
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 2,059 Hawaii inmates housed at out-of-state
7 contracted correctional facilities. That number is more than
8 half of Hawaii's prison population. Although sending Hawaii
9 inmates away to other states is a temporary solution, the State
10 cannot afford to transport inmates to mainland facilities
11 indefinitely.

12 According to the department of public safety's 2006 annual
13 report, 48 per cent of male inmates and 61 per cent of female
14 inmates are classified as minimum-security risk or are
15 considered community-custody. These inmates qualify to be
16 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 670 beds on five levels of a
10 seven-floor facility. In addition, most of the beds can be
11 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 64 beds, and staff to "quick
15 freeze" individually packed meals up to 48 hours in advance for
16 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-story
5 main tower with a two-story administration base and a single-
6 story warehouse and receiving building. The center also
7 includes a 182-stall parking area fronting the main tower.

8 The structures sit atop a coral ledge with controlled low-
9 strength material used to fill weak spots to ensure adequate
10 support, a technique which shortened the building foundation
11 schedule. A total of 25,000 cubic yards of cast-in-place and
12 precast concrete was used on the project.

13 Upon its opening in 2001, the Honolulu Federal Detention
14 Center had set aside approximately 200 beds for state pretrial
15 inmates as a means of easing overcrowding at the Oahu community
16 correctional facility. The State currently has 265 Hawaii
17 pretrial detainees at the Federal Detention Center.

18 According to the department of public safety, Hawaii's
19 prison population has grown significantly. The table below
20 reflects the growth of Hawaii's inmate population from 1980 to
21 2005.



	<u>Year</u>	<u>Inmate Population</u>
1		
2	1980	926
3	1985	2,045
4	1990	2,625
5	1995	3,583
6	2000	5,127
7	2005	6,092

8 The purpose of this Act is to direct the department of
9 public safety and the office of planning to plan and design the
10 construction and operation of a new minimum-security facility at
11 a site with appropriate access to courts, public transportation,
12 and other support services, similar to the facilities of the
13 Honolulu Federal Detention Center, to manage the continued
14 growth of Hawaii's inmate population.

15 SECTION 2. The department of public safety and the office
16 of planning shall plan and design the construction and operation
17 of a new minimum-security facility at a site with appropriate
18 access to courts, public transportation, and other support
19 services, similar to the facilities of the Honolulu Federal
20 Detention Center. The department of public safety shall
21 consider sites that:



- 1 (1) Allow vertical construction, including sites at the
2 Honolulu international airport, existing correctional
3 facilities, and state lands in downtown Honolulu; and
4 (2) Allow for additional community-custody beds at Oahu
5 community correctional center.

6 SECTION 3. The department of public safety shall submit a
7 status report to the legislature not later than twenty days
8 before the convening of the regular session of 2009, setting
9 forth the results and recommendations of the plan, including but
10 not limited to:

- 11 (1) Estimated costs for permitting, detailing each
12 federal, state, and county permit, including any
13 environmental assessment and environmental impact
14 statement;
15 (2) Estimated costs associated with acquisition of a site
16 or sites;
17 (3) Estimated costs for site preparation and, more
18 specifically, infrastructure;
19 (4) Estimated bed count and parking count on site; and
20 (5) Estimated costs of upgrading, renovating, or replacing
21 the Oahu community correctional center to obtain
22 community-based bed space.



1 SECTION 4. 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 to:

- 6 (1) Plan and design a minimum-security correctional
7 facility at a site with appropriate access to courts,
8 public transportation, and other support services; and
- 9 (2) Plan for additional community-custody beds at Oahu
10 community correctional center.

11 SECTION 5. The appropriation made for the capital
12 improvement project authorized by this Act shall not lapse at
13 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is
14 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation
15 unencumbered as of June 30, 2010, shall lapse as of that date.

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

18 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 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 a site with appropriate access to courts, public transportation, and other support services, and plan for additional community-custody beds at Oahu Community Correctional Center. (HB2685 HD1)

