the status of requirements from DOH's 2022 Emergency Order, EPA's 2023 Administrative Consent Order, and Hawai'i Administrative Rules for public drinking water systems.
Presentation: https://health.hawaii.gov/ust/files/2025/09/Item-3c-DOH-EPA.pdf

Presentations were followed by a question and comment period for FTAC members.

4. **Field-Constructed Underground Fuel Storage Tanks (01:49:40)**

CAPT James Sullivan (NAVFAC Hawai'i Commanding Officer) provided updates on field-constructed underground fuel storage tank facilities listed in HRS §342L-62 other than Red Hill.

Presentation: https://health.hawaii.gov/ust/files/2025/09/Item-4a-Navy.pdf

The presentation was followed by a question and comment period for FTAC members.

5. **UH Red Hill Dye Tracer Study (02:06:45)**

Donald Thomas, PhD (Director of UH's Center for the Study of Active Volcanoes) provided updates on UH's Red Hill dye tracer study.
Presentation: https://health.hawaii.gov/ust/files/2025/09/Item-5a-UH-SOEST.pdf

The presentation was followed by a question and comment period for FTAC members.

6. **Administrative Items and Public Comments (02:58:35)**

A motion was introduced to change the frequency of FTAC meetings to quarterly. The FTAC members heard public comments on this proposed change before discussing and voting. Five members voted in favor of the motion. Six members voted against. The FTAC members then heard public comments on and discussed when in the day and week FTAC meetings should be held.

7. **Public Comments on Non-Administrative Items (03:54:30)**

Members of the public attending in-person and on Zoom had an opportunity to provide comments. Internet connection was unexpectedly lost around 4.5 hours into the meeting. Internet connection could not be reestablished, therefore, the meeting was shortly adjourned, as required under Sunshine Law HRS §92-3.7. Because two online attendees had indicated they wanted to comment before connection was lost, the FTAC decided to hold an interim meeting the following month to provide another opportunity for oral comments (see Section V).

V. November 19, 2025 Meeting Summary

A. Meeting Resources

Agenda:
https://calendar.ehawaii.gov/calendar/attachment/111286989/November%202025%20FTAC%20Meeting%20Agenda.pdf

Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huTWCTibZtQ

B. Meeting Summary

The DOH convened the 16th FTAC meeting on November 19, 2025. It was a hybrid meeting that took place at the DOH Environmental Health Administration Conference Room and on Teams. The purpose of this interim meeting was to provide an opportunity for oral comments on the informational presentations at the October 1, 2025 (15th) meeting.

Chair Kathleen Ho (DOH Deputy Director for Environmental Health) convened the meeting. Other members present were: Ernest Lau (BWS), Dr. Melanie Lau (public appointee), Amy Miller (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), Ashley Nishihara (public appointee), Kealapono Richardson (DLNR, Board of Land and Natural Resources), and RDML Marc Williams (Pacific Fleet of the United States Navy).

1. Public Comments on Presentations at October 1, 2025 FTAC Meeting (00:05:45)

Members of the public provided oral comments. The meeting was adjourned after approximately 1.5 hours.

VI. FTAC Member Comments on This Report

A. Comments from BWS

1. You should note that the November 19, 2025 meeting was a continuation of the October 1, 2025 meeting due to its abrupt end without allow all public attendees the opportunity to testify. In effect, there were only two FTAC meetings in 2025.

   Revisions: No revisions made. The purpose of the November 19, 2025 meeting is noted under Sections IV.B.7 and V.B of this report. The interim meeting on November 19, 2025 was the 16th FTAC meeting, as noted on its agenda. The October 1, 2025 meeting was the 15th FTAC meeting.

2. Reviewing HRS Chapter 92, it appears that the FTAC is subject to it. Suggest that that DOH's Deputy AG be consulted for a written opinion that can be shared with FTAC members. This will impact meeting notices and materials being available to the public, how the meeting is conducted, providing minutes, interaction between FTAC members, etc. I would like to see the Deputy AG opinion on this.

   Revisions: No revisions made. Suggestions noted.

3. Please add HRS 342L-62 (b) which states, "(b) No later than twenty days before the convening of each regular session, the advisory committee shall submit a report of its

findings, including groundwater test results, and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature."

Revisions: Added statutory text under Section I Statutory Requirement.

4. Include a summary of groundwater test results reviewed by the FTAC, and recommendations (I would add concerns about increasing public participation and attendance by moving the meeting to the late afternoon or early evening hours, allowing for virtual meetings to reduce costs, holding meetings on weekends, etc.).

   Revisions: Links to groundwater test results reported by FTAC members were added under Section I Statutory Requirement. Clarification was also added under Section I that the FTAC did not concur on any recommendations or proposed legislation this year. The FTAC discussed holding meetings in the evenings and weekends but did not reach a consensus due to concerns about excluding participants on the mainland and participant availability on weekends. The FTAC also discussed holding fully virtual meetings, but Sunshine Law HRS §92-3.7 requires at least one in-person meeting location for the public, as noted in Section III.B.6 of this report.

5. Does providing only access to the YouTube recording satisfy HRS Chapter 92 and ADA requirements? What if a member of the public doesn't have access to the internet or a device?

