JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

MARK PATTERSON
CHAIR

CHRISTIN M. JOHNSON
OVERSIGHT COORDINATOR

COMMISSIONERS
HON. R. MARK BROWNING (ret.)

HON. RONALD IBARRA (ret.)

MARTHA TORNEY

HON. MICHAEL A. TOWN (ret.)

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
E HUIKALA A MA'EMA'E NŌ
235 S. Beretania Street, 16th Floor
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September 30, 2024

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

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

In accordance with Chapter 353L-6, I am submitting the monthly Oversight Coordinator Report for the month of September. This report includes actions taken by the Commission and expenses for the preceding month. This report may be reviewed electronically at http://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/reports.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 808-900-2200.

Respectfully,

Christin Johnson
Oversight Coordinator

Enclosure

c: Governor's Office
Legislative Reference Bureau Library (1 hard copy)

Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

Monthly Oversight Coordinator Report – September 26 2024

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Introduction

In accordance with Chapter §353L-6, the Oversight Coordinator shall submit a monthly report to the Commission, the Governor, and the Legislature. The monthly report shall include actions taken by the Commission and expenses for the preceding month. In addition to the mandated parties this report must be shared with, the Oversight Coordinator publicly posts the monthly report to increase transparency and accountability. This report will also be shared with each individual who has the responsibility of appointing members of the Commission. This includes:

1) Governor of Hawaii
2) President of the Hawaii Senate
3) Speaker of the Hawaii House of Representatives
4) Hawaii Supreme Court Chief Justice
5) Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

The Oversight Coordinator monthly reports are released on the third Thursday of each month to align with monthly Commission meetings where this report is publicly discussed. Please note that this report is being released one week later as the monthly Commission meeting was rescheduled for September 26, 2024.

Death in Custody

On August 22, 2024, a person in custody, male, 72 years old, was found in his cell with shallow and staggered breathing at the Saguaro Correctional Facility. Staff immediately called 911 Emergency Services and the person in custody was transferred to a nearby hospital. At approximately 6:33am the individual was pronounced deceased at the Case Grande Medical Center in AZ. No foul play is suspected nor drug overdose.

Tour of the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC)

In accordance with Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (the Commission, HCSOC)'s mandate to oversee the State's correctional system, on Thursday, August 15, 2024, the Commission toured the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) collectively as a group. The tour included three of the five Commissioners – Mark Patterson, Martha Torney, and Ron Ibarra in addition to the Oversight Coordinator. The Commission had unfettered access to staff and the facility.

Below are recommendations to be considered by the Department of Public Safety which stemmed from the WCCC tour. The full report can be read at: https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/facility-specific-reports/.

Recommendations to be considered by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation:

- **Immediately Prioritize Hiring a Psychologist for WCCC**
  Immediately prioritize hiring a psych doctor for WCCC and have other facilities assist with assessing individuals on suicide watch at WCCC in the interim. Psychologists from other facilities can rely not only on the patient and previous

mental health records, but on the nurses who spend significant time with those individuals as suicide watch is in the medical unit.

Additionally, the facility should consider limiting or eliminating the requirement for disciplinary segregation time for those on suicide watch who have already spent extended periods of time (2 weeks or more) in an isolated environment with limitations to their families.

Hawaii Island Sequential Intercept (SIM) Report

HCSOC Commissioner Ron Ibarra and the Reentry and Diversion Oversight Specialist attended the Hawaii Island Sequential Intercept (SIM) event organized by Going Home Hawaii in Hilo on August 23, 2024.

The SIM framework informs community responses to individuals involved in the criminal justice system. It provides a comprehensive picture of how individuals with mental health and substance use disorders move through the criminal justice system across six distinct intercept points: (0) Community Services, (1) Law Enforcement, (2) Initial Detention and Initial Court Hearings, (3) Jails and Courts, (4) Reentry, and (5) Community Corrections. The SIM process aims to identify gaps, resources, and opportunities at each intercept and to develop actionable priorities to improve responses.

The SIM Report aims to systematically provide a detailed analysis across various intercept points in the criminal justice system—from initial encounters to reentry—ensuring a holistic approach to address the needs of our community and improve outcomes for persons with mental health and substance use disorders. The insights derived from this report will be pivotal in shaping policies, enhancing strategies with deflection, diversion, treatment, and reintegration, ultimately reducing recidivism with an increased focus on healthcare approaches and public safety.

The Hilo SIM event included representatives from Going Home Hawaii, the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation (DCR), the Judiciary, the Governor's Office, health care and service providers, the Hawaii Paroling Authority, Unite Us—a coordinated care network linking health and social care services—and many other stakeholders and community members. During the event, participants worked collaboratively to outline current practices, identify service gaps, and provide recommendations.

