

HR-149

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 4:05:39 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/21/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Kauai Women's Caucus	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are in strong support for transparency including a financial audit of spending related to the planning of a new jail to replace the O'ahu Community Correction Center. The public needs a clear explanation of why this is a priority when federal funds to the state are being cut severely for other vital services including education, social programs and climate action. It seems this super jail is following the archaic practice of throwing money at a problem rather than addressing root problems, such as, why do we need to incarcerate so many of our citizens. Where is the Departments Master Plan? Be mindful as to how you are spending our tax dollars please



Hawai'i

Committee: Public Safety
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, March 21, 2025 at 9:00am
Place: Conference Room 411 & Via Videoconference
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of HCR154 / HR149**

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:
The ACLU of Hawai'i **supports HCR154 / HR149**, which requests the Auditor to perform a comprehensive forensic audit of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) and Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) regarding spending related to the planning, design, financing, construction, and maintenance of a new jail to replace the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC).

We support an audit for the following reasons:

1. Building a New Jail is Unnecessary.

Prison Policy Initiative, a non-profit, non-partisan organization, with expertise in cutting edge research relating to criminal justice reform, produced a 17-page memo regarding the O'ahu Community Correctional Center jail expansion plans.¹ Specifically, PPI reviewed the population forecast prepared by Pulitzer Bogard and AHL in August 2021, in support of constructing a new jail to replace OCCC. PPI's memo argues three key points:

Pretrial incarceration is overused in Hawai'i, causing harm to the public.

- A growing body of research shows that using jails to incarcerate people pretrial not only undermines the presumption of innocence, but also causes lasting harm to public safety and public health.
- Over **60% of the people at OCCC are "pre-trial" status**. This means that a person is accused but not convicted of any crime.
- Many people detained at OCCC as pretrial status are not a flight risk or danger to society. Instead, they are warehoused in jail because they lack the money to post bail. This perpetuates an unequal bail system based on wealth.²

Jail expansion would exacerbate existing racial disparities in Hawaii's criminal legal system.

- Hawaii's criminal legal system disproportionately affects Native Hawaiians and other non-white minority groups.
- Building a new, nearly billion-dollar jail not only risks entrenching existing harmful criminal legal system practices, but also uses money that is desperately needed to improve the lives of Native Hawaiians and others in the community.

¹ https://static.prisonpolicy.org/scans/PPI_OCCC_Memo.pdf

² As Much Justice As You Can Afford: Hawaii's Accused Face An Unequal Bail System A Report by the ACLU of Hawai'i. <https://www.acluhi.org/sites/default/files/2018/01/aclu-of-hawaii-bail-report.pdf>

Building a new jail is unlikely to decrease the harms caused by pretrial incarceration, and is likely to make existing staffing problems worse.

- When new facilities are built without a change in the personnel delivering services inside, existing harms persist.
- Moreover, many of the harms caused by jailing are a result of the very fact of being removed from family and community, regardless of the conditions inside.

Prison Policy Initiative's report concludes that "[p]eople incarcerated at OCCC are overwhelmingly there for low-level, non-violent charges, including technical violations of probation conditions, and there are a wealth of opportunities to decrease Hawaii's jail population to the point where new jail construction may not be necessary."³

As an alternative to jail construction, PPI recommend data-driven strategies:

- Decrease the pretrial population of its jails by implementing bail reform and
- Decarcerate the jail population by dealing with technical violations of probation. In January 2025, 21% of OCCC's population, almost 200 people, were there for technical violations. This is a huge percentage in comparison to other municipalities that publish breakdowns of their jail populations

2. *Building a New Jail is Fiscally Irresponsible when Hawai'i is Projected to Face Significant Funding Shortfalls and a Possible Recession.*

The price tag for the proposed jail to replace and expand O'ahu Community Correctional Center ("OCCC") is currently estimated at over \$1 billion, which would make it the largest State public works project in the history of Hawai'i.⁴ DCR has already received appropriations and/or expended the following amounts for an unnecessary new jail:

Consultant Contracts

Phase 1. **\$4.98 Million**, Planning 2016-2020 - Architects Hawaii

Phase 2. **\$5.64 million**, Planning RFI, Draft RFP, 2020 to present AH

Phase 3. **\$10 MIL** this past session appropriation 2024

DCR is requesting another \$30 million to expand OCCC, and additional funds for CIP when the state is bracing for significant funding shortfalls due to cuts in federal funding. Given that a recession is likely around the corner, it is short-sighted to continue funding a project that is unnecessary. Moving forward with this project will saddle Hawai'i's residents and future generations with decades of tax liability.

³ Prison Policy Initiative Report on OCCC Jail Expansion Plans and Population Forecast Report:

https://static.prisonpolicy.org/scans/PPI_OCCC_Memo.pdf

⁴The proposed jail capacity will include over 1200 beds. For fiscal comparison relating to costs, the "new" Aloha Stadium is projected to cost \$650 million dollars. <https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/02/aloha-stadium-is-a-blackhole-who-will-pay-for-its-replacement/>

3. DCR has Continued to Contract with A Jail Consultant Who Selected Subcontractors With a History of Fraud and Corruption Among High Executives.

