



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 104 SD 2 HD 1
RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol

March 19, 2025

2:00PM

Room 325

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SB 104 SD 2 HD 1** which restricts the use of restrictive housing in state-operated and state-contracted correctional facilities, requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to develop written policies and procedures regarding restrictive housing, requires the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission to review certain housing placements, requires the Department to develop policies and procedures to review and develop a plan for committed persons placed in restrictive housing, and requires a report to the Legislature and Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission.

OHA strongly supports policies which reduce harmful psychological, social, cultural, and economic impacts on pa'ahao, their 'ohana, and the greater Hawaiian community. Native Hawaiians continue to be disproportionately impacted by Hawai'i's criminal justice system, comprising approximately 37% of the state's correctional facilities, while representing only 21% of the total state population.¹ In 2021, 5.1% of Hawai'i's total prison population was held in solitary confinement.² 245 people were held in solitary confinement for 15 or more days, and 103 people in men's prisons were held in solitary confinement for one year or more.³

¹ "Creating Better Outcomes, Safer Communities – Final Report of the House Concurrent Resolution 85 Task Force on Prison Reform to the Hawai'i Legislature – 2019 Regular Session," HCR 85 Task Force; Legislative Reference Bureau (December 2018) at p. xiii, https://www.courts.state.hi.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/HCR-85_task_force_final_report.pdf

² "Time-In-Cell: A 2021 Snapshot of Restrictive Housing based on a Nationwide Survey of U.S. Prison Systems," The Correctional Leaders Association & The Arthur Liman Center for Public Interest Law at Yale Law School (August 2022) at p. 8, [time in cell 2021.pdf](#)

³ "Time-In-Cell: A 2021 Snapshot of Restrictive Housing based on a Nationwide Survey of U.S. Prison Systems," The Correctional Leaders Association & The Arthur Liman Center for Public Interest Law at Yale Law School (August 2022) at p. 8; p. 11, [time in cell 2021.pdf](#)

In addition to being overrepresented in prisons, Native Hawaiians experience higher rates of depression, suicidality, and anxiety compared to other ethnic groups in Hawai'i.⁴ Although the risk of serious harm exists for all prisoners, it is intensified for those who suffer from a pre-existing mental illness or other vulnerabilities.⁵ Solitary confinement often has catastrophic consequences for those who are subjected, including worsening symptoms such as depression, anxiety, and hallucinations, the impediment of rehabilitation, recovery, and community re-integration, and adverse long-term consequences for cognitive and adaptive functioning.⁶ For these reasons, the Revised United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners prohibits the use of solitary confinement for a time exceeding fifteen consecutive days and characterizes this disciplinary sanction as a form of torture.⁷

The impacts of restrictive housing on the mental and psychological health of incarcerated people are extensive and well documented. To this end, since 2009, 42 states have established laws restricting or eliminating solitary confinement.⁸ Such an extreme form of punishment should accordingly be upheld to scrupulous standards of conduct, with frequent evaluations of inmates before, throughout, and following. Therefore, OHA urges this committee to **PASS SB104 SD 2 HD 1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony on this critical issue.

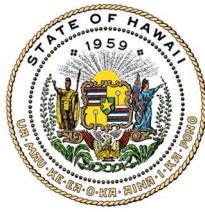
⁴ Jara C, Phan N., "Understanding Hawaiian Identity and Well-being to Improve Mental Health Outcomes for Hawaiian Young Adults," Hawaii J Health Soc Welf. (May11, 2024), <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11070781/#:~:text=The%20NHPI%20community%20experience%20higher,ethnic%20groups%20in%20Hawai'i.&text=Research%20also%20links%20mental%20illness,of%20developing%20serious%20health%20conditions>.

