



GOV. MSG. NO. 413

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

February 14, 2007

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa President
and Members of the House
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting herewith two (2) copies of the Department of Public Safety's (PSD) response to HCR 130, H. D. 1, 2006, which required the PSD to conduct a security audit of the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF). The security audit was guided by the American Correctional Association's standards governing Juvenile Training Schools and the conclusions indicate that the Office of Youth Services (OYS) and HYCF are not in compliance with those standards, particularly in the development of policies and procedures for facility operations.

However, there were some positive findings by the security audit team. First, although there is a lack of policies and procedures to guide the operations of the facility, the team found that there were a number of Youth Correctional Officers and other staff that, on a daily basis, have developed good correctional practices without the benefit of facility procedures.

It is also noteworthy that the team did not observe nor hear reports from staff nor did any ward report any incidents of physical abuse during the team's stay at HYCF.

Further, the team found that the Secure Custody Facility, which houses wards that require the most secure environment and the most intensive supervision by staff was adequate with respect to the physical plant, the security architectural systems, and the security electronics systems. However, the chronic shortages of staff at the Secure Custody Facility do contribute to stressful conditions and, consequently, low morale.

We have been informed by OYS that most of the issues raised by this audit are currently being addressed, including the creation of new policies and procedures to guide the operations of the facility and PSD is committed to assist them in any way possible.

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
February 14, 2007
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I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at
www.hawaii.gov/psd/.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Linda" and last name "Lingle" clearly distinguishable.

LINDA LINGLE

Enclosures