In 2016, *Civil Beat* confirmed that DCR and DAGs awarded contractor AH, then Architects Hawaii, with an award of \$5 million to complete proposed designs and potential sites for a new jail to replace OCCC. In turn, AH, selected Louis Berger as a subcontractor to earn more than \$1.3 million for its work, despite a public record of fraud and corruption amongst its high Executives. <https://www.civilbeat.org/2016/09/hawaii-prison-contractor-executives-were-convicted-of-fraud-and-bribery/>

According to *Civil Beat*, “Architects Hawaii, which also brought on several other subcontractors for the project, declined to provide any details.” Tammy Lee, the company’s marketing coordinator remarked, “Architects Hawaii signs confidentiality agreements with all of its clients and therefore cannot legally comment on any of its projects.”

Bob Nardi, who worked for Louis Berger, declined to comment for *Civil Beat’s* story: “At this point, I have to defer to my clients and wait for a green light from them before I can answer any questions you may have.”

Of note, DCR and DAGs continues to contract with AHL and Bob Nardi as key consultants on this proposed project.⁵

The public has a right to know who the State is awarding contracts to and whether the subcontractors are in good standing both in Hawai‘i and elsewhere. A forensic audit will assist in preventing and uncovering fraud, waste, and abuse relating to jail planning and construction contracts.

4. Good Governance Requires A Forensic Audit and a Full Accounting of Funds Spent on Jail Planning.

To date, DCR and DAGs has never provided a full accounting of funds spend on jail “planning.” Curiously, the State’s Project Consultant Team has been zealously marketing its proposed new jail to replace OCCC at venues in the continental United States.

Here’s an excerpt from DCR’s Hawaii OCCC Newsletter Volume 75, December 2024:

“Representatives of DCR, DAGS and the project consultant team will be sharing plans for the new O‘ahu jail during a panel discussion at the Winter Conference of the American Correctional Association in Orlando, Florida (January 10-14, 2025). Those attending the panel, “Sustaining a Culture of Collaboration and Community,” will be provided with an overview of plans for the new O‘ahu jail; the history of the current O‘ahu jail and the urgent need for its replacement; accomplishments involving planning, programming,

⁵ <https://dcr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Hawaii-OCCC-Newsletter-Vol-54-August-2024.pdf>

design and community engagement; the upcoming project procurement stage; and the timeline for selecting a development team and constructing the new jail. This will be a dynamic presentation by a cross-section of the jail team members including Tommy Johnson (Director, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation), Christine Kinimaka (Special Projects Manager, Department of Accounting and General Services), Mark Polston (Senior Vice President, WSP), and John Schell (OCCC Warden). The state of Hawai‘i will also be an exhibitor and attendees to the conference are invited to visit the booth in the exhibition hall where team members will be available to discuss the current status of plans for this project as well as the work with state and other government officials on project delivery methods, and financial and other commitments that will be needed to bring the new O‘ahu jail to fruition. This is an opportunity to share your ideas with state of Hawai‘i officials, for us to learn from your experiences, and together create a healing facility that is grounded in the values of our unique island culture.”

<https://dcr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Hawaii-OCCC-Newsletter-Vol.-57-December-2024.pdf>

In 2024, State of Hawai‘i officials attended the 154th Congress of Corrections in Tennessee and convened an exhibitor booth to discuss the current new jail with attendees. Here’s an excerpt from the Hawaii-OCCC Newsletter:

“We will be sharing our plans for the New Oahu Jail when members of my leadership team attend the 154th Congress of Correction sponsored by the American Correctional Association in Nashville, Tennessee (August 15 - 18, 2024). The State of Hawaii will be an exhibitor and I invite you to visit our booth (#1327) in the exhibition hall where team members will be available to discuss the current status of plans for the New Oahu Jail with attendees. This includes development and release of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in 2025 for this public-private partnership (P3) project as well as our work with state and government officials on project delivery methods, and financial and other commitments that may be needed to bring the New Oahu Jail to fruition. This is an opportunity to share your ideas with State of Hawaii officials, helping us learn from your experiences and create a healing facility that is grounded in the values of our island culture.”

<https://dcr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Hawaii-OCCC-Newsletter-Vol-54-August-2024.pdf>

A flyer for this ACA Industry Hour event, on page 2 of the newsletter, reveals that this event was held at Sidebar from 5:30-6:30pm, where beer, wine and appetizers were served. This event was sponsored DCR and DAGs’ contractors and subcontractors.

