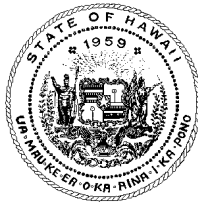


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

**NOLAN P. ESPINDA**  
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Corrections

**Renee R. Sonobe Hong**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1918  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER.

by  
Nolan P. Espinda, Director  
Department of Public Safety

House/Senate Committee on Public Safety, Veterans and Military Affairs  
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair  
Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Vice Chair

February 12, 2020; 10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 430

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Gates and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** House Bill (HB) 1918, which seeks to create a task force to study and recommend to the legislature a site for a new jail to replace the Hawaii Community Correctional Center's (HCCC) primary facility, currently situated on three acres in downtown Hilo, Hawaii, and to consider alternative governmental uses for the existing site.

Overcrowding is a significant problem at HCCC, as well as at other facilities statewide. PSD respectfully recommends that funding be appropriated to hire consultants to initiate a siting study to identify, evaluate, and ultimately select the best site option to relocate and replace HCCC.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



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## HAWAI‘I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawai‘i · Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 · Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

Committee: Committee on Public Safety, Veterans, and Military Affairs  
Bill Number: H.B. 1918  
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 10:00 a.m.  
Re: Testimony of the Hawai‘i State Ethics Commission  
with **COMMENTS AND PROPOSED AMENDMENT** to  
H.B. 1918, Relating to the Hawaii Community Correctional Center

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Gates, and Committee Members:

The Hawai‘i State Ethics Commission (“Commission”) respectfully suggests the deletion of the second sentence of Section 1, subsection (e): “No member of the task force shall be made subject to chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that member’s participation as a member of the task force.”

The Ethics Commission’s longstanding practice is to exclude the activities of task force members from the general provisions of the State Ethics Code, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (“HRS”) chapter 84, making the language in H.B. 1918 largely unnecessary.

Additionally, just last session, the Legislature enacted language in the Ethics Code that specifically applies to task force members and their potential conflicts of interests:

[E]very task force member or designee or representative of a task force member shall publicly disclose the nature and extent of any interest or transaction that the task force member or task force member’s designee or representative believes may be affected by the task force member’s official action.

HRS § 84-13(c).<sup>1</sup> As such, an outright exemption for task force activities from chapter 84 appears contrary to the Legislature’s intent in enacting the above-quoted language just last year.

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<sup>1</sup> The Legislature also directed the Commission to adopt rules to effectuate this section; on March 19, 2020, the Commission intends to hold a public hearing on a large package of administrative rules, including a proposed rule regarding task force members’ disclosures of potential conflicts of interests. The proposed rule on this topic currently provides as follows:

This disclosure shall be made verbally at the first available meeting of the task force and shall be memorialized in any task force report. If no meeting is to occur before the task force member, designee, or representative takes official action affecting their

(continued)

The Commission respectfully requests that the Committees delete this proposed language from H.B. 1918. The Commission is aware that bills proposing task forces often contain an identical sentence purporting to exclude task force activities from chapter 84, and the Commission will be making the same request as to those measures as well.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Commission's work and for considering the Commission's testimony on H.B. 1918.

Very truly yours,

Daniel Gluck  
Executive Director and General Counsel

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interests, the disclosure shall be made in writing to all other task force members, and then subsequently in any task force report.

**HB-1918**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 2:01:09 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/12/2020 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amy Hamane	Halai Kumiai	Support	No

## Comments:

Although the expansion of the current facility is a done deal, I think it's an excellent idea to begin now to plan for another site which would allow expansion and be located in a less populated area. I grew up in the Halai kumiai area and moved back into the house I grew up in about 10 years ago. The current facility is surrounded by residential homes with Hilo High and Hilo Intermediate schools very close by so it makes sense to move it to another location. I also like the idea of simultaneously planning for an alternative use for the current facility. Please support this resolution. Thank you.

