
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CORRECTIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a civil lawsuit in
2 federal court alleged that a group of women at the women's
3 community correctional center were sexually assaulted at least
4 fifty-three times from 2013 to 2016. A similar case, *Smith v.*
5 *State of Hawaii*, resulted in a \$100,000 settlement, with \$50,000
6 coming from the State and another \$50,000 coming from the guard
7 who pled guilty. These lawsuits pointed specifically to the
8 lack of cameras in the correctional center's control rooms,
9 where a majority of the sexual assaults allegedly occurred.
10 According to court documents, in some cases, staff offered food,
11 makeup, crystal methamphetamine, and special privileges to
12 inmates in return for compliance with sexual demands, and
13 inflicted punishments for noncompliance. Any sexual contact
14 between an inmate and staff is a felony under existing law
15 because prisoners cannot legally give consent.

16 The legislature further finds that additional cameras in
17 control rooms would help deter sexual assaults and contraband,



1 thereby building a defense against future lawsuits and
2 protecting inmates from rogue guards.

3 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 4 (1) Require the department of public safety to install
- 5 cameras at any correctional center that houses women;
- 6 and
- 7 (2) Appropriate funds.

8 SECTION 2. On or before July 1, 2024, the department of
 9 public safety or its successor agency shall install digital
 10 cameras in all guard control rooms of any correctional center
 11 that houses women. There shall be sufficient coverage to ensure
 12 the health and safety of all staff and inmates. The department
 13 of public safety or its successor agency shall ensure that each
 14 correctional facility documents and preserves access to video
 15 evidence that may pertain to misconduct by staff or inmates,
 16 negligent or abusive treatment of inmates, or criminal activity.

17 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the
 20 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 21 2024-2025 for the department of public safety or its successor



1 agency to purchase and install digital cameras in all guard
2 control rooms of any correctional center that houses women.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of public safety or its successor agency for the purposes of
5 this Act.

6 SECTION 4. On January 1, 2024, all responsibilities and
7 appropriations under this Act shall transfer from the department
8 of public safety to the department of corrections and
9 rehabilitation, as established by Act 278, Session Laws of
10 Hawaii 2022.

11 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

PSD; Women; Correctional Centers; Control Rooms; Cameras;
Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Public Safety to install digital cameras in all guard control rooms of any correctional center housing women. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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