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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CORRECTIONS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a civil lawsuit in  
2 federal court alleged that a group of women at the women's  
3 community correctional center were sexually assaulted at least  
4 fifty-three times from 2013 to 2016. A similar case, *Smith v.*  
5 *State of Hawaii*, resulted in a \$100,000 settlement, with \$50,000  
6 coming from the State and another \$50,000 coming from the guard  
7 who pled guilty. These lawsuits pointed specifically to the  
8 lack of cameras in the correctional center's control rooms,  
9 where a majority of the sexual assault allegedly occurred.  
10 According to court documents, in some cases, staff offered food,  
11 makeup, crystal meth, and special privileges to inmates in  
12 return for compliance with sexual demands, and punishments for  
13 noncompliance. Any sexual contact between an inmate and staff  
14 is a felony under existing law because prisoners cannot legally  
15 give consent.

16           The legislature further finds that additional cameras in  
17 control rooms would help deter sexual assaults and contraband,



1 thereby building a defense against future lawsuits and  
2 protecting inmates from rogue guards.

3 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 4 (1) Require the department of public safety to install
- 5 cameras at any correctional center that houses women;
- 6 and
- 7 (2) Appropriate funds.

8 SECTION 2. On or before July 1, 2024, the department of  
9 public safety shall install digital cameras in all guard control  
10 rooms in any correctional center that houses women. There shall  
11 be sufficient coverage to ensure the health and safety of all  
12 staff and inmates. The department of public safety shall ensure  
13 the documentation and accessibility of video evidence that may  
14 pertain to misconduct by staff or inmates, negligent or abusive  
15 treatment of inmates, or criminal activity within each  
16 correctional facility.

17 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much  
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the  
20 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
21 2024-2025 for the department of public safety to purchase and



1 install digital cameras in all guard control rooms of any  
2 correctional center that houses women.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
4 of public safety for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. On January 1, 2024, all responsibilities and  
6 appropriations under this Act shall transfer from the department  
7 of public safety to the department of corrections and  
8 rehabilitation, as established by Act 278, Session Laws of  
9 Hawaii 2022.

10 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.



**Report Title:**

Department of Public Safety; Women; Correctional Centers;  
Control Rooms; Cameras; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Public Safety to install digital cameras in all guard control rooms in any correctional center housing women. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