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / [kat.caphi@gmail.com](mailto:kat.caphi@gmail.com)



## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, VETERANS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair

Rep. Cedric Gates, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

10:00 AM - Room 430

## COMMENTS on HB 1918 - HAWAII COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Gates and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the families of JAMES BORLING SALAS, ASHLEY GREY, DAISY KASITATI, JOEY O'MALLEY, JESSICA FORTSON AND ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIED UNDER THE "CARE AND CUSTODY" OF THE STATE, including the eleven (11) people that we know of, who have died in the last six (6) months. We also remind the committee of the approximately 5,200 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars or under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day, and we are always mindful that more than 1,200 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

HB 1918 creates a task force to study and recommend to the legislature a site for a new jail to replace the Hawaii Community Correctional Center's primary facility on three acres in downtown Hilo, Hawaii, and to consider alternative governmental uses for the existing site. Appropriates funds.

A January 12, 2020 article in the Hawai'i Tribune-Herald<sup>1</sup> reported on a community meeting in Hilo:

*Officials from the state Departments of Public Safety and Accounting and General Services came to Hilo Thursday night to brief the public about the planned new housing module at Hawaii Community Correctional Center's Punahale Street site.*

*What they got instead is an earful, mostly from angry neighbors who think the expansion — originally planned to house 144 inmates but scaled back to 48 because of funding — will do little, if anything, to ease chronic overcrowding at HCCC, and will make their neighborhood more dangerous.*

*No audience member spoke in favor of the facility the Legislature appropriated \$12.8 million to build.*

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<sup>1</sup> Community speaks out against jail expansion, By JOHN BURNETT Hawaii Tribune-Herald, Sunday, January 12, 2020.  
<https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/2020/01/12/hawaii-news/community-speaks-out-against-jail-expansion/>

When will Hawai`i learn that engaging the community is *THE* most important thing when an agency is pushing a project? Why has it been so difficult for the state to see that working together is better in the long run than ramming something down the community's throat?

The end of the article on this new department of public safety fiasco says it all:

*Cheryl Reis, a retired police major who lives near the jail, told Mahoe a big problem is a lack of communication between jail officials and neighbors.*

*"In order for all of this to succeed, we have to have dialogue, we have to have discussions. We have to know what your problems are. You have to know what our problems are," Reis said.*

*"And together, we need to work the problems out. ... This meeting here is really not going to solve anything, because there are so many issues that have been allowed to fester over the years. And there is nobody here from DPS who can give any definitive decision on what can be done or accept our suggestions to try to work these problems out."*

How does the state respond to the community's concerns? This bill puts together a task force with:

- 1) Director of the department of public safety;
- 2) Hawai`i County Chief of Police;
- 3) Warden of HCCC;
- 4) Mayor of Hawai`i County;
- 5) Hawai`i County Planning Director;
- 6) Chair of House Public Safety Committee;
- 7) Chair of Senate Public Safety Committee;
- 8) any other agency or community member the director of public safety deems appropriate.

AGAIN, THE COMMUNITY GETS LEFT OUT! How sad that this bill was introduced by Hawai`i island representatives, whose communities have been ignored.

What do taxpayers have to do to impress upon the state that we **MUST** have direct input and collaboration in matters concerning our communities?

After reading the articles and the concerns of the community, Community Alliance on Prisons respectfully asks the committee to work with the Hawai`i Island legislators to create a fair, just, inclusive, and transparent process that involves neighbors, community advocates, people with lived experience, and families. Anything less than this will further distrust in the government.

PLEASE MAKE THIS RIGHT.

Mahalo for this opportunity share our deep concerns.

*A vibrant democracy demands participation.*

**HB-1918**

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 7:21:20 AM

Testimony for PVM on 2/12/2020 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ron Terry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a resident of historic and socioeconomically diverse Halai Tract above downtown Hilo, and as a member of the Halai Kumiai, I strongly support the plan to create a task force to brainstorm moving the jail out from Halai area into a more appropriate site. Our residents have tried to be understanding neighbors to the jail for the last 100 years, but it has grown from a small facility designed for 12 prisoners into a substantial correctional facility that now houses over 300 prisoners. As the jail has grown, escapes and other incidents have increased, leading to community and school lockdowns and fear. The jail's effects now spill over into neighboring properties, with staff and visitors parking illegally on the streets and yards of neighbors. Prisoners are released outside the jail and told to walk the mile through our neighborhood to downtown, creating concern among our young families and the elderly. We sympathize and agree with the need to house prisoners humanely, but are horrified by the prospect in the State's plans of a new facility that could grow to house as many as 600 prisoners (based on current prisoner/bed ratios) on this tiny lot. The solution is not squeezing more beds into this inappropriate setting, but rather finding a site that that can accommodate the prisoners humanely and allow them outdoor recreation, gardening and other activities. There is an abundance of State land in and around Hilo, including over 1,000 acres under the control of the Department of Public Safety.

