
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO PERFORM A COMPREHENSIVE FORENSIC AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION AND DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES REGARDING SPENDING RELATED TO THE PLANNING, DESIGN, FINANCING, CONSTRUCTION, AND MAINTENANCE OF A NEW JAIL TO REPLACE THE OAHU COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
2 oversees eight correctional facilities throughout the State:
3 Halawa Correctional Facility, Hawaii Community Correctional
4 Center, Kauai Community Correctional Center, Kulani Correctional
5 Facility, Maui Community Correctional Center, Oahu Community
6 Correctional Center, Waiawa Correctional Facility, and Women's
7 Community Correctional Center; and

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9 WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
10 contracts with CoreCivic to transfer and incarcerate nine
11 hundred thirty-eight males at Saguaro Correctional Center in
12 Arizona, despite the availability of open beds at Waiawa
13 Correctional Facility and Kulani Correctional Facility in
14 Hawai'i; and

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16 WHEREAS, some correctional facilities throughout the State
17 face issues of overcrowding and understaffing, which impacts the
18 safety and well-being of incarcerated individuals and
19 corrections staff; and

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21 WHEREAS, as of December 2024, there were nine hundred
22 forty-seven individuals incarcerated at the Oahu Community
23 Correctional Center; and

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25 WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
26 reported that from 2021 to 2023, approximately thirty to forty
27 percent of inmates incarcerated in the State's correctional
28 facilities were homeless immediately before entry, and an even
29 larger percentage exit to homelessness; and



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2 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight
3 Commission reported that eighty-six percent of the inmate
4 population needs substance abuse treatment at some level, Native
5 Hawaiians are disproportionately incarcerated, and many in the
6 State's correctional facilities need mental health services; and
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8 WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation,
9 with the support of the Department of Accounting and General
10 Services, is proposing to construct a new, expanded one thousand
11 three hundred bed jail to replace the Oahu Community
12 Correctional Center through a public-private partnership; and
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14 WHEREAS, the estimated cost to replace the Oahu Community
15 Correctional Center, according to the Department of Corrections
16 and Rehabilitation's plans for expansion and construction, is
17 \$1,000,000,000; and
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19 WHEREAS, this proposed new jail would make it the single
20 largest public works project in state history and does not
21 include the recurring costs of operation; and
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23 WHEREAS, to date, the Department of Corrections and
24 Rehabilitation has expended approximately \$25,000,000 on
25 planning consultants, including public relations professionals,
26 on this proposed project; and
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28 WHEREAS, the expenditure of taxpayer dollars on this
29 proposed project is proceeding even though the Department of
30 Corrections and Rehabilitation has made no discernable effort to
31 maintain and repair existing facilities, including at the Oahu
32 Community Correctional Center; and
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34 WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
35 has not immediately implemented actionable changes at the Oahu
36 Community Correctional Center that do not require new
37 construction, despite requests by the Hawaii Correctional System
38 Oversight Commission; and
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40 WHEREAS, existing efforts, such as recommendations made by
41 the University of Hawaii Community Design Center, are advisory
42 in nature only and do not represent a commitment by the



1 Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to an improved
2 model of carceral justice; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
5 should work collaboratively with justice system partners,
6 beginning on Oahu, to increase diversion infrastructure to
7 substantially reduce incarceration levels in the State's jails,
8 address the root causes of individuals' involvement with the
9 criminal legal system, and decrease pre-trial detention times to
10 six months or less; and

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12 WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
13 has also not provided a full accounting of how past funding
14 relating to the proposed project has been spent; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
17 is proceeding with this project without a current comprehensive
18 system-wide approach to master planning; and

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20 WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
21 is requesting another \$30,000,000 to issue a request for
22 proposals to replace the Oahu Community Correctional Center even
23 though the Department's last ten-year master plan update was
24 completed in 2003; and

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26 WHEREAS, the last report lacked an analysis of data-driven
27 systems strategies to significantly reduce the number of
28 individuals who hold pretrial status in the State's jails and
29 divert those who are houseless, poor, and in need of mental
30 health care or substance use treatment to the appropriate
31 service providers; now, therefore,

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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
35 of 2025, that the Auditor is requested to perform a
36 comprehensive forensic audit of the Department of Corrections
37 and Rehabilitation and Department of Accounting and General
38 Services regarding spending related to the planning, design,
39 financing, construction, and maintenance of a new jail to
40 replace the Oahu Community Correctional Center; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the comprehensive forensic
2 audit is requested to include, at a minimum:

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- 4 (1) A review of accountability measures within the
5 Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and
6 Department of Accounting and General Services related
7 to the planning of a new jail to replace the Oahu
8 Community Correctional Center;
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- 10 (2) An analysis of the Department of Corrections and
11 Rehabilitation's budget and whether the expenditure of
12 funds related to the planning, design, financing,
13 construction, and maintenance of a new jail to replace
14 the Oahu Community Correctional Center is in
15 accordance with the funding's original purpose;
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- 17 (3) An examination of the Department of Corrections and
18 Rehabilitation's and Department of Accounting and
19 General Services' compliance with procurement laws
20 related to the planning, design, financing,
21 construction, and maintenance of a new jail to replace
22 the Oahu Community Correctional Center;
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- 24 (4) A list of all contractors and subcontractors, the
25 dates of the contractors' and subcontractors' duties,
26 and the completion of the contractors' and
27 subcontractors' duties related to the proposed
28 construction of a new jail to replace the Oahu
29 Community Correctional Center; and
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- 31 (5) Any other matters that the Auditor deems necessary or
32 appropriate; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Corrections
35 and Rehabilitation and Department of Accounting and General
36 Services are urged to fully cooperate with and provide any
37 necessary assistance requested by the Auditor with respect to
38 the comprehensive forensic audit and respond promptly to all
39 requests from the Auditor, including providing records and other
40 information that may be requested during the course of the
41 audit; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
2 submit a report of the findings of the comprehensive forensic
3 audit and recommendations, including any proposed legislation,
4 to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
5 convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, Director of
Corrections and Rehabilitation, and Comptroller.

OFFERED BY: 

MAR 07 2025

