

CO-CHAIRS
SENATOR CAROL FUKUNAGA
REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI

MEMBERS
SERGIO ALCUBILLA
KAT BRADY
DR. MICHAEL CHAMPION
TOMMY JOHNSON
MARK PATTERSON
McKENNA WOODWARD



NON-VOTING MEMBERS
REPRESENTATIVE KIM COCO IWAMOTO
MARK LINSOTT
SENATOR KARL RHOADS
REPRESENTATIVE GARNER SHIMIZU
TULI TAFAI

HAWAI`I STATE LEGISLATURE
RESTRICTIVE HOUSING LEGISLATIVE WORKING GROUP

`Aha`ōlelo Moku`āina `O Hawai`i
STATE CAPITOL
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAI`I 96813

Meeting Minutes

The Restrictive Housing Legislative Working Group meeting is offered as a hybrid meeting where group members and the public can participate in person, or via teleconference. Details are noted below.

Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Conference Room 325, State Capitol
415 Street Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Recording: [Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1KAMOyofFA)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1KAMOyofFA>

Items to be Discussed:

I. (00:14:09) Welcome & Introductions

A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Representative Della Au Belatti at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 27, 2025. The meeting was conducted in accordance with Hawai`i Revised Statutes, Chapter 92.

B. Roll Call

- Co-Chair Senator Carol Fukunaga

- Co-Chair Representative Della Au Belatti
- Member Tommy Johnson
- Member Kat Brady
- Member Dr. Michael Champion (Excused)
- Member Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto
- Member Sergio Acubilla (Excused)
- Member Dr. Kevan Kamisato
- Member Mark Patterson
- Member Tuli Tafai (Excused)
- Member McKenna Woodward
- Member Senator Karl Rhoads (Excused)
- Member Representative Garner Shimizu
- Member Mark Linscott

Quorum was established with nine of thirteen members present.

II. (00:15:22) Minutes from December 16th, 2025 Meeting

- A. **Oral Testimony:** None.
- B. **Written Testimony:** No previously submitted written testimony was received.
- C. **Working Group Discussion:** Meeting minutes were approved.

III. (00:16:00) Overview & Discussion: Hawaii State Correctional Oversight Commission Presentation

A. **Written Testimony:** Hawaii State Correctional Oversight Commission (HSCOC) Chair Mark Patterson with Oversight Coordinator Christin M. Johnson supporting presented a history of the Commission, the Hawai'i jail and prison system, definitions of Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) related to restrictive housing, and definitions in connection to Act 292. Important definitions include the distinction between jails and prisons within the DCR system. Those within jail are going through trial or have been sentenced to less than one year and are typically reserved for less severe crimes. Prison is typically reserved for those who have been convicted and sentenced to a felony or parole violations. DCR definitions relating to restrictive housing were presented as well. These included definitions for Administrative Segregation (COR.11.01), Disciplinary Segregation (COR.11.01), Special Problem Inmates (COR.11.04), and Protective Custody (COR.11.03).

The presentation also discussed Act 292 and its definitions relating to restrictive housing. For example, restrictive housing can be used when "[t]here is a reasonable cause to believe that the committed person would create a substantial risk of immediate serious harm to the committed person's self or another, as evidenced by recent threats or conduct, and that a less restrictive intervention would be insufficient to reduce this risk; provided that the correctional facility shall bear the burden of establishing the foregoing by clear and convincing evidence." Restrictive housing occurs when all three factors are present: (1) a committed person is confined in a correctional facility pursuant to disciplinary, administrative, protective, investigative, medical, or other purposes; (2) the confinement occurs in a cell or similarly physically restrictive holding or living space, whether alone or with one or more other committed persons, for twenty hours or more per day; and (3) the committed person's activities, movements, and social interactions are

severely restricted.

B. Oral Testimony: None.

C. Working Group Discussion: Co-Chair Fukunaga asked about infrastructure issues at DCR facilities. Co-Chair Fukunaga followed up with a question about how to better encourage program participation in relation to reports of inmate non-participation. Co-Chair Belatti asked about DCR's zero tolerance policy at the Waiawa facility. Co-Chair Belatti requested the list of CIP requests for repairs and maintenance submitted by DCR to the Legislature.

Representative Garner Shimizu requested a list of issues and resources needed to address those issues that affect DCR. He further inquired as to whether this was an issue in policy or statute. Representative Shimizu followed this inquiry with a question about staffing and training in the facilities.

Co-Chair Belatti asked for more information on the SHIP program at Saguaro Correction Facility. Representative Shimizu asked for clarity surrounding Saguaro Correctional Facility and Act 292, as well as how reclassification might be able to alleviate space issues at other DCR facilities.

Member McKenna Woodward inquired what can be done to support reclassification of risk for inmates to ensure appropriate placement within DCR facilities. Ms. Woodward also sought recommendations about incorporating inmate stories of their experiences to better understand the impacts of restrictive housing. Member Kat Brady discussed the concept of "over classification" in relation to inmate housing as well as the issues of mental health and its impacts in the use of restrictive housing.

VII. (1:13:44) Next Steps and Next Meeting for Working Group

A. Oral Testimony: None.

B. Written Testimony: No previously submitted written testimony was received.

C. Working Group Discussion: The next meeting of Restrictive Housing Group is scheduled for March 3, 2026.

VII. (1:14:42) Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Morgan Lee, Office Manager to Representative Della Au Belatti
Hawai'i State Legislature