**LATE**

**HB-1918**

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 4:17:04 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/12/2020 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cheryl Reis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 11, 2020

Dear Representatives,

Re: HB1918, Hawaii Community Correctional Center; Task Force; DPS; Appropriation

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

1. the early 1970s, a local task force in Hawaii County was tasked to study this same issue. Members were Paul De Silva - Hawaii County Prosecutor, Robert Kita – Third Circuit Court Administrator, and myself, then Hawaii Police Lieutenant, Juvenile Bureau and others I can't recall now. Minutes were recorded of our meetings but I don't know where they are presently. The specific location on the property we considered was toward the center of the 3 acre parcel behind the Admin/cell building in its present location. It was to house juvenile, female and male offenders from Hawaii County. At that time, we didn't anticipate the numbers of inmates increasing to today's totals and might have considered another location.

We believed that each County in the State should house its own people thereby providing a support network/common thread to ease reintegration. Existing job availability, education, maintaining family networks were also considered in this plan. We also felt that no inmate would be forced to join any "gang" where more criminal sophistication could be adopted.

I ask that you also consider this factor in your planning.

"Field 33" consisting of approximately 500 acres, located approximately 3 miles up Stainback Highway from Route 11 and below Kulani Correctional Facility (about 200 acres). It is presently under DPS control according to a sign posted at its lower access road gate. Hawaii County Civil Defense had the area partially cleared in anticipation of



using it to house Kapoho eruption evacuees if necessary. Fortunately, the eruption ceased. Since Field 33 is already under DPS control, no land acquisition is necessary. HELCO's power line road runs along its southeastern border between Stainback Highway and Field 33's access road.

1. has a staging area where personal staff vehicles are parked and personnel ferried to KCF. This chain link fenced facility is located about 1 mile below the Field 33 road and across Stainback Highway. Additional vans are also parked here with service vehicles.

A short distance up Stainback, and on the same side as the Field 33 road, is another maintenance shop for DPS.

Field 33 is approximately 6 miles from the Court building and Police Department in Hilo. Haihai Fire Station, with ambulance, is located on Haihai Street approximately 4 miles away from Field 33.

A Field 33 HCCF might be conceived as an excellent partnership with Kulani to resurrect its animal husbandry, farming, woodworking, education, and other skill building programs. At one point, Kulani contributed to feeding inmates statewide and saved considerable money for us as well. The woodworking encouraged individuals to utilize their talents and earn money as well. There would be **space** to expand positive programs.

This additional space could afford more inmates and visitors to interact on a more normal level with space for children to play without the safety concerns of being adjacent to a busy street, lack of parking and disturbing neighbors.

Negotiating acreage might also serve as a deterrent to escapes with the rough, unimproved area surrounding such a facility.

The ACOs and staff certainly deserve more humane working conditions such as locker rooms with showers and their own toilets compared to the one toilet they share with any other civilian who visits the present HCCF site. I believe that there are just 4 schools within 17 miles of Field 33 and none within 500 feet compared to the 50+ schools within 17 miles and 2 w/in 500 feet at the Punahale location.

1. would also hope that the Big Island community would be afforded the opportunity to comment and receive updates on the task force progress. This might include an introductory meeting with the members and community after the organization of the Task force is completed, with an update in the middle, and review and comment period before the final report is submitted. Dialogue between the Task force and community is important for the success of the Plan.

Perhaps, monies for the proposed Waianuenu Building would be better spent on preliminary planning and other HCCF maintenance in lieu of erecting an expensive and inappropriate building. A perimeter fence would also improve the safety of the existing HCCF.

I had submitted other comments on the EA for the proposed Waianuenu building which were sent to Rep. Todd. In July. We would like to be part of the solution and not the problem, so please let us know how we can assist you.

