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DEPT. COMM. NO. 321

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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

No. _____

December 30, 2021

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

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker
and Members of the House of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-first State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

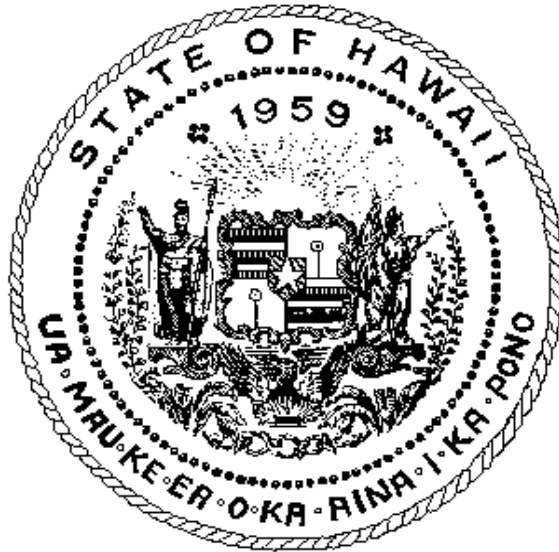
For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the **Report on Gender Responsive Community Based Programs for Women**, as required by Section 367D-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes. In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at: <https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Report-on-Gender-Responsive-Community-Based-Programs-for-Women.pdf>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Max N. Otani".

Max N. Otani
Director

Enclosure



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
REPORT TO THE 2022 LEGISLATURE**

**HRS 367D-008
GENDER RESPONSIVE COMMUNITY BASED
PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN**

**Department of Public Safety
Corrections Program Services Division
December 2021**

The 2006 Hawaii State Legislature mandated through Hawaii Revised Statutes §367D-2 that the Department of Public Safety (PSD) foster a gender responsive environment by providing model gender-responsive programs for female offenders that are responsive to statewide needs and geographical areas and award contracts for programs subject to funding by the Legislature. The gender-responsive environment and programs were to:

- (1) Respond in a rehabilitative way to the type of offense female offenders generally commit and address pathways to crime;
- (2) Respond to the problems of female offenders with dependent children;
- (3) Respond to the importance of developing self-determination through independent living and marketable job skills;
- (4) Assist female offenders in overcoming their own extreme degree of dependency by developing and fostering strong and healthy relationships without losing self-esteem;
- (5) Respond appropriately to the specific health care needs of women, including but not limited to mental health and substance abuse services;
- (6) Offer transitional support for female offenders and their families to promote successful reentry into their families and communities; and
- (7) Offer technical assistance and training toward the implementation of other similar programs.

This report is being submitted in response to §367D-8, which requires PSD to report on the following areas: program descriptions, type and costs of contracts made, name of the private agency awarded each contract, and the success of each contract in meeting program specifications.

Contracted Programs for Incarcerated Women Program Descriptions

Women's Community Correctional Center

Culinary Arts Program - The culinary training at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) provides a quality education in culinary arts. It is a credited program. Women who finish the program in the facility may enroll in the culinary program at the Kapiolani Community College (KCC). The credits earned at WCCC are transferrable to KCC.

There are four modules covered:

Module 1: Introduction to Culinary Industry (CULN111)	8 of 8 (100%) completion
Module 2: Food Safety and Sanitation (CULN 112)	10 of 12 (83%) completion
Module 3: Fundamentals of Cookery (CULN 120)	6 of 10 (60%) completion
Module 4: Intermediate Cookery (CULN 130)	12 of 12 (100%) completion

The women who completed Module 2 –Safety and Sanitation, received the Serv-Safe Certificate, a national certification. Six women who completed and passed the four modules earned 14 college credits from Kapiolani Community College. They also earned a Certificate of Professional Development.

The Culinary Arts Program offering was provided through a Memorandum of Agreement with Kapiolani Community College. The total cost for the Culinary Arts Program was \$90,186.70 for delivery, materials and supplies for the 4 modules.

Explorations – is designed to prepare participants at WCCC to enter the workforce with the tools and skills needed to make good work-related decisions and to build successful careers. It aims to provide practical, sound advice that will enable the participants to secure employment and succeed on the job. It is meant to empower inmates to take control of their long-term careers. The program costs \$7,910.00 per cohort. Twelve women enrolled and started the course in February through March 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdown, the course could not be delivered at WCCC.

