



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION**  
235 S. Beretania Street, 16<sup>TH</sup> Floor  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
(808) 587-4160

**Oversight Coordinator Monthly Report**  
**Date of Report: April 20, 2023**

In accordance with Chapter §353L-6, the Oversight Coordinator shall submit a monthly report to the Commission, the Governor, and the Legislature. The monthly report shall include actions taken by the Commission and expenses for the preceding month. In addition to the mandated parties this report must be shared with, the Oversight Coordinator will publicly post the monthly report to increase transparency and accountability. This report will also be shared with each individual who has the responsibility of appointing members of the Commission. This includes:

- 1) Governor of Hawaii
- 2) President of the Hawaii Senate
- 3) Speaker of the Hawaii House of Representatives
- 4) Hawaii Supreme Court Chief Justice
- 5) Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

**In-Custody Deaths**

On Tuesday, March 21, 2023, a person in custody, male, 80 years old, was transferred from the Saguaro Correctional Facility (SCF) to a nearby hospital due to severe abdominal pains. This individual was admitted to the hospital. On Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, SCF was notified that the individual was pronounced deceased at 10:07pm (HST).

On Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at the Oahu Community Correctional Center, a person in custody, male, 49 years old, had attempted suicide by hanging in his cell. 911 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) were called and the person in custody was transported and admitted to Queens Medical Center. On Tuesday, April 4, 2023, OCCC was notified that the individual was pronounced deceased at 10:45pm.

**Actions Taken**

**Facility Tours**

Facilities Toured:

- Kauai Community Correctional Center (KCCC) – March 16, 2023
- Hawaii Community Correctional Center (HCCC) – March 22, 2023
- Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) – April 14, 2023
- Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) – April 14, 2023

The Oversight Coordinator extends special thanks to all facility staff for their cooperation, expertise, and professionalism.

## **Justice-Involved Homeless Intergovernmental Collaboration**

[Going Home Hawai'i](#) has taken the initiative to develop a strategy for intergovernmental collaboration meetings leading up to a Second Chance Summit in August 2023. The Summit will take place on August 23, 2023, in Kona. Registration opens in July. The Coordinator is on the Steering Committee for this event and the Commission will be an active part in the intergovernmental collaboration.

## **Legislative Priorities**

The Commission chose to support 30 bills related to public safety, and to oppose five bills related to public safety. The [Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs \(PSM\)](#), have their public meetings on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 3pm. The [House Committee on Corrections, Military, and Veterans \(CMV\)](#) have their public meetings on Wednesday and Friday at 9am. Meetings can be attended in person or virtually. More information can be found at <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>.

Additionally, on March 8<sup>th</sup> 2023, the [House Committee on Finance](#) (FIN) received 49 pages of testimonies in support of the HCSOC. This came from 15 local and national agencies, and 17 concerned citizens totaling 32 testimonials. Additionally, on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the [Senate Committee on Ways and Means](#) (WAM) received 38 pages of testimonies in support of the HCSOC. This came from 14 local and national agencies and 12 concerned citizens totaling 26 testimonials.

The Commission is so incredibly grateful for the ongoing support while the office continues to grow and build on this important work. Those who submitted testimony include:

### Agencies:

- Criminal Justice Research Institute – Dr. Erin Harbinson
- Hawaii Paroling Authority - Edmund "Fred" Hyun
- Community Alliance on Prisons - Kat Brady
- Maui Economic Opportunity - Debbie Cabebe
- Going Home Hawaii - Les Estrella
- John Howard Association - Jennifer Vollen-Katz
- Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center - Nikos Leverenz
- FAMM - Molly Gill
- Women's Prison Project - Linda Rich
- State of New Jersey Office of Corrections Ombudsman - Terry Schuster
- State of Michigan Legislative Corrections Ombudsman - Keith Barber
- United Public Workers (UPW) - Kalani Werner
- Correctional Association of New York - Sumeet Sharma
- Pennsylvania Prison Project - Claire Shubik-Richards
- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Hawai'i – Carrie Ann Shirota
- Pu'a Foundation – Toni Bissen
- 'Ekolu Mea Nui – Jamee Miller, EdD, LSW