<https://dcr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Hawaii-OCCC-Newsletter-Vol-54-August-2024.pdf>

https://dcr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Hawaii-OCCC_newsletter_Vol55.pdf

Unsurprisingly, Hawaii’s team attended this ACA Conference in Tennessee sponsored in part by CoreCivic.⁶ DCR contracts with CoreCivic to incarcerate people from Hawai‘i at its

⁶https://aca.org/common/Uploaded%20files/2024%20Nashville%20154th%20COC_Program%20Book_Full%20proof_V2.pdf

private-for-profit Saguaro prison in Arizona. Lawmakers should also be aware that Tennessee is the corporate headquarters of CoreCivic. <https://www.corecivic.com/>

Lawmakers and the public deserve to know how millions of dollars appropriated for a jail in Hawai'i are being spent and why DCR, DAGs and the consultant team are presenting jail plans at out-of-state venues.

5. *DCR and DAGs are Advocating for a Public Private Partnership (“P3”) to Design, Finance, Construct and Maintain the Proposed New Expanded Jail Despite the Lack of Transparency Embedded in this Process.*

A forensic audit is timely and should be conducted before Hawai'i pursues a P3 to design, finance, construct and maintain the proposed new jail to replace OCCC.

DCR and DAGs have requested \$30 million this year from lawmakers to continue its jail planning and issue a Request for Information and Request for Proposals through a P3 process.

As noted in Getting it Right: Better Ideas for a New Jail Report by Bob Merce, a member of the H.C.R. 85 Task Force, lawmakers should be very wary of proceeding with a P3 process to build a new jail. <https://ag.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Merce-Report.pdf>

The Report highlights a compelling list of reasons why P3s Are Not Suitable For Planning Jails:

- “P3s may be suitable for projects like toll roads, bridges, and sewage treatment plants, but they are not appropriate for jails because jails require system planning....The best way to design and build a successful jail is for the planning team to work closely with a good architect. In 2020 the American Institute of Architects (AIA) amended its Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct to include prohibitions against designing spaces intended for torture and indefinite or prolonged solitary confinement, and in 2021 the New York Chapter of the AIA went a step farther and called on all architects to stop designing “inherently unjust, cruel, and harmful spaces” and to shift to the creation of “new systems, processes, and typologies based on prison reform, alternatives to imprisonment, and restorative justice.”
- “There is no reliable way to test whether a private sector proposal to deliver public infrastructure offers value for money compared to delivery of the same project by the public sector using conventional public procurement. Tools that purport to make such comparisons, called Public Sector Comparators (PSCs) tend to be unreliable due to: (a) lack of data on which to base cost estimates; (b) the difficulty of quantifying risks; (3) a lack of consensus on what discount rate to use for payments spread out over time; (4) the use of subjective judgments that can have a dramatic effect on cost estimates; and (5) the high cost of the modeling process.”

- “The contract between the private company and the State would likely last 30 or more years during which time the State’s correctional needs will undoubtedly change. P3s typically restrict how their facilities can be used, and that severely limits a government’s ability to respond to changing conditions.⁶⁶ If the State owned the facility it could modify it to meet its changing needs, or it could even repurpose or dispose of the facility entirely.”
- “Jails must be carefully maintained to protect the health and safety of inmates and staff, but there is a tendency for corporate owners to save money by ignoring problems or deferring maintenance at the public partner’s expense.”
- P3s Lack Transparency. Alabama’s ill-fated partnership with CoreCivic highlights the problem.

“In 2019, Alabama Governor Kay Ivey announced that to reduce prison overcrowding she was seeking proposals from private corporations to design, finance, build and maintain two new prisons and lease them to the Alabama Department of Corrections (ADC) which would operate them with State employees. In soliciting and screening potential private partners, the Ivey administration promised that “any information received in response to the solicitation/request will not be publicly available until final contract(s) has received all approvals.

In other words, there would be no public scrutiny of the partnership agreement until it was signed, sealed and delivered and it was too late for the legislature or anyone else to change it. In the ensuing months the Ivey administration selected CoreCivic as the private partner and entered into confidential negotiations on the cost of the new prisons.

State representative Rich Ringo, a Republican like Governor Ivey, complained about the secret negotiations and said that at the very least the legislature was entitled to know the developer’s profit margin.

Representative Arnold Mooney, another Republican, said that lawmakers were being kept in the dark and asked rhetorically how they could carry out their fiduciary responsibilities to protect taxpayers without knowing anything about the P3 contracts or the cost of the prisons. Student and community groups sought information about the project but the State rejected their open records requests and insisted that secrecy was necessary to protect the integrity of the P3 process.”

Bob Merce issued the following warning in his report: “Hawaii is heading down the same treacherous and misguided path as Alabama. It is seeking a similar P3 and it is managing the P3 process with the same degree of secrecy that plagued the Alabama project. In October DPS and DAGS announced that had issued a Request for Information (RFI) to obtain feedback on the new jail. It received responses from 22 contractors, designers,

financiers, equity investors, and others but it has not released the names of any of the respondents or what they said about the project.”

<https://ag.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Merce-Report.pdf>, see pages 16-18

To date, DCR and DAGs have never released the names of any of the respondents or what they said about this project. A forensic audit may very well address this lack of transparency and accountability and cause State officials to reconsider pursuing a P3 for this proposed jail project.

