
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's
2 correctional system is bursting at the seams with a swelling
3 inmate population. Since 1995, the department of public safety
4 has been transporting prisoners to facilities in Oklahoma,
5 Texas, Oregon, Minnesota, Arizona, and Tennessee. As of January
6 7, 2008, there were two thousand fifty-nine Hawaii inmates
7 housed at out-of-state contracted correctional facilities. That
8 number is more than half of Hawaii's prison population.
9 Although sending Hawaii inmates away to other states is a
10 temporary solution, the State cannot afford to transport inmates
11 to mainland facilities indefinitely.

12 According to the department of public safety's 2006 annual
13 report, forty-eight per cent of male inmates and sixty-one per
14 cent of female inmates are classified as minimum security risk
15 or are considered community custody. These inmates qualify to
16 be housed at a minimum security prison or be supervised in the
17 community. However, due to budget constraints, the State has
18 only two minimum-security prisons, Waiawa correctional facility



1 on Oahu and Kulani correctional facility on the island of
2 Hawaii. Both Waiawa and Kulani often exceed their operational
3 capacity.

4 The legislature further finds that in 2001, the federal
5 Bureau of Prisons opened a 325,000 square foot, \$63,000,000
6 detention center at 351 Elliot Street on the island of Oahu.
7 Constructed by Dick Pacific Construction and located on the west
8 side of the Honolulu international airport, the Federal
9 Detention Center has a capacity of six hundred seventy beds on
10 five levels of a seven floor facility. In addition, most of the
11 beds can be converted to double bunks to increase capacity.

12 The Honolulu Federal Detention Center has integrated state-
13 of-the-art surveillance and management technologies, allowing a
14 single worker to monitor a wing of sixty-four beds, and staff to
15 "quick freeze" individually packed meals up to forty-eight hours
16 in advance for refrigeration and later reheating and serving.

17 Furthermore, because of its location within urban Honolulu,
18 high visibility from the H-1 freeway, local roads nearby, and
19 air traffic landing and taking off within its vicinity, the
20 Honolulu Federal Detention Center was designed to meet all
21 federal correctional facility standards without looking like a
22 prison. It was also designed to accommodate a wide variety of



1 uses, including inmate cells, office areas, medical facilities,
2 recreational areas, storage rooms, food preparation areas,
3 laundry, mechanical rooms, security, and communications.

4 The entire center consists of two buildings -- a twelve-
5 story main tower with a two-story administration base and a
6 single-story warehouse and receiving building. The center also
7 includes a one hundred eighty-two-stall parking area fronting
8 the main tower.

9 The structures sit atop a coral ledge with controlled low
10 strength material used to fill weak spots to ensure adequate
11 support, a technique which shortened the building foundation
12 schedule. A total of twenty-five thousand cubic yards of cast-
13 in-place and precast concrete was utilized on the project.

14 Upon its opening in 2001, the Honolulu Federal Detention
15 Center had set aside approximately two hundred beds for state
16 pretrial inmates as a means of easing overcrowding at the Oahu
17 community correctional facility. The State currently has two
18 hundred sixty-five Hawaii pretrial detainees at the Federal
19 Detention Center.

20 The legislature further finds that the Oahu community
21 correctional center is the largest jail in the State and is
22 situated on sixteen acres in urban Honolulu. The Oahu community



1 correctional center has a history of overcrowding and currently
 2 houses nearly fourteen hundred male and female inmates,
 3 including pretrial detainees, persons arrested who cannot make
 4 bail, persons being held without bail until their trials, and
 5 felons and misdemeanants who have been sentenced to less than
 6 one year of incarceration. Although the Oahu community
 7 correctional facility was originally designed for nine hundred
 8 fifty-four inmates, it has an operational capacity of nine
 9 hundred fifty-four. It is not a functional facility, as it
 10 cannot accommodate the size of its current population, which has
 11 consistently been between thirteen hundred and fourteen hundred
 12 inmates.

13 According to the department of public safety, Hawaii's
 14 prison population has grown significantly. The table below
 15 reflects the growth of Hawaii's inmate population from 1980 to
 16 2005.

17	<u>Year</u>	<u>Inmate Population</u>
18	1980	926
19	1985	2,045
20	1990	2,625
21	1995	3,583
22	2000	5,127



1 2005 6,092

2 The purpose of this Act is to direct the department of
3 public safety and the office of planning to plan and design the
4 construction and operation of a new minimum-security facility at
5 the site of the existing Oahu community correctional center,
6 similar to the facilities of the Honolulu Federal Detention
7 Center, to manage the continued growth of Hawaii's inmate
8 population.

9 SECTION 2. The department of public safety and the office
10 of planning shall plan and design the construction and operation
11 of a new minimum-security facility at the site of the existing
12 Oahu community correctional center, similar to the facilities of
13 the Honolulu Federal Detention Center. The department of public
14 safety shall submit a status report to the legislature not later
15 than twenty days before the convening of the 2009 regular
16 session, setting forth the results and recommendations of the
17 plan, including, but not limited to:

- 18 (1) The transitional housing of inmates while construction
19 of the new facility takes place; and
- 20 (2) The cost of preparing an environmental impact
21 statement in accordance with chapter 343.



1 SECTION 3. The director of finance is authorized to issue
 2 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$ or so much
 3 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof
 4 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2008-2009
 5 for the planning and design of a minimum-security correctional
 6 facility at the site of the Oahu community correctional center.

7 SECTION 4. The appropriation made for the capital
 8 improvement project authorized by this Act shall not lapse at
 9 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is
 10 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation
 11 unencumbered as of June 30, 2010, shall lapse as of that date.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 13 public safety for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.
 15

INTRODUCED BY: 

JAN 18 2008



Report Title:

Prisons; Jails; Correctional Facilities; Construction

Description:

Directs the department of public safety and the office of planning to plan and design the construction and operation of a new minimum security facility at the site of the existing Oahu community correctional facility.