Individuals:

- Dan and Lee Curran, Makaha Community Members
- Esther Geil, Community Member
- Stacey Nelson, Professor of Oversight and Law Enforcement, Loyola Law School
- Jeff Tomita, Concerned Citizen
- Diana Bethel, Honolulu Community Member
- Wendy Gibson-Viviani Kailua Community Member
- Donn Viviani, Kailua Community Member
- Patrick Uchigakiuchi, Psychologist, Community Member
- Kristine Crawford, Community Member
- Paula Toki Morelli, Community Member
- Robert K. Merce, Honolulu Community Member
- Nashla Rivas-Salas, Civilian Oversight Professional
- Barbara Polk, Community Member
- Mayone Kinikini, Community Member
- Jeanne Y. Ohta, Community Member
- Kim Coco Iwamoto, Community Member
- George Choe, Community Member
- Corinne Apana, Community Member
- Catherine Lampton, Community Member,
- Carolyn Eaton, Community Member
- Cathy Tilley, Community Member

**KCCC Commissioner Tour**

On Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, directly following the HCSOC public meeting, the Commissioners and Oversight Coordinator toured the Kauai Community Correctional Center (KCCC). After the tour, the Commission compiled their notes encompassing their impressions and offered ten recommendations:

1. The container units outside Module 5 used for quarantine/isolation should not be used unless there is staff in the immediate vicinity at all times.
2. The Suicide Watch Observation/Holding Cells should not be used unless there is staff in the immediate vicinity at all times.
3. Housing unit windows which are covered should be replaced with frosted windows to allow natural light or not covered at all.
4. Build a covered area or pavilion outside of Cabin C to allow incarcerated women an outdoor space and dayroom area.
5. Consider hosting a monthly family-day specific for those who have two or more children.

These recommendations were discussed during an April 4, 2023, public meeting. The full KCCC Site Visit Observation report is attached and can be found on the Commission's website at: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/facility-specific-reports/>. The meeting video can be found on the Commission's YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@hawaiicorrectionalsystemov9752/streams>

## **HCCC Conditions Update**

This section is following a report from September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, highlighting serious issues and concerns regarding inhumane conditions at HCCC. The Coordinator has continued to make biweekly trips to HCCC; however, the biweekly commitment has been difficult to follow due to the legislative session and various meetings with stakeholders including an April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, tour of HCCC that was cancelled due to legislative meetings.

Following the April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, tour of HCCC, the Oversight Coordinator will put together a 6-month follow up report that encompasses all concerns and updates from the September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, report.

### Overcrowding

On April 17, 2023, three buildings at HCCC (Punahale, Komohana and Waianuenue) in addition to covid-housing had a head count of 233 while the facility has an operational capacity of 126 (*note: construction is finished and there are no cells out of commission*). This puts the facility at a **185% occupancy rate**. Please note that the HCU (covid housing/shipping container), the Punahale corridor, nor the Multipurpose Room (“Fishbowl”) are included within the operational capacity as none of those areas are meant for permanent housing.

A massive portion of HCCC are pretrial detainees which means they have not been sentenced for a crime. Much of this population is homeless and/or have a mental health diagnosis. This is an ongoing effort to address the overcrowding concerns with the judiciary, and this will continue to be reported on.

### Safety and Security Concerns

The facility recently finished its construction in Punahale to improve housing conditions by completely replacing each of the cell doors, preventing the use of padlocks on the cell doors. All cells have been completed, and the Coordinator is pleased to report that the use of padlocks is no longer occurring in Punahale.