A report will be produced from this event, providing a detailed analysis of the intercepts on Hawaii Island and a strategic roadmap to guide legislative priorities. The Commission wishes to thank Going Home Hawaii for organizing and facilitating this vital event and their ongoing work.

Breaking Cycles Roundtable: OCCC Programming & Design Case Studies

The University of Hawai‘i Community Design Center (UHCDC) has partnered with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) to engage stakeholders and

community members in developing alternative proof-of-concept visions for the proposed new jail on Oahu. The Commission has been actively collaborating with UHCDC since the inception of their work with DCR on this project.

On September 11, 2024, the UHCDC hosted a third Community of Practice meeting, focused on planning for the new jail. The meeting focused on updates from DCR and Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) regarding the overall project timeline, consultant scopes, procurement approaches, an outline of UHCDC's final report, and a brainstorm to envision continued engagement. Speakers included John Schell, Warden at Oahu Community Correctional Center, Chris Kinimaka, Department of Accounting and General Services.

The UHCDC and DAGS presentations can be found here: https://www.breaking-cycles-symposium.org/.

House Concurrent Resolution 23 Task Force

House Concurrent Resolution No. 23 (HCR23 HD1 SD1) requests the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission to convene a task force to examine and make recommendations regarding the Hawaii Paroling Authority's existing procedures for setting the minimum terms of imprisonment. Mark Patterson, HCSOC Chair, is chairing this task force.

The HCR 23 Task Force is required to do the following:

- Study whether parole system models used by other states might be suited for Hawaii.
- Examine and compare the minimum sentences issued by the HPA and, in certain instances by the courts, to determine whether there are significant differences.
- Recommend whether the administration of justice may be better served by removing the responsibility of setting minimum sentences from the HPA.

The Council of State Governments (CSG) has been supporting the HCR 23 Task Force. The CSG's Justice Center is a national, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that represents state officials in all three branches of government. Their mission is to provide research driven strategies to increase public safety and strengthen communities.

The Commission has dedicated a page on its website to the HCR23 Task Force: https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/hcr23-task-force/. This webpage has information on the expectations of the task force, members, expected outcomes, partnerships, and meeting information. Meetings will be live-streamed and can be viewed on the Commission's Facebook page or YouTube channel.

The task force recently concluded its last meeting on September 12 after having research findings presented from the CSG and the Criminal Justice Research Institute (CJRI). A report on findings from the task force meetings and potential recommendations moving forward will be released soon

WCCC Expansion Completed

The Department Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) has completed the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) expansion project and invited the Commission to the September 25 dedication ceremony and tour of the facility's three new buildings — Administration, Intake/Visitor and Housing — and newly remodeled structure for pre-release inmates. The Commission is excited for all buildings to be opened soon, and for all OCCC incarcerated women to be transferred to WCCC.

Current Project

Corrections Staff Survey and Report

Consistent with the Commission's mandate to investigate complaints at correctional facilities, the HCSOC staff are focusing on an all-encompassing staff survey to better understand the corrections environment; enhance data collection capacities to promote transparency and accountability; and recommend evidence-based programs and policies to improve conditions for those working in our jails and prisons.

The survey being utilized was created under the Urban Institute's Prison Research and Innovation Initiative (PRII), supported by Arnold Ventures. The survey has been distributed in facilities throughout five states and was developed using participatory research methods, elevating the voices and perspectives of correctional staff. Vermont had a particularly successful survey launch with a response rate of 70% at the Southern State Correctional Facility. It is the Commission's goal to gather as much, if not more, participation.

The survey, available electronically or on paper, is anonymous and confidential. Now that all surveys have been completed and collected, the Commission scheduled and completed talk stories with each facility to create recommendations for improving health, safety, the work environment, and concerns most important to staff.