Sincerely,

Cheryl R. Reis

65 Punahale Street

Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Phone: 808 935-4656

Email:captante@Yahoo.com

**LATE**

**HB-1918**

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 6:23:16 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/12/2020 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Vianne Reis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB1918

RELATING TO THE HAWAII COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER

Feb 11, 2020

Vianne Reis

65 Punahale St. Hilo, HI

HCCC needs to be moved! DPS has dragged its feet with regard to improving inmate needs and care, and, as a result, put our community at risk for decades

Former consultants "Carter Goble Associates, warned in 2003 that the existing jail had an obsolete design, and its location in the middle of a densely developed Hilo neighborhood was too small to accommodate even the current jail population."

This is one example of the strain on our community and our police officers.

Tribune Herald, 2018 "HCCC responsible for 16 of the states 23 mistaken inmate releases since 2013". It went on to say "...six on the Big Island, had occurred that year, including the release of an alleged killer...". If I'm not mistaken that same alleged killer was released not only once, but twice. He was released, mistakenly, into our community that includes 3 schools within 500 feet of the HCCF. I would say 1 prisoner mistakenly released from jail might be a mistake. When there are 16 releases over the course of 5 years, with no explanations, apologies or resolutions, "does anyone care?" comes to mind.

And it goes on...As a 10-year-old, I, along with my 3-year-old brother & mother, were playing in our front yard. I witnessed a man masturbating in the plate glass window of his cell. Later found out to be a sex offender that my mother had put in there! The pedophile then topped it off later by telling my mother that she had "beautiful children. Jail remedied it by placing roofing on a chain link fence to shield the plate glass from the public. Did it improve? No.

Over the years it happened again. A local family mauka of the jail on Komohana experienced a similar situation. Did it improve? No. Slats were installed that partially blocked the view from inmates. A couple years ago I was shopping at a downtown supermarket. An employee approaches me and says "Hey, I saw you at so & so's house this past weekend." ( My friend's home is across from the Komohana facility.) Their driveway faces Hilo Bay. We usually sat at the top of the driveway against the garage wall. I asked if he saw us as he drove by. He said, "No, I recognized your feet...that's all we could see from inside the jail." He was in the Komohana facility over the weekend. To put this all into perspective, I'm now 53 years old and we've been trying to get any positive response/action from DPS for 43 years.! Why is DPS wondering why the community wants it out of here. They have demonstrated no positive reason for them to be here, based on all of the above.

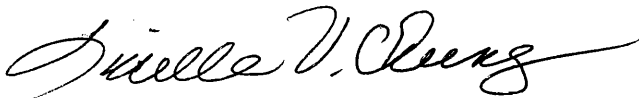
**LATE**

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 1918 RELATING TO THE HAWAII COMMUNITY  
CORRECTIONAL CENTER (HCCC)

I hereby submit testimony in support of House Bill No. 1918 relating to establishing a task force to study and recommend to the legislature a site for a new jail to replace the Hawaii community correction center's primary facility on three acres in downtown Hilo and consider alternative governmental uses for the existing site.

I attach a letter dated January 17, 2020 that I wrote to my Hawaii Island Legislators noting reasons why the current facility has outgrown its ability to exist at its current location. I also requested that the \$12.8 million allocated for a new facility on the current site to address overcrowding be re-directed to as suggested in House Bill No. 1918 with possibly some extra to build something to address overcrowding.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



(Mrs.) Lucille V. Chung

Community Advocate

P. O. Box 6040

Hilo, HI 96720

Phone: (808) 938-3688

February 11, 2020

Lucille V. Chung  
P. O. Box 6040  
Hilo, HI 96720  
Phone: (808) 938-3688  
Email: [lchung1940@yahoo.com](mailto:lchung1940@yahoo.com)

January 17, 2020

TO MY HAWAII ISLAND LEGISLATORS:

First of all, thank you for representing us at the Legislature. I am very aware of the time and effort you all commit to in representing us and I want you to know that I appreciate it. However, I also know that you do not always get it right, and as such I feel compelled to speak up, because if I and others do not speak up, you are going to think that you got it right.

The Sunday, January 12, 2020, Hawaii Tribune Herald headline was "Expansion Sparks Outrage." I attended that meeting and listened to the "Officials" and the "Community Members" who were there. I said nothing because no one was there to say that it could be fixed. This was a done deal. It is my hope that together, we can correct this.