However, during the February 8, 2023, tour of Komohana, the Coordinator found two cell doors with padlocks attached. The padlocks were attached to the handle of the door and officers confirmed that the cell doors are padlocked during the night. This is extremely problematic as it significantly increases response time for officers to access the cell if there is an emergency. The Coordinator addressed this with facility leadership immediately in addition to alerting the Director of Public Safety. During the February 13<sup>th</sup>, tour, the Oversight Coordinator witnessed staff remove the padlocks. During the March 2<sup>nd</sup> and March 22<sup>nd</sup> tour, the Oversight Coordinator did not find padlocks on cell doors.

The Multipurpose Room 1 “fishbowl” is still being used as inappropriate housing to house individuals who has finished their initial quarantine time in the Shipping Container/Covid-Housing, but who have not been permanently housed in an appropriate housing area. During the most recent visit on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Oversight Coordinator found fifteen individuals housed in that space. The fishbowl does not have accessible water or

bathrooms, nor are there bunk beds. Individuals in this space sleep on a mattress on the floor.

The Commission recognizes the Department's hardship due to extreme physical limitations of the aging facility, and lack of appropriate space given the immense overcrowding. The Commission will continue to work with the Department to submit appropriate recommendations in addition to working with the legislative and judicial branches of government to highlight the desperate changes needed to be made.

#### Lack of Basic Services

During the February visits, the Oversight Coordinator noticed that no one in HCCC had bedsheets. Additionally, people in custody notified the Oversight Coordinator that they did not have underwear, bras (for women), or t-shirts to wear under their jumpsuit-style uniform. The Oversight Coordinator brought these issues up to facility leadership numerous times to no avail. Therefore, the Oversight Coordinator alerted the Director of Public Safety regarding the concern of the lack of undergarments and lack of dignity. The Director took immediate action and had the Deputy Director of Corrections tour with the Oversight Coordinator to address the issues onsite.

During the March visit, the Oversight Coordinator found that blankets and sheets were distributed in addition to bras for women. However, basic services are still an issue.

In addition to people in custody not having access to t-shirts, underwear, or jumpsuit uniforms, staff informed the Oversight Coordinator that medical staff had to resort to **giving women adult diapers during menstruation** due to a lack of underwear and lack of menstrual pads to attach to said underwear. Department leadership claimed that women were taking advantage of menstrual pads by wearing them daily, therefore creating a shortage for those who need them. The Department also confirmed that it is the business office making the decision to limit the menstrual pads.

The Oversight Coordinator recommended that medical staff should be the ones distributing menstrual pads and ensuring the facility does not run low. The HCCC Warden agreed and made that change. Additionally, the HCCC Warden went to a local Walmart and bought all underwear that was in stock while they awaited an incoming shipment of underwear, t-shirts, and jumpsuits. The HCCC Warden confirmed that the shipment of clothing arrived on Friday, March 10, 2023, and the facility began to distribute appropriate clothing on March 13, 2023.

According to Department policy COR.17.03:

All inmates shall be adequately clothed during their period of incarceration. At a minimum each inmate shall be issued the following items:

- a. Male uniforms
  - 1) Three pants
  - 2) Three shirts
  - 3) Three T-shirts
  - 4) One pair of slippers

5) Three pair underwear (boxer/brief)

b. Female uniforms

- 1) Three pants
- 2) Three shirts
- 2) Three T-shirts
- 3) Three brassiere
- 4) Three underwear (brief)
- 5) Pregnant inmates - appropriate attire

During the March 22, 2023, tour, it was anticipated that individuals would have the clothing and sanitary items they are entitled to. However, during the tour, it was apparent that individuals were not receiving adequate clothing and moreover, staff were unfamiliar with Department policy requiring adequate clothing. On March 30, 2023, the Oversight Coordinator sent an email to the Warden, Chief of Security, and all Lieutenants to ensure everyone is on the same page regarding Department policy and clothing distribution.

This issue will continue to be reported on until resolved.