For the paper surveys, Commission staff successfully distributed and collected paper surveys on the following dates:

- Wednesday, January 3 – OCCC
- Thursday, January 4 – WCF
- Friday, January 5 – OCCC & WCF
- Monday, January 8 – KCF
- Tuesday, January 9 – WCCC
- Wednesday, January 10 – MCCC
- Friday, January 12 – KCCC
- Tuesday, January 16 – HCF
- Tuesday, January 23 – OCCC
- Thursday, January 25 – HCCC
- Thursday, January 25 – HCCC & KCF
- Friday, January 26 – HCCC
- Monday, January 29 – WCCC
- Tuesday, January 30 – KCCC

- Wednesday, January 31 – MCCC
- Thursday, February 1 – HCF
- Friday, February 1 – HCF

The staff talk-stories were conducted as follows:

- Tuesday, March 19 – HCF
- Friday, March 22 – KCF
- Monday, March 25 – KCCC
- Wednesday, March 27 – OCCC
- Wednesday, April 3 – HCCC
- Thursday, April 4– MCCC
- Tuesday, April 9 – WCCC
- Wednesday, April 10 – WCF

The Commission is fortunate to have support for this project from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR), the United Public Workers (UPW) Hawaii, the Hawaii Government Employees Association (HGEA), and the cooperation of facility leadership. Although this will be an independent project to distribute and gain perspectives from staff, the HCSOC looks forward to working closely with UPW, HGEA, DCR, facility leadership, and staff on solutions. Commission staff are currently working on the written report outlining findings and recommendations.

Reentry Report

Consistent with the Commission's mandate to work with the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation (DCR) in monitoring and reviewing the comprehensive offender reentry program, HCSOC staff are currently working on a reentry report in accordance with the reentry portion of the Commission's mandate:

- Work with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in monitoring and reviewing the Comprehensive Offender Reentry Program, including facility educational and treatment programs, rehabilitative services, work furloughs, and the Hawaii Paroling Authority's oversight of parolees. HRS §353L-3(b)(3)
- Ensure that the Comprehensive Offender Reentry System under Chapter 353H is working properly to provide programs and services that result in the timely release of people in custody on parole when the maximum terms have been served instead of delaying the release for lack of programs and services. HRS §353L-3(b)(4)

HCSOC staff submitted a data and information request to the DCR, specifically pertaining to HRS §353H Comprehensive Offender Reentry System and the DCR's reentry program for this report. The DCR leadership and the DCR Reentry Office have been responding to this request, and Commission staff have been reviewing the responses. The Commission will review all the data received and compile the HCSOC's first reentry report, outlining findings, highlighting best practices, and offering recommendations.

Expenses for the Preceding Month – August

	Cost	Qty	Total	Notes
Office Equipment and Supplies			**$686**	
Office Furniture			$0.00	
General Office Supplies	$170.01	1.00	$170.01	
Staff and Commission Badges			$0.00	
Staff and Commission Badge Holders			$0.00	
Cell Phone			$0.00	
Cell Phone Monthly Plan			$0.00	
Wifi Hotspot			$0.00	
Heroku Monthly Plan - Complaint Management	$65.00	1.00	$65.00	
Eleastic Cloud Monthly Plan - Complaint Management	$18.41	1.00	$18.41	
Other Current Expenditures	$432.24	1.00	$432.24	TV
Inter-Island Correctional Facility Travel			**$260.68**	
Airfare	$137.18	1.00	$137.18	07/18
Car Rental	$123.50	1.00	$123.50	06/20
Daily Per Diem			$0.00	
Lodging+Tax			$0.00	
Ground Transportation			$0.00	
Airport Parking			$0.00	
Per Diem - Misc			$0.00	
Mainland Correctional Facility Travel			**$236.00**	
Airfare			$0.00	
Car Rental			$0.00	
Daily Per Diem	$20.00	7.00	$140.00	
Lodging+Tax			$0.00	
Ground Transportation			$0.00	
Airport Parking	$24.00	4.00	$96.00	
Memberships + Conferences			**$500.00**	
NACOLE (National Assoc. for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement)	$500.00	1.00	$500.00	membership renewal
National Association of Sentencing Commissions			$0.00	
NACOLE Virtual Training			$0.00	
Going Home Hawaii Reentry Summit			$0.00	
Hawaii Friends of Restorative Justice			$0.00	
Airfare			$0.00	
Car Rental			$0.00	
Daily Per Diem			$0.00	
Lodging+Tax			$0.00	
Ground Transportation			$0.00	
Airport Parking			$0.00	
Baggage Fee			$0.00	
TOTAL			**$1,682.34**	

* All expenses reflect posted transactions

General Office Information

Mailing Address: Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission
235 S Beretania Street, 16th floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

Website: https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov

Submit Testimony: https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/submit-testimony/

Email: hcsoc@hawaii.gov

Social Media: YouTube
LinkedIn
Facebook
Instagram

Monthly Meetings

This report will be discussed at the monthly Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission meeting held on September 26, 2024. The next monthly meeting is scheduled to occur on October 17, 2024, at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo (Room TBA), Hawai’i 96732 and online via Zoom. More information can be found on the Commission’s webpage here: https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/information/.