
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO PERFORM A COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE, MANAGEMENT, AND FINANCIAL 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



1 facilities were homeless immediately before entry, and an even
2 larger percentage exit to homelessness; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight
5 Commission reported that eighty-six percent of the inmate
6 population needs substance abuse treatment at some level, Native
7 Hawaiians are disproportionately incarcerated, and many in the
8 State's correctional facilities need mental health services; and

9
10 WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation,
11 with the support of the Department of Accounting and General
12 Services, is proposing to construct a new, expanded one thousand
13 three hundred bed jail to replace the Oahu Community
14 Correctional Center through a public-private partnership; and

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16 WHEREAS, the estimated cost to replace the Oahu Community
17 Correctional Center, according to the Department of Corrections
18 and Rehabilitation's plans for expansion and construction, is
19 \$1,000,000,000; and

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21 WHEREAS, this proposed new jail would make it the single
22 largest public works project in state history and does not
23 include the recurring costs of operation; and

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25 WHEREAS, to date, the Department of Corrections and
26 Rehabilitation has expended approximately \$25,000,000 on
27 planning consultants, including public relations professionals,
28 on this proposed project; and

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30 WHEREAS, the expenditure of taxpayer dollars on this
31 proposed project is proceeding even though the Department of
32 Corrections and Rehabilitation has made no discernable effort to
33 maintain and repair existing facilities, including at the Oahu
34 Community Correctional Center; and

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36 WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
37 has not immediately implemented actionable changes at the Oahu
38 Community Correctional Center that do not require new
39 construction, despite requests by the Hawaii Correctional System
40 Oversight Commission; and

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1 WHEREAS, existing efforts, such as recommendations made by
2 the University of Hawaii Community Design Center, are advisory
3 in nature only and do not represent a commitment by the
4 Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to an improved
5 model of carceral justice; and
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7 WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
8 should work collaboratively with justice system partners,
9 beginning on Oahu, to increase diversion infrastructure to
10 substantially reduce incarceration levels in the State's jails,
11 address the root causes of individuals' involvement with the
12 criminal legal system, and decrease pre-trial detention times to
13 six months or less; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
16 has also not provided a full accounting of how past funding
17 relating to the proposed project has been spent; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
20 is proceeding with this project without a current comprehensive
21 system-wide approach to master planning; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
24 is requesting another \$30,000,000 to issue a request for
25 proposals to replace the Oahu Community Correctional Center even
26 though the Department's last ten-year master plan update was
27 completed in 2003; and
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29 WHEREAS, the last report lacked an analysis of data-driven
30 systems strategies to significantly reduce the number of
31 individuals who hold pretrial status in the State's jails and
32 divert those who are houseless, poor, and in need of mental
33 health care or substance use treatment to the appropriate
34 service providers; now, therefore,
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
38 of 2025, that the Auditor is requested to perform a
39 comprehensive performance, management and financial audit of the
40 Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and Department of
41 Accounting and General Services regarding spending related to
42 the planning, design, financing, construction, and maintenance



1 of a new jail to replace the Oahu Community Correctional Center;
2 and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the comprehensive performance,
5 management and financial audit is requested to include, at a
6 minimum:

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8 (1) A review of accountability measures within the
9 Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and
10 Department of Accounting and General Services related
11 to the planning of a new jail to replace the Oahu
12 Community Correctional Center;

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14 (2) An analysis of the Department of Corrections and
15 Rehabilitation's budget and whether the expenditure of
16 funds related to the planning, design, financing,
17 construction, and maintenance of a new jail to replace
18 the Oahu Community Correctional Center is in
19 accordance with the funding's original purpose;

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21 (3) An examination of the Department of Corrections and
22 Rehabilitation's and Department of Accounting and
23 General Services' compliance with procurement laws
24 related to the planning, design, financing,
25 construction, and maintenance of a new jail to replace
26 the Oahu Community Correctional Center;

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28 (4) A list of all contractors and subcontractors, the
29 dates of the contractors' and subcontractors' duties,
30 and the completion of the contractors' and
31 subcontractors' duties related to the proposed
32 construction of a new jail to replace the Oahu
33 Community Correctional Center; and

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35 (5) Any other matters that the Auditor deems necessary or
36 appropriate; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Corrections
39 and Rehabilitation and Department of Accounting and General
40 Services are urged to fully cooperate with and provide any
41 necessary assistance requested by the Auditor with respect to
42 the comprehensive performance, management and financial audit



1 and respond promptly to all requests from the Auditor, including
2 providing records and other information that may be requested
3 during the course of the audit; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
6 submit a report of the findings of the comprehensive
7 performance, management and financial audit and recommendations,
8 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
9 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
10 of 2026; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, Director of
14 Corrections and Rehabilitation, and Comptroller.
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