In closing, Hawai'i has limited funds, and we cannot afford both a \$1 billion plus super jail and to adequately fund diversion infrastructure, staff and resources, supportive housing and health care in our community. ACLU of Hawai'i supports this audit **because good governance demands transparency and accountability.**

We oppose building a \$1 billion jail when the State has failed to implement cost-effective, compassionate measures to address overcrowding through data-driven strategies. DCR does not have sufficient staffing nor programming to decrease recidivism and to prepare individuals for reentry. It has also failed to support diversion measures and continues to export people from Hawai'i to Saguaro prison in Arizona despite empty beds at several prisons in Hawai'i. **Building a bigger jail is not going to fix these problems of staffing, leadership, and a failure to implement proven solutions to divert people from jail and eliminate overcrowding.**

For these reasons, we respectfully request you support of **HCR 154.**

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Shirota
Policy Director
ACLU of Hawai'i

The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai'i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai'i has been serving Hawai'i for over 50 years.

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HR-149

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 3:30:05 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/21/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this initiative.

HR-149

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 10:32:45 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/21/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gregory Misakian	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I support HR149.

Gregory Misakian

HR-149

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 3:43:57 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/21/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy Shaver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members:

*My name is Christy, and I live in Lahaina. I'm testifying **in support of HCR 154 and HR 149**, which call for a financial audit of spending related to the planning of a new jail to replace the O'ahu Community Correction Center.*

*As a resident and taxpayer, I want full transparency related to the planning of, spending on, and need for a new **\$1 billion** super jail. I support a financial audit of planning of the proposed new OCCC because:*

- - *To date, DCR has spent approximately \$25 million, including on consultants and public relations professionals "selling" the project to the public.*
 - *DCR has not provided a full accounting of how all the past funds relating to the proposed project have been spent.*
 - *Insisting that OCCC is beyond rehabilitation, DCR appears to have made little effort to maintain or repair the existing facility, preferring instead to build a new, shiny, larger facility at a massive cost to taxpayers.*
 - *DCR has consistently opposed efforts to reduce the population through decarceration policies, such as bail reform.*
 - *DCR has failed to provide any kind of data-driven systems or strategy to significantly reduce the number of individuals held pretrial while proceeding with plans for a larger facility, claiming expanded capacity as one reason a new facility is needed.*
 - *The Department has not completed a comprehensive system-wide master plan in more than 20 years, yet it is proceeding with this massive project as a relatively new agency and without an updated master plan in place.*

The state should not allocate an additional \$30 million appropriation, as proposed in this year's budget bill, until we have an audit of spending on the project to date. Please support my request for transparency and accountability by passing HCR 154 and HR 149 out of this committee.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.
Christy

HR-149

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 3:47:33 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/21/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lewis Glenn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members:

*My name is Lewis Glenn and I live in Kailua Town. I'm testifying **in support of HCR 154 and HR 149**, which call for a financial audit of spending related to the planning of a new jail to replace the O'ahu Community Correction Center.*

*As a resident and taxpayer, I want full transparency related to the planning of, spending on, and need for a new **\$1 billion** super jail. I support a financial audit of planning of the proposed new OCCC because:*

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If this were a private business, it would be financially bankrupt, not just morally bankrupt. The DRC should run a tighter ship, both financially and in regard to effective treatment and rehabilitation. The state should not allocate an additional \$30 million appropriation, as

*proposed in this year's budget bill, until we have an audit of spending on the project to date.
Please support my request for transparency and accountability by passing HCR 154 and HR 149
out of this committee.*

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Lewis Glenn

HR-149

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 3:47:34 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/21/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members:

My name is Noelle Lindenmann, and I live in Kailua-Kona. I'm testifying **in support of HCR 154 and HR 149**, which call for a financial audit of spending related to the planning of a new jail to replace the O'ahu Community Correction Center.

As a Hawai'i resident and taxpayer, I want full transparency related to the planning of, spending on, and need for a new **\$1 billion** super jail. I support a financial audit of planning of the proposed new OCCC because:

- To date, DCR has spent approximately \$25 million, including on consultants and public relations professionals "selling" the project to the public.
- DCR has not provided a full accounting of how all the past funds relating to the proposed project have been spent.
- Insisting that OCCC is beyond rehabilitation, DCR appears to have made little effort to maintain or repair the existing facility, preferring instead to build a new, shiny, larger facility at a massive cost to taxpayers.
- DCR has consistently opposed efforts to reduce the population through decarceration policies, such as bail reform.
- DCR has failed to provide any kind of data-driven systems or strategy to significantly reduce the number of individuals held pretrial while proceeding with plans for a larger facility, claiming expanded capacity as one reason a new facility is needed.
- The Department has not completed a comprehensive system-wide master plan in more than 20 years, yet it is proceeding with this massive project as a relatively new agency and without an updated master plan in place.