Suicide/Safety Watch

During past visits, the “dayroom” space behind a door in Punahale in front of four cells was being utilized on and off for those on suicide or safety watch. This is of serious concern due to 1) lack of access to water and toilets, 2) lack of visibility from officer desk, 3) lack of privacy from 12+ people in custody within the cells, 4) no bedframe, 5) no area to store their property, and 6) a complete lack of humane treatment and decency as a whole towards individuals with potentially self-harming ideations and/or actions. During the last four most recent visits (February 7<sup>th</sup>, February 14<sup>th</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 22<sup>nd</sup>), individuals were not found in that space. This is great news, and the Oversight Coordinator will continue to report on this issue to ensure the space is not utilized for Suicide or Safety Watch in the future.

Shipping Container/Covid-Housing

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, the shipping container housed 10 individuals. These cells have a triple bunk bed in each cell and are used as isolation cells to ensure newly admitted individuals do not have covid. The isolation period for was recently changed from 10 days to 5 days to align with CDC standards. Once the 5-day isolation period is met, individuals can be housed accordingly. There were no individuals in the isolation cells for more than 5 days during the most recent March 22<sup>nd</sup> visit. Additionally, all light fixtures were in working order.

Due to overcrowding, it is common for individuals to have to sleep on a mattress on the floor. It has also been reported that some cells do not have drinking water and individuals are forced to shave using toilet water. Additionally, it has been reported by an individual who was recently released from custody that there is lack of humanity in HCCC as the toilet paper is chronically low, people in custody were not given a pillow or sheets in the container, there is no privacy, no towels, no additional clothing distributed outside of what

they were wearing, and people in custody were refused pen and paper to write to their loved ones or to write down their experiences.

#### Lack of Recreation and General Programming

Individuals have reported that they are being allowed outside for recreation. The facility has set a new recreation schedule to equitably allow as many individuals outside for recreation as possible. Due to overcrowding and understaffing, the facility is not meeting federal standards for daily outdoor recreation. However, individuals in custody have reported that there is improvement.

Additionally, it has been reported that there is no musical instruments or ukuleles allowed (other facilities allow this), no rehabilitative programming, and no music players allowed. Family members have reported that they feel very much in the dark as the facility does not answer its general phone number for the public. One family member had to resort to physically going to the facility to ask staff a question since they were not added to their loved one's phone list for 17 days, so they were unable to communicate with their loved one.

#### Visits

Due to the construction, the visit room is currently out of commission and the facility is not offering in-person visits. The construction in the visit room to create permanent non-contact visit spaces is not completed yet. The Coordinator is deeply concerned about this new construction given how important and impactful in-person contact visits are for rehabilitation. The Coordinator was told that the facility is waiting on phones for the non-contact booths. It is still unclear when in-person visits can occur.

The Oversight Coordinator continues to monitor the conditions of HCCC, work with community partners, the judicial branch, and the Department of Public Safety to ensure safer conditions that align with federal standards. The Coordinator will continue to report on the conditions of HCCC.

#### **General Office Information**

Mailing Address: Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission  
235 S. Beretania Street, 16<sup>th</sup> floor  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Website: [hcsoc.hawaii.gov](https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov)

Submit Testimony: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/submit-testimony/>

Email: [hcsoc@hawaii.gov](mailto:hcsoc@hawaii.gov)

Social Media: [YouTube](#)  
[LinkedIn](#)  
[Facebook](#)  
[Instagram](#)

