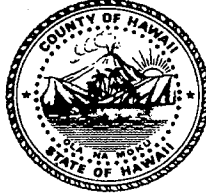


**JON HENRICKS**  
County Clerk



**AARON BROWN**  
Deputy County Clerk

**County of Hawai'i**  
**Office of the County Clerk**

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
(808) 961-8255 • Fax (808) 961-8912

October 27, 2022

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
Hawai'i State Senator, Senate District 8  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 409  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senate President Kouchi:

Enclosed please find Resolution 559-22, adopted by the Hawai'i County Council during its meeting of October 19, 2022.

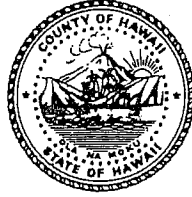
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Henricks". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Jon Henricks  
County Clerk  
County of Hawai'i

JH/ra

Enclosure

RESOLUTION NO. 559 22

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RELOCATION OF THE HAWAI‘I COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER TO AN AREA WHICH WILL PROVIDE MORE SPACE FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ACCOMMODATE THE PROPER EXPANSION OF THE FACILITY AND TO BETTER SUPPORT THE NEEDS OF ITS INMATE POPULATION AND EMPLOYEES.**

**WHEREAS**, the Hawai‘i Community Correctional Center (“HCCC”), exclusive of its reintegration program at Hale Nani in Pana‘ewa, is situated on three acres in Hilo and comprises three housing modules (Punahelu, Komohana and Waiānuenuenu); and

**WHEREAS**, HCCC – originally called the Hilo County Jail and consisting of an 11-cell jailhouse built in the 1890s – is located just above Downtown Hilo, nestled within a concentrated residential area and in close proximity to two schools, Hilo Intermediate School and Hilo High School; and

**WHEREAS**, for many years, HCCC has been the most overcrowded correctional facility in the State of Hawai‘i with occupancy rates well over 100% of its design capacity of 152 inmates; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hawai‘i Correctional System Oversight Commission (“Commission”) issued a report dated September 2, 2022, pertaining to its initial observations and impressions from its tour of HCCC on August 25, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the report was released earlier than the Commission had originally planned due to “serious and immediate concern(s) involving the safety of those who work and live at Hawai‘i Community Correctional Center”; and

**WHEREAS**, among other things, the report highlighted overcrowding with an occupancy rate of 170% (259 head count), severe safety and security concerns, lack of programs and basic services, the use of a shipping container to house inmates exposed to COVID-19, and a lack of recreational space as just some of the issues that need to be addressed; and

**WHEREAS**, in so pointing out, the Commission emphasized that such issues are due to a “system-failure,” and are not attributable to the level of staff output; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission expressed its hope that the State Department of Public Safety would take the report extremely seriously by forming specific strategies and taking immediate action; and

**WHEREAS**, construction at HCCC began earlier this year on a \$20.7 million expansion project for a 48-bed (24 cells), 9,275 square-foot module which, according to the State

Department of Public Safety, is intended to “alleviate the severe overcrowding that exists at the Hawai‘i Community Correctional Center in order to provide a safe, secure and humane environment for the care and custody of adult male and female offenders from Hawai‘i Island”; and

**WHEREAS**, even after the project is completed in 2023 – and assuming that the jail population does not move up closer to its pre-COVID numbers – the additional beds will still leave the facility at well over its capacity; and

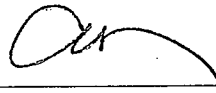
**WHEREAS**, the findings and tenor of the report appear to validate the community’s long-standing concerns that the location is no longer compatible to accommodate the needs of inmates and workers, as well as the collateral impacts to the neighboring area; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF HAWAI‘I** that it is in the best interests of the Hilo community for the Hawai‘i Community Correctional Center to be relocated to an area which will provide more space for the State Department of Public Safety to accommodate the proper expansion of the facility and to better support the needs of its inmate population and employees.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the County Clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Honorable Governor David Y. Ige, the Honorable Lieutenant Governor Dr. Josh Green, all members of the Senate and House of Representatives, and Director Max N. Otani, Department of Public Safety

Dated at Kona, Hawai‘i, this 19th day of October, 2022.

INTRODUCED BY:



COUNCIL MEMBER, COUNTY OF HAWAI‘I

COUNTY COUNCIL  
County of Hawai‘i  
Hilo, Hawai‘i

I hereby certify that the foregoing RESOLUTION was by the vote indicated to the right hereof adopted by the COUNCIL of the County of Hawai‘i on October 19, 2022.

ATTEST:



COUNTY CLERK CHAIRPERSON & PRESIDING OFFICER

ROLL CALL VOTE

	AYES	NOES	ABS	EX
CHUNG	X			
DAVID	X			
INABA	X			
KANEALI‘I-KLEINFELDER	X			
KIERKIEWICZ	X			
KIMBALL	X			
LEE LOY	X			
RICHARDS	X			
VILLEGAS	X			
	9	0	0	0

Reference: C-1007/GORED-27  
RESOLUTION NO. 559 22