

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
DR. KEVAN KAMISATO
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, December 16, 2025

Time: 9:30 a.m.

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

Recording: [Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/live/MWBU8XVFrUs?si=1RjNPdavUxoJsz9b)
<https://www.youtube.com/live/MWBU8XVFrUs?si=1RjNPdavUxoJsz9b>

Items to be Discussed:

I. (00:14:31) 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, December 16, 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 Sergio Alcubilla
- Member Kat Brady
- Member Dr. Michael Champion
- Member Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto
- Member Tommy Johnson
- Member Dr. Kevan Kamisato
- Member Mark Patterson
- Member Tuli Tafai
- Member McKenna Woodward
- Member Senator Karl Rhoads
- Member Representative Garner Shimizu

Quorum was established with thirteen of thirteen members present.

II. (00:16:24) Approving Minutes from October 16, 2025 and October 28, 2025 Meetings

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

III. (00:17:35) Announcement and Transition of Working Group's Senate Co-Chair

A. **Working Group Discussion:** Senator Brandon Elefante was recently appointed and assigned to a new Senate committee and will no longer serve in the capacity as the Working Group's Senate Co-Chair as prescribed in Act 292. Senator Carol Fukunaga has been appointed and assigned to be the Chair of the Senate Public Safety Committee and will be the Working Group's new Co-Chair.

- B. **Oral Testimony:** None.
- C. **Written Testimony:** No previously submitted written testimony was received.

IV. (00:19:00) Overview of Working Group's Projected Work Timeline

Co-Chair Belatti reviewed important dates and noted that the Working Group will be dissolved on January 8, 2027, as set forth in Act 292. Other key dates included December 11, 2026, the deadline for a report on the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation (DCR)'s progress on full compliance with Act 292.

- B. **Oral Testimony:** None.
- C. **Written Testimony:** No previously submitted written testimony was received.
- D. **Discussion:** It was suggested that the committee and DCR discuss how they can amend the law so that DCR can be compliant.

V. (00:27:25) Discussion of DCR's December 14, 2025 Interim Report and Proposed Legislation

- A. **Oral Testimony:** None.
- B. **Written Testimony:** No previously submitted written testimony was received.

C. Working Group Discussion: Members and Office of Hawaiian Affairs representative McKenna Woodward shared a statement that expressed opposition to... Ms. Woodward's statement is attached to these minutes as Attachment 1. Dr. Kevan Kamisoto at Department of Health, DCR Director Tommy Johnson, ACLU representative Sergio Alcubilla, and Senior Advisor for Mental Health and the Justice System in the Hawai'i Governor's Office, Dr. Michael Champion. Co-Chair Belatti, and Representative Shimizu offered further questions, context, and comments.

VI. (00:44:53) Discussion of Work Plan and Areas to be Studied by Working Group

A. Oral Testimony: No public questions or comments were made.

B. Written Testimony: No previously submitted written questions or comments were received.

C. Working Group Discussion: Co-Chair Belatti, Representative Shimizu, Senator Rhoads, UPW representative Tuli Tafai, Ms. Woodward, Dr. Champion, Dr. Kamisoto, Director Johnson identified possible areas for the working group to study. These areas include: (a) staffing challenges, including retention, recruiting and vacancy issues; (b) physical facility and space issues; (c) data on inmates who are in restrictive housing and categories of placement and how we may get that data if we do not have that data now; (d) evaluation and treatment of inmates with serious mental illness in DCR's facilities who may benefit from assisted community treatment (ACT) orders to better coordinate their mental health treatment when these inmates move through the prisons, the State Hospital, and/or in community-based programs; (e) availability of community mental health services that include housing and treatment beds, counseling, and case management; (f) whether HRS Section 704-421 and Act 126 allows enough time for treatment of inmates and patients in DCR's prison facilities and the Hawai'i State Hospital; and (g) whether DCR and DOH are effectively utilizing community-based programs for those in their custody and care to be able to better treat inmates and/or patients; and (h) short-term challenges faced by DCR.

Representative Iwamoto also requested that Dr. Michael Champion, Governor Green's Senior Advisor for Mental Health and the Justice System, make a formal presentation to the Working Group about the laws and programs being utilized and implemented by and across different executive departments to coordinate and manage treatment services and programs of those with serious mental illness who are cycling through the prisons, jails, State Hospital, and the community.

VII. (1:14:06) Next Steps and Next Meetings for Working Group

A. Oral Testimony: None.

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

C. Working Group Discussion: Co-Chair Belatti suggested the next RHG meetings be held on January 13, January 27, and March 3, 2026 at 9:30 am. No objections to these suggested dates were raised.

VII. (2:06:48) Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Morgan Lee, Office Manager, Office of Representative Della Au Belatti

Michael Bursack, Committee Clerk, Office of Representative Della Au Belatti

Hawai'i State Legislature