**Expenses for the Preceding Month**

**EXPENDITURE COSTS - March 2023**

	Price/Item	Qty	Total	Notes
<b>Office Equipment and Supplies</b>			<b>\$474</b>	
General Office Supplies	\$345	1.00	\$345	Business cards for Commission
Staff and Commission Badges			\$0	
Staff and Commission Badge Holders			\$0	
Cell Phone			\$0	
Cell Phone Monthly Plan	\$129	1.00	\$129	
Wifi Hotspot			\$0	
<b>Inter-Island Correctional Facility Travel</b>			<b>\$2,145.44</b>	
Airfare	\$1,834	1.00	\$1,834	Commission travel for 3/16, 4/20, and 5/18
Car Rental	\$123	1.00	\$123	3/16
Daily Per Diem	\$20	5.00	\$100	Meals for 3/16
Lodging+Tax			\$0	
Ground Transportation			\$0	
Airport Parking	\$22	4.00	\$88	
<b>Mainland Correctional Facility Travel</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>	
Airfare			\$0	
Car Rental			\$0	
Daily Per Diem			\$0	
Lodging+Tax			\$0	
Ground Transportation			\$0	
Airport Parking			\$0	
<b>Memberships + Conferences</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>	
Cruel & Not Unusual Symposium - Austin, TX			\$0	
Airfare			\$0	
Car Rental			\$0	
Daily Per Diem			\$0	
Lodging+Tax			\$0	
Ground Transportation			\$0	
Airport Parking			\$0	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$2,619</b>	

**Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission Monthly Meetings**

This report will be discussed at the monthly Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission meeting held on April 20, 2023. The next monthly meeting is scheduled to occur on May 18, 2023, at the University of Hawai'i Maui College, 310 W. Kaahumanu Avenue, Kahului, Hawai'i 96732 (room to be determined) and online via Zoom. More information can be found on the Commission's webpage here: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/information/>.



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**Kauai Community Correctional Center (KCCC)**  
**March 2023 Site Tour Observations**  
**Date of Report: March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

On Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (the Commission, HCSOC) toured the Kauai Community Correctional Center (KCCC) collectively as a group. The tour included four of the five Commissioners – Mark Patterson (Chair), Martha Torney, Mike Town, and Ron Ibarra in addition to the Oversight Coordinator, Christin Johnson and Special Assistant, George Choe.

After touring KCCC, the Commissioners chose to have an additional public meeting outside of the normal monthly public meetings to address conditions of the facility. This report encompasses notes from the Commissioners and will be discussed at a public meeting held on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

General Observations

According to the weekly population spreadsheet, on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, there were 93 males and 21 females and on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, there were 95 males and 25 females. Throughout the site visit, people in custody were in their living units, most often in dayroom areas where the Commission had unfettered access to meet with them in groups or individually at their request. Only in Module B, a secure unit for males, were people in custody confined to their cells, but facility staff allowed access to the cells at the Commission's request.

There was open communication between the staff and people in custody which was clearly congenial. One Commissioner noted that this has been true for the many times they visited KCCC during their employment with the Department of Public Safety. People in custody were free to speak with the Commission and had few complaints. Another Commissioner had noted that in light of one of the Commission's duties of facilitating the transition of a corrective system to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model is the attitude of the staff. "They treat the inmates with respect and interacts well with them. The inmates seem to respond with respect. This is a positive reflection on the leadership and this what is needed in transitioning the present model."

One Commissioner noted that the most glaring condition, similar to the other correctional centers visited, is the age of the facility. The walls and floors of the facility were in terrible condition due to years of neglect. The walls need painting, and the floor tiles were cracked and stained. One of the staff who worked there for over ten years told a Commissioner that the only construction they have seen was the sally port and the dorms. Although the facility is need of repair due to its age and continued crowding, the staff and the people in custody keep it surprisingly clean.

### Ongoing Construction Projects

There were two major construction projects underway during the Commission's visit. Module A had two of the three-cell units closed due to construction that has continued for more than two years, much to the dismay of the staff (the construction schedule has been moved back several times due to the vendor). Module C, however, had one of its two wings closed due to construction (different vendor), with substantial progress evident and moving along ahead of schedule.