⁵ Craig Haney, "Restricting the Use of Solitary Confinement," Annual Reviews (January 2018), <https://www.annualreviews.org/content/journals/10.1146/annurev-criminol-032317-092326>

⁶ "Solitary Confinement," NAMI (2025), <https://www.nami.org/advocacy/policy-priorities/stopping-harmful-practices/solitary-confinement/>

⁷ "The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules)," United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2015) at p. 14, https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/Nelson_Mandela_Rules-E-ebook.pdf

⁸ Hernandez D. Stroud, "Reforming Solitary Confinement Without the High Court," Brennan Center for Justice (February 21, 2024), <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/reforming-solitary-confinement-without-high-court>



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 104, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO CORRECTIONS.

by
Tommy Johnson

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & via Videoconference

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) **strongly opposes** Senate Bill (SB) 104, Senate Draft (SD) 2, House Draft (HD) 1, which seeks to restrict the use of solitary confinement in state-operated and state-contracted correctional facilities, with certain specific exceptions. As written, this measure also requires DCR to use appropriate alternatives to "solitary confinement" for vulnerable inmates as defined in SB 104, SD 2, and requires:

1. DCR to develop written policies and procedures regarding restrictive housing by July 1, 2026;
2. The Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) to review certain housing placements;
3. DCR, by April 1, 2026, to develop policies and procedures to review committed persons placed in restrictive housing and develop a plan for committed persons currently in restrictive housing; and
4. A report to the legislature and HCSOC.

DCR strongly opposes this measure as it is unnecessary, and in many ways, duplicative in several areas of DCR's attached correctional policy Administrative Segregation and Disciplinary Segregation (COR.11.01). DCR's policies and procedures are periodically reviewed and updated to ensure continued alignment with the guidelines of the National Institute of Corrections (NIC), and the American Correctional Association (ACA). As written, SB 104, SD 1, HD 1 does not follow the guidelines of the NIC nor the ACA. The attached DCR policy was recently updated in 2024, as part of the periodic review and update procedures, and is posted on our website for anyone to access and review.

Further, Section 1 on page 5 (lines 1 and 2) appears to provide operational decision making to HCSOC, with respect to DCR's decision regarding housing placement of offenders sentenced to the custody care of the Director of DCR, which exceeds the intent of the legislation creating the commission. HCSOC can make recommendations to the DCR, the legislature, and the Governor, but cannot make operational decisions relating to the DCR.

DCR notes, that the term "solitary confinement" is no longer used; instead, there are now several levels of confinement used nationwide, that are more specifically described to ensure both the safety and well-being of inmates, and to address unacceptable, disruptive, and violent behaviors displayed by some inmates. As written, SB 104, SD 1, HD 1 would restrict DCR's ability to ensure the health and safety of inmates; placing unneeded barriers that would prevent DCR from acting promptly to address volatile situations that routinely occur in correctional facilities across the nation.

It should be noted that HCSOC has had access to all DCR's policies for some time, including the attached policy, which is posted on DCR's website for all to review, and has never previously raised concerns. This measure attempts to resolve a problem that does not exist.

Recently, there have been unprovoked attacks by inmates on correctional staff resulting in serious injuries. One officer suffered a serious skull fracture, another was seriously injured because of being pushed down a flight of stairs as he rushed to


intervene and assist an inmate being assaulted, and yet another officer sustained facial injuries after being punched in the face by an inmate. Several nurses have been injured by inmates for no apparent reason, while attempting to provide them with treatment. If enacted, the requirements of SB 104, SD 2, HD 1 would hinder, or delay DCR's staff intervention, which would increase the levels of danger and disruption to staff, other inmates, and the good governance of facility operations.

DCR notes, that age, developmental disability, and mental illness have very little to do with the State's requirement for the protection of others from harm, assault, and even loss of life. DCR has the responsibility to assure the safety and well-being of all offenders. Separating and monitoring offenders exhibiting inappropriate behaviors is necessary for the greater good and the protection of these offenders.