Attached is the newspaper article that covered the meeting well. The officials said, "We have to accept what we get from the legislature" and "It took us so long to get anything – at least we got that." That is a defeatist's attitude.

**HCCC has outgrown its ability to exist at the "postage stamp" size property bordered by Waianuenue Avenue, Komohana Avenue, Punahale Street and residences all around it, not to mention the many schools and family-oriented establishments in the area. HCCC needs to be relocated to a much larger property that will allow for what is currently planned to be built and for expansion. To squeeze that building at the current site will only exacerbate the problems that currently exist at HCCC as well as to the community with their many recurring concerns of prisoners escaping from the facility or being released with no support system to accept them back into society who then help themselves to whatever they need – such as shelter in residence's open**

garages, slippers from the porches of residences or a faucet and water hose to clean themselves off with. In addition to those concerns, there are inadequate parking accommodations for employees of the facility and families visiting those incarcerated, causing dangerous street parking, etc. etc.

To hear of the many problems that exist at HCCC, the requests they have made of the legislature with the final result being "we have to accept what we are able to get from the legislature" is pathetic. This tells me that you, the Legislators, are not listening to them nor the community.

Overcrowding appears to be the top concern. Addressing that problem will alleviate many of the immediate problems that currently exist. While that is being addressed the other concerns can be addressed with a **vision and master plan for the future of HCCC.**

To spend \$12.8 million to create a "hotel" for 48 prisoners will not address the overcrowding concerns at HCCC when there is an overpopulation of approximately 150+ prisoners at the jail at any given time. This is an absolute misuse of public funds.

That amount of money would be better spent on, as suggested by the Department of Public Safety, to look at the possibility of repurposing the K-Mart building in Kona located next to the new Kona Courthouse to hold West Hawaii arrestees, pre-sentence prisoners until their court appearance and less than one year sentenced West Hawaii prisoners who are currently causing much of the overcrowding situation at HCCC. At least 50% of HCCC's current population are individuals from West Hawaii.

It is my plea that, if at all possible, you look at this expenditure and re-direct it to better address the problems concerning HCCC and that you and the Department of Public Safety include the community who want to be engaged in finding solutions to their many recurring concerns.

Mahalo nui for your attention to this matter.

  
(Mrs.) Lucille V. Chung

Community Advocate

Attachment

# Expansion sparks outrage

Community speaks out against new jail module that will add 48 beds

By JOHN BURNETT  
Hawaii Tribune-Herald

Officials from the state Departments of Public Safety and Accounting and General Services came to Hilo Thursday night to brief the public about the planned new

housing module at Hawaii Community Correctional Center's Punahale Street site. What they got instead is an earful, mostly from angry neighbors who think the expansion — originally planned to house 144 inmates but scaled back to 48 because

of funding — will do little, if anything, to ease chronic overcrowding at HCCC, and will make their neighborhood more dangerous. No audience member spoke in favor of the facility the Legislature appropriated \$12.8 million to build.



LOUIS



MAHOE

Richard I. Louis, a Department of Accounting and General Services official assigned to the Neighbor Island Jails Project, told the 30-some members of the housing unit, which looks more like a college dormitory than a jail, is "to

help on the overcrowding at this particular jail." Designed to hold 226 inmates, the Big Island's only jail, which has two Hilo campuses, had a Nov. 30 population of 428 — 342 men and 86 women. It is the most crowded correctional center in the state. Louis also said officials

See JAIL Page A9

One woman complained of recently released inmates causing trouble in the neighborhood, including one who entered her property and used her garden hose to bathe himself.

"I found drug paraphernalia in my yard, and not just crutches. Like bottles of some sort of pills and pipes," she said. "I have three daughters. I already won't let my kids play in the yard by themselves. They have to be supervised."

Several complained of a lack of public meetings during the draft EA process.

"We receive these notices that, by law, you're required to have community input," said Lynn Aquino. "It sounds like this community input is absolutely worthless, because you're already ready to go out to bid. Is that true? It's a done deal no matter what we say."

"It's done. You're going to build it. It's already predetermined. So did you have the process, and did I have the opportunity to address (issues) through a public hearing?" added Patrick Kahawaiolaa, president of the Keaukaha Community Association.