### Module A

Module A is the oldest part of the facility, opened in 1977, and is made up of four three-cell units. During the tour, two of the units were closed due to an on-going construction project. Many people in custody were in the day room area outside the units. When Commissioners had asked, none of the pretrial individuals had a bail amount of less than \$100. Additionally, no one had their trial dates set beyond six months. The people in custody informed Commissioners that they have various activities during the day which keeps them occupied and reduces idle time; TV viewing is available in the evening. Commissioners did enter one of the living units which was clearly overcrowded with some people in custody sleeping on the floor of the small area outside the cells. At least one cell is kept open each night to allow access to a toilet.

The law library is located in Module A, a male only unit which does cause some access restrictions for females. The law library, while physically small and does not have any Hawaii Digest or Reports, did have Law Lexis for legal research. The Commission did not hear of any complaints regarding the adequacy of the library. Staff reported that individuals who sign up for law library are always granted access and they can request additional assistance from the librarian if they need assistance.

### Module B

Module B was added to the facility in 1986 and has six large cells of approximately 157 square feet each, allowing four people to be assigned to each cell. The dayroom is quite large, but everyone was locked in their cells during the visit.

### Module C

Module C, an L-shaped building with two large dormitories joined by a multipurpose room with bathrooms for each wing, opened in 1997. Each dorm is divided into cubicles with half-walls. As mentioned above, one of the dormitories was under construction with new windows, new floors and new bathrooms. Once that dorm is completed, work will begin on the other dorm. Staff noted how fast construction was moving in Module C and they were very happy with the construction vendor.

### Cabins A-C

Cabins A, B and C were originally built as temporary housing for Kauai residents after Hurricane Iniki. The cabins were moved to the facility between 1993 and 1995 as temporary housing but continue to be used today. These units were not included in the 2001 capacity report as they do not meet fire code—no fire suppression system and no second exit. Cabins A and B house men, while Cabin C houses women. Cabin C was very overcrowded with no dayroom space. Cabins A and B had an outside lanai which were basically the dayrooms for those units. Cabin C's lanai was enclosed to increase the number of beds, leaving the women no dayroom or outdoor space. The women informed the Commissioners that they have very few activities available to them and spend

most of their time in the crowded cabin. This was most concerning. Additionally, at one point a Commissioner and the Oversight Coordinator spoke to some women individually in the pavilion area. Some incarcerated men were also in the pavilion area and the women were notably uncomfortable with being in sight of the men. This adds to the importance of having a separate outdoor space for women separate from the men.

#### Covid-19 Observation Housing

COVID-19 segregation, where new intakes are placed for a five-day isolation period, was located in a shipping container in front of the administration area. There were no active COVID-19 cases during the tour. The cells were larger than similar cells at OCCC, allowing for one bunk bed (two beds total). Although each cell had a small window in the door, the windows were covered to prevent people in custody of the opposite sex to see inside the cells. Therefore, no natural lighting was available in the cells. The shower was located outside, across from the cells and movement to showers can be observed by people in custody in Module C, the recreation yard, and a small visiting area. Netting is placed over the fence surrounding the shower area, yet it is still obvious that others can see figures that pass the netting. There was no Adult Correctional Officer (ACO) assigned specifically to the container area, and it is unknown how often the cells are checked.

#### Suicide Watch Observation Cells

Three holding cells are located within the Administration area of Module A, with observation windows along a hallway. These are multipurpose cells for administrative segregation and suicide watch. There were no people in custody on suicide watch the day the Commission visited. The Commissioners were told that an ACO would be stationed outside the cell if a person in custody was on suicide watch. There was one person in custody in a cell who was sleeping on a mattress on the floor in addition to at least one other person who came around the corner from an attached cell. Although Commissioners were told that there is an ACO assigned to that area, there was no ACO in the vicinity nor was there any officer desk for an ACO to be posted at. It was unclear how often the cells are checked.

#### Kitchen

The facility kitchen and mess hall are in a separate building that was in desperate need of replacement. The floors of the mess hall were worn through to bare wood in some areas, with patchwork repairs evident. Commissioners were told that the kitchen replacement plans are currently underway, although at the time of the tour, there was not a specific timeline for the project.