The state should not allocate an additional \$30 million appropriation, as proposed in this year's budget bill, until we have an audit of spending on the project to date. Please support my request for transparency and accountability by passing HCR 154 and HR 149 out of this committee.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

Written Testimony in *Support* of HCR 154 and HR 149

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members:

My name is Kristel Whippy, and I live in Palolo Valley. I'm testifying **in support of HCR 154 and HR 149**, which call for a financial audit of spending related to the planning of a new jail to replace the O'ahu Community Correction Center. I also ask that you read the following in the context of the ramifications (express and implied) on families. When families are destabilized through incarceration children are often ripped from their homes and their communities in egregious situations. This continues to lead to destabilization throughout their lives and exposes them to further potential trauma of sexual assault and other abuse including a high risk of suicidal ideation or action. It's also traumatizing for the families and communities who lose their children. This is an all too familiar colonial tactic to destabilize communities. As someone who works with children aptly put it, there's no better way to destabilize communities and keep them oppressed than to target their children. Families and children are at risk. Minimizing harm is the least we can do for our community. I am reiterating this context as it is personally relevant to me and in minimizing harm to children and their families.

As a resident and taxpayer, I want full transparency related to the planning of, spending on, and need for a new **\$1 billion** super jail. I support a financial audit of planning of the proposed new OCCC because:

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- DCR has consistently opposed efforts to reduce the population through decarceration policies, such as bail reform.
- DCR has failed to provide any kind of data-driven systems or strategy to significantly reduce the number of individuals held pretrial while proceeding with plans for a larger facility, claiming expanded capacity as one reason a new facility is needed.
- The Department has not completed a comprehensive system-wide master plan in more than 20 years, yet it is proceeding with this massive project as a relatively new agency and without an updated master plan in place.

The state should not allocate an additional \$30 million appropriation, as proposed in this year's budget bill, until we have an audit of spending on the project to date. Please support my request for transparency and accountability by passing HCR 154 and HR 149 out of this committee.

I finally ask that you handle these issues with Aloha and applying the Aloha spirit laws to ensuring that the best possible approach for the community is what you implement. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Mahalo Nui,

Kristel Whippy

E: kris25@hawaii.edu

96816, Palolo Valley

2025 LLM Candidate at William S. Richardson School of Law

HR-149

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 4:06:59 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/21/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Puppione	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members:

*My name is Greg and I live in Honolulu I'm testifying **in support of HCR 154 and HR 149**, which call for a financial audit of spending related to the planning of a new jail to replace the O'ahu Community Correction Center.*

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Mahalo for your time and consideration

HR-149

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 4:24:01 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/21/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members:

*My name is Jennifer Lum, and I live in 'Ewa Beach. I'm testifying **in support of HCR 154 and HR 149**, which call for a financial audit of spending related to the planning of a new jail to replace the O'ahu Community Correction Center.*

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Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Jennifer Lum, 'Ewa Beach

HR-149

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 4:29:04 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/21/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha:

*I'm testifying **in support of HCR 154 and HR 149**, which call for a financial audit of spending related to the planning of a new jail to replace the O'ahu Community Correction Center.*

*As a resident and taxpayer, I want full transparency related to the planning of, spending on, and need for a new **\$1 billion** super jail. I support a financial audit of planning of the proposed new OCCC because:*

- - *To date, DCR has spent approximately \$25 million, including on consultants and public relations professionals "selling" the project to the public.*
 - *DCR has not provided a full accounting of how all the past funds relating to the proposed project have been spent.*
 - *Insisting that OCCC is beyond rehabilitation, DCR appears to have made little effort to maintain or repair the existing facility, preferring instead to build a new, shiny, larger facility at a massive cost to taxpayers.*
 - *DCR has consistently opposed efforts to reduce the population through decarceration policies, such as bail reform.*
 - *DCR has failed to provide any kind of data-driven systems or strategy to significantly reduce the number of individuals held pretrial while proceeding with plans for a larger facility, claiming expanded capacity as one reason a new facility is needed.*
 - *The Department has not completed a comprehensive system-wide master plan in more than 20 years, yet it is proceeding with this massive project as a relatively new agency and without an updated master plan in place.*

The state should not allocate an additional \$30 million appropriation, as proposed in this year's budget bill, until we have an audit of spending on the project to date. Please support my request for transparency and accountability by passing HCR 154 and HR 149 out of this committee.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HR-149

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 5:00:35 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/21/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Veronica Abney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members:

*My name is Dr. Veronica Abney and I live in Kailua. I'm testifying **in support of HCR 154 and HR 149**, which call for a financial audit of spending related to the planning of a new jail to replace the O'ahu Community Correction Center.*

*As a resident and taxpayer, I want full transparency related to the planning of, spending on, and need for a new **\$1 billion** super jail. I support a financial audit of planning of the proposed new OCCC because:*

- - *To date, DCR has spent approximately \$25 million, including on consultants and public relations professionals "selling" the project to the public.*
 - *DCR has not provided a full accounting of how all the past funds relating to the proposed project have been spent.*
 - *Insisting that OCCC is beyond rehabilitation, DCR appears to have made little effort to maintain or repair the existing facility, preferring instead to build a new, shiny, larger facility at a massive cost to taxpayers.*
 - *DCR has consistently opposed efforts to reduce the population through decarceration policies, such as bail reform.*
 - *DCR has failed to provide any kind of data-driven systems or strategy to significantly reduce the number of individuals held pretrial while proceeding with plans for a larger facility, claiming expanded capacity as one reason a new facility is needed.*
 - *The Department has not completed a comprehensive system-wide master plan in more than 20 years, yet it is proceeding with this massive project as a relatively new agency and without an updated master plan in place.*

The state should not allocate an additional \$30 million appropriation, as proposed in this year's budget bill, until we have an audit of spending on the project to date. Please support my request for transparency and accountability by passing HCR 154 and HR 149 out of this committee.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.”