Lifestiles for Women – is a comprehensive transition skills training program designed to provide assessments, cognitive skills, job development, job placement, transition services, and intensive reentry services. The program utilizes social education and skills training to assist inmates in recognizing behavior patterns to minimize errors and their unintended consequences. This training covers Cognitive Skills Training, Life Skills Training, Self-directed Job Search, and Personal Transition Planning. A total of 57 were enrolled and 30 or 53% completed the program.

This program is a remnant of the Intensive Reentry Program that was originally funded by the 2006 Hawaii Legislature. Last year, the City and County of Honolulu granted Worknet, Inc. a Grant-in-Aid to continue the program. The program is delivered by Worknet, Inc. together with comparable programs for men at the Halawa Correctional Facility and Waiawa Correctional Facility. The programs at the three facilities were funded by the same grant.

Mother Read (Level II-Parenting) – is a family empowerment and literacy program sponsored by the Hawaii Council for the Humanities. All parents are welcome, including average and poor readers. Participants can improve their parenting skills and learn how to make reading with their children a family experience that is fun and educationally rewarding. Through a variety of books, parents strengthen reading skills, communication with their children, and family bonds. Parents find, through participation in the Mother Read class, that they can also help their children become better students.

Mother Read was provided through a Purchase of Service (POS) contract with the Hawaii Council for the Humanities. The total cost of the program was \$2,600. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and attendant restrictions, the program did not run at WCCC.

Hawaii Community Correctional Center also offers a Parenting class, as well as a Cognitive Skills class. The classes are taught either by a volunteer or by a Corrections Education Specialist.

Microsoft Office 2016 Business Applications – This program is designed to prepare students entering careers in the business environment. It provides instruction, hands-on training and exercises to reinforce and apply computer skills in using the Microsoft Office 2016 suite. Computer skills training courses are now broken down, starting with Computer Skills Essentials, MS Word Beginner and Intermediate levels, MS-Excel Beginner and Intermediate levels, and

MS PowerPoint. Fourteen students enrolled in MS Word and seven (50%) completed the course. Nine students enrolled in MS Excel with seven (78%) completing the course.

General Education Development (GED) Diploma Program - GED program provided high school equivalency diploma. Courses were taught either by the CPS Corrections Education Specialist or by part time teachers (PTT) through the McKinley Community School for Adults-Moanalua Campus. Unfortunately, no GED diplomas were awarded during FY 2020 as the program was disrupted by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Post-Secondary Program. Inmates at WCCC were offered college courses through the Windward Community College. Tuition and other fees are funded by the college's Pu'uhouoa Grant, a federal grant for at-risk women. There were 54 women who attended college courses. Some of the courses included in this program are: College Skills, Psychology, Sociology, and Community Health Worker.

Please Note: The COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative effect on overall substance abuse programming within the Corrections Program Services division as elsewhere within the State of Hawaii. Many programs, including the Substance Abuse Services Branch, experienced shutdowns and delays in services, with Civil Service as well as contracted staff, much of which is still ongoing eight months later. Since mid-March 2020, program functions have yet to return to 100% percent capacity at all facilities. Collaboration between the individual facilities, administration, and contractors are ongoing.

Outpatient Treatment Services (OTS-Level 2.0):

Through a Purchase of Service Contract with the Salvation Army, PSD provides a cognitive-behavioral treatment component lasting between 40 and 60 hours. Groups meet at least once per week and utilize an evidence-based cognitive-behavioral therapy curriculum. Eligibility for OTS services is for females who are rated at lower risk for criminal conduct and meet diagnostic criteria for substance use disorders. Women receiving services in this modality of treatment have had minimal disruption in their psychosocial or vocational functioning attributed to substance use.

FY 2021 data show 20 women enrolled into outpatient programming with 22 of the women completing programming. Some of the completions were carried over from the previous FY.

Intensive Outpatient Treatment Services (IOP-Level 2.5):

PSD provides IOP substance abuse treatment services to the female offenders located at WCCC, procured via a Purchase of Service contract with the Salvation Army. The IOP treatment modality consists of group sessions lasting approximately two to three hours, four days a week, with accompanying individual counseling sessions. IOP services are for female inmates who are at moderate risk for criminal conduct and meet diagnostic criteria for substance use disorder.

The female participants in IOP work through gender-specific, evidenced based Residential Drug Abuse Program interactive journals purchased through The Change Companies. These journals

allow the participants to address gender-specific situations to develop and practice the skill sets necessary for a successful transition back into the community. The gender-specific curriculum is important, as statistics indicate that female offenders are 50% more likely to recidivate in comparison to their male counterparts when considering risk factors such as family/marital, vocational, and mental health matters. The duration of the program is approximately 9 months to completion. Each group is a closed-ended group with a maximum of 15 women per group. Assessment and treatment planning, individual and family counseling, including continuing care services, are provided for each participant.