In attempting to cover most scenarios, this measure's requirements tend toward generalities, which counter the updated national standards which are moving towards more specificity for administrative and disciplinary segregation. DCR's current policies and procedures regarding inmate classification, housing, and internal disciplinary processes, including the inmate's ability to avail themselves of access to legal counsel, and the complaint and grievance processes, all help to ensure that inmates are not mistreated, and are housed in locations consistent with their level of custody and security requirements. This fosters participation in the appropriate programs of need, and the overall safety, of an institution.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong opposition** to SB 104, SD 2, HD 1.

Encl.

	DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION CORRECTION ADMINISTRATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES		EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2024	POLICY NO.: COR.11.01
			SUPERSEDES (Policy No. & Date): COR.11.01 of November 28, 2014	
	SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE SEGREGATION AND DISCIPLINARY SEGREGATION			Page 1 of 13

1.0 PURPOSE

To establish a statewide policy and procedure for the segregation of inmates from the general population based on supervision requirements, offender status, medical and mental health considerations and other conditions of confinement at a Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) Correctional Facility.

2.0 SCOPE

This policy shall apply to all Departmental Facilities of the Corrections Division, and it is applicable to all staff, contractors, volunteers, and inmates.

3.0 REFERENCES, DEFINITIONS & FORMS

.1 References:

- a. Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), Section 353-A, Director of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Powers and Duties.
- b. Department Directives from Director Ted Sakai dated May 7, 2013, Placement of Inmates in Segregation is hereby superseded by this policy.
- c. Department Policy and Procedure (P&P), COR 13.02, Adjustment Committee Composition.
- d. Department Policy & Procedure, COR 13.03, Adjustment Procedures Governing Serious Misconduct Violations and the Adjustment of Minor Misconduct Violations.
- e. Department Policy & Procedure, COR.10.1A.01, Health Care Section, Access to Care.
- f. Department Policy & Procedure, COR.10.1E.09, Health Care Section Segregated Inmates.

.2 Definitions:

- a. Adjustment Committee Hearing – An administrative due process hearing to determine if there is a preponderance of evidence to find an inmate guilty of a misconduct violation as defined in COR.13.03.

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- b. Administrative Segregation – Inmates may be segregated on a temporary basis from the general inmate population on the order of a watch commander or higher authority, when their continued presence in general population presents an immediate threat to the safety of self or others, jeopardizes the integrity of an investigation of alleged serious misconduct or criminal activity, or endangers institutional security. The terminology “administrative segregation” is not applicable to general population maximum custody or general population protective custody inmates housed in segregation unit.
- c. Disciplinary Segregation – Placement of an inmate in a designated segregation housing unit in a cell separated from the general population, after being found guilty of a misconduct violation and issued a sanction by a formal adjustment committee hearing. Disciplinary segregation includes the loss of certain privileges consistent with DCR policy and as authorized by the Warden or designee.
- d. Program Committee – The Warden or designee shall assign more than one staff member from the following programs/sections: case management, medical/mental health professionals, and/or security staff to conduct this hearing. The Program Committee hearing may be conducted by utilizing video technology.
- e. Segregation – Confinement of an inmate in a cell that is separated from general inmate population.
- f. Serious Misconduct – A greatest (6), high (7), or moderate category (8) misconduct, all of which are considered to pose a serious threat to the safety, security or welfare of the staff, other inmates, the community, or the institution, and subjects the inmate to the imposition of serious penalties such as segregation for longer than four hours.
- g. Serious Misconduct Adjustment – A serious misconduct shall be addressed through the formal adjustment committee hearing process.
- h. Wardens or Designees – The facility administrator or next supervisory level in chain of command at a correctional center or correctional institution (i.e. Deputy Warden or Chief of Security or Correctional Supervisor), who may be authorized temporary assignment into the Warden’s position.