#### Recreation Yard

There was a secure recreation yard available outside of Module C, which was in use when the Commission arrived. It appeared that many individuals are offered outdoor recreation consistently. The Commission did not receive any complaints specifically in relation to recreation.

#### Visitation

Visitation is conducted outside either under the main pavilion, or in a separate outdoor area secured by a fence. The Commission greatly appreciates KCCC's efforts towards not only allowing contact visits but having the visits in an outdoor space that is conducive to rehabilitative practices. Visitation did not appear to take place during the tour, but the Commission did not receive any complaints specific to visitation access.

However, the Commission was informed that visits are limited to one child per visitor, preventing parents who have multiple children to see their children all at once. This also limits the children on how often they get to see their incarcerated parent.

Recommendations to be considered by the Department of Public Safety:

**1) The container units outside Module 5 used for quarantine/isolation should not be used unless there is staff in the immediate vicinity at all times.**

The Commission found that the containers in front of the administration area did not have an ACO in the vicinity or assigned to the post. Instead, the front gate officer needed to assist with opening the cells when Commissioners requested to view inside. The Department places itself at considerable risk by not posting an ACO in the immediate vicinity whenever any of the cells is occupied. The ACO should be required to make regular (not less than every half hour) security checks of each cell and document these checks along with their observations. This ACO should carry the key that opens each cell door. It is therefore recommended that KCCC not use these units unless it can post an ACO in the immediate area whenever any cell is occupied.

**2) The Suicide Watch Observation/Holding Cells should not be used unless there is staff in the immediate vicinity at all times.**

The Commission found that the holding cells located within the Administration area of Module A did not have an ACO in the vicinity. The Department places itself at considerable risk by not posting an ACO in the immediate vicinity whenever any of the cells is occupied. The ACO should be required to make regular (not less than every half hour) security checks of each cell and document these checks along with their observations. This ACO should carry the key that opens each cell door. It is therefore recommended that KCCC not use these cells unless it can post an ACO in the immediate area whenever any cell is occupied.

**3) Housing unit windows which are covered should be replaced with frosted windows to allow natural light or not covered at all.**

The Commission found that the Covid-19 Isolation cells had a slab of material completely blocking the windows to ensure women in the cells were not seen by men in custody. In accordance with American Correctional Association (ACA) Standard 4-ALDF-1A-16: *All inmate rooms/cells provide the occupants with access to natural light by means of at least three-square feet of transparent glazing, plus two additional square feet of transparent glazing per inmate in rooms/cells with three or more inmates.* Therefore, the Commission recommends replacing the current windows with frosted windows to allow natural light to also consider privacy rights of women placed in those cells.

**4) Build a covered area or pavilion outside of Cabin C to allow incarcerated women an outdoor space and dayroom area.**

The Commission found that due to overcrowding, Cabin C's lanai was enclosed to increase the number of beds, leaving the women no dayroom or outdoor space. Cabins A and B had an outside lanai which were basically the dayrooms for those units. Additionally, women housed in Cabin C noted that they do not have opportunities to be outside of their cabin unlike Cabin A and Cabin B where individuals can sit out on the lanai. Therefore, the

Commission recommends that the facility build a covered area of pavilion outside of Cabin C to allow for an outdoor space and dayroom.

**5) Consider hosting a monthly family-day specific for those who have two or more children.**

The Commission found that visits are limited to one child per visitor, preventing parents who have multiple children to see their children all at once. Given the imperative transition from a punitive system to a rehabilitative and therapeutic system, the Commission recommends that KCCC host a monthly (or more frequent) family-day where family members and children can come to visit their loved ones. Not only would this strengthen the family and community ties for those in custody, but this is undoubtedly an area of interest of the State Legislature as example by [HB451 HD1](#) related to establishing a family resource center at Waiawa Correctional Facility.

The Commission extends special thanks to the KCCC staff for their time, professionalism, and expertise during the tour.