"My understanding is we have met the requirements (of the draft EA), one of which, unfortunately, much to your chagrin, is that there is not a requirement to have a public meeting," Louis replied. "There's public information that's sent out that's open to the public to respond to that."

County Council Chairman Aaron Chung, a neighbor of the jail, said Councilwoman Sue Lee-Loy, a land-use planner, told him there's "no requirement of a public meeting nor any formal notice" in the draft EA process.

"The only notice that is put out on an EA is with the Office of Environmental Quality Control, and it's a publication," Chung said.

And unless you know about something like this — and who the hell reads these things, right? — no one will ever know. So you would think that maybe best practices would sort of tell people who are in positions of doing these EAs to sort of solicit community input.

Cheryl Reis, a retired police major who lives near the jail, told Mahoe a big problem is a lack of communication between jail officials and neighbors.

"In order for all of this to succeed, we have to have dialogue, we have to have discussions. We have to know what your problems are. You have to know what our problems are," Reis said.

"And together, we need to work the problems out." This meeting, here is really not going to solve anything, because there are so many issues that have been allowed to fester over the years. And there is nobody here from DPS who can give any definitive decision on what can be done or accept our suggestions to try to work these problems out.

Email John Burnett at [jburnett@hawaiitribune-herald.com](mailto:jburnett@hawaiitribune-herald.com).

are adding feedback letters and responses to the draft environmental assessment, which was completed May 10, to the final EA submission.

"Time-frame wise, we're hoping to do this by, hopefully, February, Louis said. "And February, March, we're looking to bid out this particular project that's for this housing unit. The estimated bid opening would probably be late March or April of this year. Construction is 420 days from when notice to proceed is given — to whoever is successfully selected as contractor."

Kiki Rycraft, a neighbor of the jail and president of the Hala Kumia community group, called the project "more or less a lose-lose situation" and said it wouldn't "put a dent in the overcrowding."

Right now, there are 186 inmates over capacity at (the Punahale) site," Rycraft said, and added jail staffers are "tired, they're burned out, and they're angry."

Rycraft said the overcrowding "is not just a burden on the jail, it's a burden on the neighboring community."

"I urge all of you to take a look at that floor plan," she said. "Forty-eight beds for \$13 million? I think that we can do a whole lot better for our inmates, and our staff, on staff than what we're doing with that building and on that budget."

Jessie Fernandez of DPS's Administrative Services Office acknowledged the project won't solve the overcrowding, but called it "our only chance" to build something so we can at least have 48 beds.

"It took us this long to get funding from the Legislature," Fernandez said. "The Legislature in 2016 appropriated \$15 million to HCCC, \$15 million to (Kauai Community Correctional Center), and we requested \$15 million for Maui, but they only gave us \$7.5 million. So we can only build so much. And when the design was finally completed, this is what we could build based on the standards of the American Correctional Association."

Acting HCCC Warden Cramer Mahoe said the jail is understaffed and has morale issues among staff. He added inmates "have an end date" when they will be released into the community, and an upgrade to the facility will help both staff morale and inmate rehabilitation.

"Studies across America (show) when they treat them as normal human beings and give them conditions that look relatively normal, as being at home, they're not as aggressive to the staff, they're better to rehabilitate. Their transition out into the community is better," he said.

Hala Kumia member Annette Fujii questioned the "vision" for the facility and whether it would be effective in solving overcrowding.

"This population is going to grow," Fujii said. "And in the meantime, we're going to accept scraps because your workers are at wit's end? Well, the community is at wit's end."



**HB-1918**

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 8:49:27 AM

Testimony for PVM on 2/12/2020 10:00:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carrie Ann Shirota	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

The State has a track record of convening Task Force groups and then completely ignoring its recommendations. We don't need to look back very far - HCR 85 alternatives to Onvsrceratuon and the Native Hawaiian Criminal Justice Task Force.

This is part of the jail/prison shuffle in Hawai'i. Instead of enacting sentencing laws that would reverse mass criminalization and incarceration that has led to overcrowding, we buy into the myth that building more jails and prisons is the solution.

Let's follow the example of other jurisdictions that have significantly reduced its jail and prison populations through evidence based Justice Reinvestment policies.