HR-149

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 5:59:08 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/21/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tadia Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members:

My name is Tadia Rice, and I live in Kailua. I'm testifying in support of HCR 154 and HR 149, which call for a financial audit of spending related to the planning of a new jail to replace the O'ahu Community Correction Center.

As a resident and taxpayer, I want full transparency related to the planning of, spending on, and need for a new \$1 billion super jail. I support a financial audit of planning of the proposed new OCCC because:

1. The DCR has spent approximately \$25 million for this plan, including to consultants and public relations professionals "selling" the project to the public.
2. DCR has not provided a full accounting of how all the past funds relating to the proposed project have been spent.
3. The need for a new super jail is due to the claim that OCCC is beyond rehabilitation, however DCR appears to have not made the effort to maintain or repair the existing facility, preferring instead to spend an extreme amount of money on larger new facility at a massive cost to taxpayers.
4. DCR has consistently opposed efforts to reduce the population through decarceration policies, such as bail reform. This is an illogical approach that is limiting our ability to utilize best practices.
5. DCR has failed to provide data-driven systems or strategy that would significantly reduce the number of individuals held pretrial while proceeding with plans for a larger facility, claiming expanded capacity as one reason a new facility is needed.

The Department has not completed a comprehensive system-wide master plan in more than 20 years, yet it is proceeding with this massive project as a relatively new agency and without an updated master plan in place. The state should not allocate an additional \$30 million appropriation, as proposed in this year's budget bill, until we have an audit of spending on the project to date. Please support my request for transparency and accountability by passing HCR 154 and HR 149 out of this committee.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HR-149

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 6:16:23 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/21/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beppie Shapiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The amount of state funds already spent, and additions proposed, for planning alone, is enough to justify an audit.

In addition, attempting to solve our incarceration problems by building super expensive additional facilities, which will then justify continuing over-reliance on incarceration, is not a rational way to address those problems.

I support these resolutions to enable policymakers and the public to understand what we are paying for.

HR-149

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 7:04:44 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/21/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Marie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure

HR-149

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 8:52:38 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/21/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colleen Rost-Banik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members:

My name is Colleen Rost-Banik, and I live in Honolulu and am a Sociology Instructor at University of Hawaii, Manoa. I'm testifying **in support of HCR 154 and HR 149**, which call for a financial audit of spending related to the planning of a new jail to replace the O'ahu Community Correction Center.

As a resident and taxpayer, I want full transparency related to the planning of, spending on, and need for a new **\$1 billion** super jail. I have taught classes to those incarcerated at the Women's Community Correctional Center since 2018 and I have seen first-hand how the carceral system creates more violence in so many ways than it fosters rehabilitation. Spending \$1 billion on a new jail is not the way to support or make our communities safe.

I support a financial audit of planning of the proposed new OCCC because:

- DCR has spent approximately \$25 million, including on consultants and public relations professionals "selling" the project to the public.
- Insisting that OCCC is beyond rehabilitation, DCR appears to have made little effort to maintain or repair the existing facility, preferring instead to build a larger facility at a massive cost to taxpayers.
- DCR has consistently opposed efforts to reduce the population through decarceration policies, such as bail reform.
- DCR has failed to provide any kind of data-driven systems or strategy to significantly reduce the number of individuals held pretrial while proceeding with plans for a larger facility, claiming expanded capacity as one reason a new facility is needed.
- The Department has not completed a comprehensive system-wide master plan in more than 20 years, yet it is proceeding with this massive project as a relatively new agency and without an updated master plan in place.

The state should not allocate an additional \$30 million appropriation, as proposed in this year's budget bill, until we have an audit of spending on the project to date. Please support my request for transparency and accountability by passing HCR 154 and HR 149 out of this committee.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Colleen Rost-Banik

HR-149

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 8:54:39 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/21/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Bonk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members:

*My name is Michelle Bonk, and I live in Kula. I'm testifying **in support of HCR 154 and HR 149**, which call for a financial audit of spending related to the planning of a new jail to replace the O'ahu Community Correction Center.*

*As a resident and taxpayer, I want full transparency related to the planning of, spending on, and need for a new **\$1 billion** super jail. I support a financial audit of planning of the proposed new OCCC because:*