   Revisions: Alt Text was added for the two graphics in this report for ADA compliance. We note that public libraries have public computers with internet access as well as free Wi-Fi available.

B. Comments from Dr. Melanie Lau, Public Appointee

1. I find it curious that section II. 2025 Meetings by the Numbers, takes pains to show declining public participation but makes no effort to suggest ways to increase public participation in these important FTAC meetings. We discussed this very issue at the April 2025 FTAC meeting and suggested evening and/ or weekend meetings to accommodate more people's schedules. We saw more than 300 people attend the evening meeting at Moanalua Middle School in June 2015.

   Revisions: No revisions made. It is unclear what meeting at Moanalua Middle School in June 2015 is being referenced. The FTAC was not formed until 2016. The preceding Red Hill Task Force did not meet in June 2015. If this comment refers to the June 2023 FTAC meeting at the Moanalua High School, the meeting was convened at 1:00 PM HST, which has been the case for subsequent FTAC meetings. At the April 2025 meeting, the FTAC discussed holding meetings in the evenings and weekends but did not reach a

consensus due to concerns about excluding participants on the mainland and participant availability on weekends.

2. The Dept of Health sets the agenda for the FTAC meetings, and item #6 on the April 2025 meeting agenda was "Proposal to change FTAC meeting frequency to quarterly". More frequent meetings to 4 x a year from 2 x a year was proposed, moved, voted on, and passed at that April 2025 meeting. I don't understand why an item that was placed on the agenda by the DOH was later deemed not "properly agendized" when the DOH controls the agenda and has access to the State Attorney General's office that vets these issues. It is only after the 4 x a year meeting was passed that the DOH seeks the Attorney General's opinion on the matter and decides that the vote was not "properly agendized". It appears that the DOH does not want more public participation and input.

   Revisions: No revisions made. The FTAC members are contacted by the facilitator before each meeting to provide input on agenda items. Under Sunshine Law, the FTAC may not vote on decisions affecting a significant number of people without first providing notice. This is to ensure members of the public who want to testify on the vote and FTAC members who want to vote can be present at the meeting. The item on the agenda for the April 9, 2025 meeting was "FTAC Member Proposals for Discussion: Proposal to change FTAC meeting frequency to quarterly." This did not provide notice that a vote would occur. Sunshine Law HRS §92-7(d) does not allow a board to add votes of major importance to the agenda during the meeting:

   > No board shall change the agenda, less than six calendar days prior to the meeting, by adding items thereto without a two-thirds recorded vote of all members to which the board is entitled; provided that no item shall be added to the agenda if it is of reasonably major importance and action thereon by the board will affect a significant number of persons. Items of reasonably major importance not decided at a scheduled meeting shall be considered only at a meeting continued to a reasonable day and time.

   Therefore, the vote was agendized for the following meeting on October 1, 2025.

3. During the discussion of quarterly meetings, the cost of in person meetings came up so I suggested we could have two meetings a year be online, just like it had been during the pandemic. If we could do it strictly online during the pandemic, why does it all of a sudden not meet the Sunshine Law when it was fine back then?

   Revisions: No revisions made. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor David Ige issued emergency proclamations temporarily suspending certain Sunshine Law requirements, including the in-person meeting location requirement. These pandemic

emergency proclamations are no longer in effect. Therefore, the FTAC must provide at least one in-person meeting location for the public under Sunshine Law HRS §92-3.7.

4. The issue of venue rental then came up, so we suggested having the meeting at the DOH auditorium on Waimano Home Road which is a space the DOH already "owns" and would not require rental. The facilitator can also be discontinued which would save more money.

   Revisions: No revisions made. The DOH will keep these suggestions in mind, however, the building the DOH auditorium is located in continues to be under repair and construction and has not been available for public meetings. The November 19, 2025 FTAC meeting was held in a different DOH meeting room, in anticipation of a relatively small group.

5. Because the attorney general seized on the issue of strictly online meetings being noncompliant with the Sunshine Law, DOH decided to place the issue on the agenda again at the October 2025 meeting. In that six month period, it seems the state legislators were apprised of the cost of the meetings but perhaps not of the cost saving alternatives of meeting on DOH property and having the hybrid option so EPA folks would not have to travel from the continent, thus saving money. Navy and DOH personnel could still attend in person.

   Revisions: No revisions made. Suggestions noted.

6. The minutes of FTAC meeting #1 in Oct 2016 show that the Army did not need to participate in this and future FTAC meetings because they did not have field constructed underground fuel tanks, and the Air Force noted their underground storage tanks were placed under the Navy's jurisdiction with the creation of JBPHH. Hence, there have been no Army or Air Force representatives attending FTAC meetings since that time. They were included as allowed participants by the original HRS to cast as wide a net as possible after the 2014 leak from Tank 5 at the RHBFSF. But since the creation of Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, responsibility for the Air Force's field constructed tanks went to the Navy. Hence, the Air Force stopped attending the FTAC meetings since Oct 2016. I find it very curious that Col. Greg Hammond from the Air Force happened to attend the October 2025 meeting. He did not ask any questions, present any material, or offer any comments or suggestions. Was he there solely to vote against two more meetings a year?

   Revisions: No revisions made.