For FY 2021, 15 new participants were enrolled into programming with 13 completions.

Residential Treatment Services (RES- Level 3):

Ke Alaula Therapeutic Community (TC): 50 beds.

The program is operated by Hina Mauka through a Purchase of Service agreement with PSD and is located within the WCCC. The program is an intensive long-term, 9 to 12-month therapeutic community. In response to more complex cases, the duration of the program may be extended to meet individual needs.

Cognitive Behavioral Treatment and Social Learning Theory combine to address criminal thinking and behavior. As the TC residents live and work together separated from the general population, they hold each other accountable to practice recovery skills and change their criminal thinking and behavior. Specialized services were also provided in sexual and physical abuse, domestic violence, criminality, and other types of gender responsive issues.

Between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, there were 35 new admissions and 11 successful completions. Programming experienced a suspension of services for the greater part of this fiscal period due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reentry/Transition Services (The Bridge Program):

The Bridge Program is a residential substance abuse reentry, work furlough program operated by PSD for inmates who are of moderate to high risk for recidivism and who have completed IOP, or residential substance abuse treatment while incarcerated. The program provides opportunities to up to 15 women at a time to practice social learning, cognitive, and recovery skills in treatment while transitioning to the community.

Participants work through evidence-based, interactive journals focused on transitional issues that may arise, and the development of skills to work through those issues effectively. Family Therapy services are offered via a POS contract with the Salvation Army Services as the inmate re-connects with family and community resources. Goodwill Industries is also contracted with the Department to provide educational and vocational services.

Fiscal year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 data indicate that 3 female offenders participated in the Bridge furlough program located at WCCC. There were 6 completions. The numbers are low, as the program itself had been suspended periodically during the past year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Furlough programs, including Bridge, have experienced extensive COVID-related suspension of services, which account for the lower-than-normal participant rates.

Women's Furlough Community Housing Program:

The Department has contracted with the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) Oahu at Fernhurst. The program is currently called Ka Hale Ho'Ala Hou No Na Wahine (Home of Re-awakening for Women) and provides up to 14 beds per month. The contract focus is to provide housing for female offenders on furlough as they transition and reintegrate back into the community. This program provides access to many support and referral services, including but not limited to, job development, money management, life skills, anger management, domestic-violence, and relapse prevention within the community. The program has been a long-time partner of the Department, often filling gaps in services for the female population.

The fiscal year 2021 data show that a total of 12 female offenders participated in the female furlough housing program of which 9 completed the program.

Volunteer Programs for Incarcerated Women Program Descriptions

Haku Mo'olelo (Author, Story Writer) Program

This pilot program is a creative-writing, read-aloud program for inmates at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC). It is designed to help inmates write their own stories or tales. A teacher and a work line inmate assist with writing and preparing the stories for publication. The culminating event is sharing read aloud stories for children, parents, and community members. It serves to enhance the inmates' self-esteem, sharpen their writing skills, and provide the necessary tools to share the joy of reading aloud to their children. Read to Me International, Hawaii Chapter, a non-profit organization, provides the services.

Women in Need – provides women at WCCC with the tools for healing and empowerment. It provides intensive case management, stabilizing courses in parenting, understanding and awareness of domestic violence, self-esteem, job readiness, basic life skills, and mentorship. It is provided by Women in Need (WIN), a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization.

Hawaii Community Correctional Center

Victim Impact - is a program that helps participants to learn about the impacts of crime on victims. The program is delivered by volunteers through the Office of the Hawaii County Prosecuting Attorney. Most recently, 34 were enrolled and 18 or 53% completed.

CONCLUSION

The 2006 Hawaii State Legislature appropriated \$225,000 to support the intent of §367-2, Gender Responsive Community Based Programs for Women. The appropriation assisted PSD in establishing an Intensive Reentry Program for high-risk women offenders in need of specialized services to assist their transition into employment and pro-social lifestyles in the community. However, budget reductions in the ensuing years caused the contracted services to lapse in July 2009. By the end of FY 2010, PSD was required to reduce correctional programs strictly to constitutionally or legally mandated (core) programs. Most of PSD's contracted vocational and self-development programs were, therefore, discontinued as a result of budget reductions. In FY 2019, PSD continued to offer more vocational and self-development programs. With additional funding, PSD will be able to offer more programs to support the purpose and intent of HRS Section 367-2.