- To date, DCR has spent approximately \$25 million, including on consultants and public relations professionals "selling" the project to the public.*
- DCR has not provided a full accounting of how all the past funds relating to the proposed project have been spent.*
- Insisting that OCCC is beyond rehabilitation, DCR appears to have made little effort to maintain or repair the existing facility, preferring instead to build a new, shiny, larger facility at a massive cost to taxpayers.*
- DCR has consistently opposed efforts to reduce the population through decarceration policies, such as bail reform.*
- DCR has failed to provide any kind of data-driven systems or strategy to significantly reduce the number of individuals held pretrial while proceeding with plans for a larger facility, claiming expanded capacity as one reason a new facility is needed.*
- The Department has not completed a comprehensive system-wide master plan in more than 20 years, yet it is proceeding with this massive project as a relatively new agency and without an updated master plan in place.*

The state should not allocate an additional \$30 million appropriation, as proposed in this year's budget bill, until we have an audit of spending on the project to date. Please support my request for transparency and accountability by passing HCR 154 and HR 149 out of this committee.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HR-149

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 10:04:14 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/21/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lila Mower	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please adopt this resolution.

Testimony in support of HCR154/149

3/20/25

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair, House Committee on Public Safety

Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, V-Chair, House Committee on Public Safety

Re: HCR254/HCR149 Requesting an audit related to replacing OCC

Dear Chair Au Belatti, V-Chair Iwamoto and Members of the House Committee on Public Safety:

My name is Gail Breakey, and I am testifying in very strong support of HCR254/149. With my training in public health, and 50 years of experience in advocating for innovative prevention and early intervention programs, I know that **we can do much better than continuing to build prisons and incarcerate people for anti-social and violent behavior.**

Problem is these programs are the last to be funded and the first to be cut. For example; it is a fact that there is a strong relationship between early childhood abuse/neglect and later involvement in the justice system. A high percent of those in our prisons were abused as children. **So, we established a state-wide program of home visiting family support services for families of newborns at risk for child abuse, with a 99% success rate in averting abuse. It was eliminated from the state budget in 2009.**

There are other excellent services for troubled teens, restitution programs, etc. but these never get the support needed to reach their potential for crime reduction.

Please pass this legislation to conduct an audit regarding spending related to a new prison.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this legislation and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Gail Breakey, RN, MPH

HR-149

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 10:18:35 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/21/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Kapua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members:

*My name is Cathy Kapua, and I live Waianae, Hawaii. I'm testifying **in support of HCR 154 and HR 149**, which call for a financial audit of spending related to the planning of a new jail to replace the O'ahu Community Correction Center.*

*As a resident and taxpayer, I want full transparency related to the planning of, spending on, and need for a new **\$1 billion** super jail. I support a financial audit of planning of the proposed new OCCC because:*

- - *To date, DCR has spent approximately \$25 million, including on consultants and public relations professionals "selling" the project to the public.*
 - *DCR has not provided a full accounting of how all the past funds relating to the proposed project have been spent.*
 - *Insisting that OCCC is beyond rehabilitation, DCR appears to have made little effort to maintain or repair the existing facility, preferring instead to build a new, shiny, larger facility at a massive cost to taxpayers.*
 - *DCR has consistently opposed efforts to reduce the population through decarceration policies, such as bail reform.*
 - *DCR has failed to provide any kind of data-driven systems or strategy to significantly reduce the number of individuals held pretrial while proceeding with plans for a larger facility, claiming expanded capacity as one reason a new facility is needed.*
 - *The Department has not completed a comprehensive system-wide master plan in more than 20 years, yet it is proceeding with this massive project as a relatively new agency and without an updated master plan in place.*

The state should not allocate an additional \$30 million appropriation, as proposed in this year's budget bill, until we have an audit of spending on the project to date. Please support my request for transparency and accountability by passing HCR 154 and HR 149 out of this committee.

Mahalo for your time and consideration

HR-149

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 10:49:44 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/21/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Winternitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members:

My name is Elizabeth Winternitz, and I live in Kula, Maui. I’m testifying in support of HCR 154 and HR 149, calling for a financial audit of spending on planning a new jail to replace the O’ahu Community Correction Center.

As a resident and taxpayer, I want full transparency related to the proposed \$1 billion super jail. I support a financial audit of related expenditures because DCR seems to be a rogue agency with no apparent oversight or requirements for accountability:

- To date, DCR has spent approximately \$25 million, including on consultants and public relations professionals to “sell” the project to the public.
- DCR has not provided a full accounting of how all the past funds relating to the proposed project have been spent.
- Insisting that OCCC is beyond rehabilitation, DCR appears to have made little effort to maintain or repair the existing facility, preferring instead to build a new facility at massive costs to taxpayers.
- DCR has actively and consistently opposed all efforts to transition from a punitive to a rehabilitative correctional system, despite clear recommendations per the 2019 House Concurrent Resolution 85 Task Force.
- DCR has failed to provide any kind of data-driven systems or strategy to significantly reduce the number of individuals held pretrial while proceeding with plans for a larger facility, claiming expanded capacity as one reason a new facility is needed.
- The Department has not completed a comprehensive system-wide master plan in more than 20 years, yet it is proceeding with this massive project as a relatively new agency and without an updated master plan in place.

Please do not allocate more funding prior to requiring an audit of spending on the project to date. Please support my request for transparency and accountability by passing HCR 154 and HR 149 out of this committee.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Elizabeth Winternitz

HR-149

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 12:03:09 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/21/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chuck Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*As a resident and taxpayer, I want full transparency related to the planning of, spending on, and need for a new **\$1 billion** super jail. I support a financial audit of planning of the proposed new OCCC.*

HR-149

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 2:04:29 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/21/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Marrack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members:

*My name is Julie Marrack, and I live in Kamuela. I'm testifying **in support of HCR 154 and HR 149**, which call for a financial audit of spending related to the planning of a new jail to replace the O'ahu Community Correction Center.*

*As a resident and taxpayer, I want full transparency related to the planning of, spending on, and need for a new **\$1 billion** super jail. I support a financial audit of planning of the proposed new OCCC because:*

- - *To date, DCR has spent approximately \$25 million, including on consultants and public relations professionals "selling" the project to the public.*
 - *DCR has not provided a full accounting of how all the past funds relating to the proposed project have been spent.*
 - *Insisting that OCCC is beyond rehabilitation, DCR appears to have made little effort to maintain or repair the existing facility, preferring instead to build a new, shiny, larger facility at a massive cost to taxpayers.*
 - *DCR has consistently opposed efforts to reduce the population through decarceration policies, such as bail reform.*
 - *DCR has failed to provide any kind of data-driven systems or strategy to significantly reduce the number of individuals held pretrial while proceeding with plans for a larger facility, claiming expanded capacity as one reason a new facility is needed.*
 - *The Department has not completed a comprehensive system-wide master plan in more than 20 years, yet it is proceeding with this massive project as a relatively new agency and without an updated master plan in place.*

The state should not allocate an additional \$30 million appropriation, as proposed in this year's budget bill, until we have an audit of spending on the project to date. Please support my request for transparency and accountability by passing HCR 154 and HR 149 out of this committee.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

House Committee on Public Safety
Malaki 21, 2025 9:00am Room 411
Testimony in Support of HCR 154/HR149

Ke aloha nui e Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members:

My name is Phyllis K. Waiau and I reside in Papakōlea here on O‘ahu.

*I'm writing to show my **full support of HCR 154 and HR 149**, which call for a financial audit of spending related to the planning of a new jail to replace the O‘ahu Community Correction Center.*

As a resident and taxpayer, I want full transparency related to the planning of, spending on, and need for a new **\$1 billion** “super jail”. I support a financial audit of planning of the proposed new OCCC because:

- To date, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) has spent approximately \$25 million, including on consultants and public relations professionals “selling” the project to the public.
- DCR has not provided a full accounting of how all the past funds relating to the proposed project have been spent.
- The Department has consistently opposed efforts to reduce the population through decarceration policies, such as bail reform.
- DCR has failed to provide any kind of data-driven systems or strategy to significantly reduce the number of individuals held pretrial while proceeding with plans for a larger facility, claiming expanded capacity as one reason a new facility is needed.
- The Department has not completed a comprehensive system-wide master plan in more than 20 years, yet it is proceeding with this massive project as a relatively new agency and without an updated master plan in place.

The state should not allocate an additional \$30 million appropriation, as proposed in this year’s budget bill, until we have an audit of spending on the project to date.

Please support my request for transparency and accountability by passing HCR 154 and HR 149 out of this committee.

Mahalo nui for your time and attention to this issue.

~Phyllis K. Waiau

HR-149

Submitted on: 3/20/2025 9:55:51 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/21/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Husayn Jaffry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members:

My name is Husayn Jaffry and I live in Honolulu. I’m testifying **in support of HCR 154 and HR 149**, which call for a financial audit of spending related to the planning of a new jail to replace the O‘ahu Community Correction Center.

As a resident and taxpayer, I want full transparency related to the planning of, spending on, and need for a new **\$1 billion** super jail. I support a financial audit of planning of the proposed new OCCC because:

- - To date, DCR has spent approximately \$25 million, including on consultants and public relations professionals “selling” the project to the public.
 - DCR has not provided a full accounting of how all the past funds relating to the proposed project have been spent.
 - Insisting that OCCC is beyond rehabilitation, DCR appears to have made little effort to maintain or repair the existing facility, preferring instead to build a new, shiny, larger facility at a massive cost to taxpayers.
 - DCR has consistently opposed efforts to reduce the population through decarceration policies, such as bail reform.
 - DCR has failed to provide any kind of data-driven systems or strategy to significantly reduce the number of individuals held pretrial while proceeding with plans for a larger facility, claiming expanded capacity as one reason a new facility is needed.
 - The Department has not completed a comprehensive system-wide master plan in more than 20 years, yet it is proceeding with this massive project as a relatively new agency and without an updated master plan in place.

The state should not allocate an additional \$30 million appropriation, as proposed in this year’s budget bill, until we have an audit of spending on the project to date. Please support my request for transparency and accountability by passing HCR 154 and HR 149 out of this committee.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.