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.3 Forms

- a. Administrative Segregation Form (DCR 8226), Parts A, B, C, D.
- b. Weekly Administrative Segregation Unit Log (DCR 8316).
- c. Administrative Segregation Facility Report for the Institutions Division Administrator.

4.0 POLICY

It is the policy of DCR, Corrections Division, to develop procedures to ensure that an inmate is treated fairly and receives due process, through a multi-disciplinary approach when being assessed and placed in segregation. Placement in segregation is intended to support the rehabilitative process while maintaining security, the orderly running and the good governance of the facility, and as a means to promote an environment of rehabilitation and safety.

5.0 PROCEDURES

.1 ADMINISTRATIVE SEGREGATION

- a. Inmates may be segregated from the general inmate population according to DCR policy by the Watch Commander or higher authority, when the continue presence of the inmate in the general inmate population presents an immediate threat to the safety of self or others, jeopardizes the integrity of an investigation of an alleged serious misconduct or criminal activity or endangers institutional security.
- b. This placement is subject to the review of the Warden or designee within twenty-four (24) hours or as soon as is practicable on the next business day following a weekend or holiday (i.e. If placed on Saturday and Monday is a holiday, then the Warden will review on Tuesday) of the inmate's placement at which time a decision shall be made to continue administrative segregation or to release the inmate back to the general inmate population.
- c. All inmates have the right to seek administrative review of their placement in administrative segregation through the inmate grievance process.

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d. Placement

1. The Watch Commander or higher authority is authorized to place an inmate in administrative segregation, and is required to document that placement as described below.
2. The Warden or designee shall consider whether an inmate's continued presence in the general inmate population presents an immediate threat to the safety of self or others, jeopardizes the integrity of an investigation related to an alleged serious misconduct or criminal activity, or endangers the institutional security as determining factors for placement of an inmate in administrative segregation.
3. The Warden or designee may consider reliable sources of information, including confidential information, to substantiate that the inmate's continued presence in the general inmate population poses a threat to the community, property, self, staff, other inmates, security, or the orderly running and good government of the facility and thereby warrants placement in administrative segregation.

e. Required Documentation

1. The inmate's conduct along with any confidential or other reliable information shall be documented on an Incident Report, DCR 8214 (Attachment A) or in an Inter-Office Memorandum (IOM) to substantiate the facts that warrant administrative segregation.
2. This report must be completed and forwarded to the person who authorizes placement of the inmate in administrative segregation prior to the end of their shift.
3. The Watch Commander or higher authority who authorizes placement shall complete the Administrative Segregation Form, Part A (DCR 8226), which functions as the "written authorization" for placement in administrative segregation and is subject to the Warden's review by the next business day following a weekend or holiday.
4. A copy of "DCR 8226, Part A" shall be provided to the inmate within twenty-four (24) hours of placement in administrative segregation.

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5. The "DCR 8226, Part A" shall include the following information:

- a) Reason for the inmate's placement in administrative segregation;
and
- b) The approximate length of segregation and/or the date of the next scheduled review.

f. Notification

1. The Watch Commander or higher authority shall immediately notify health care staff of the placement of an inmate in administrative segregation.
2. At the facility without twenty-four (24) hour on site health care, the inmate's placement in administrative segregation shall be reviewed immediately when health care staff next reports for duty. The facility shall ensure the inmate has more frequent observations (15 minute checks or constant observation) until the inmate is reviewed by health care staff and/or mental health staff.
3. The designated health care staff shall assess the inmate's placement in administrative segregation prior to admission into the segregation unit or as indicated above for facilities without twenty-four (24) hour on site health care. The health care staff shall determine whether physical health or mental health issues exist that contraindicate the inmate's placement in administrative segregation. The health care staff shall immediately notify a mental health professional if there are any indications that the inmate has mental health issues.
4. Mental health staff shall conduct a mental health review within twenty-four (24) hours of an inmate's placement in administrative segregation. This review applies to all inmates and is not limited to those inmates with known or suspected mental health issues or inmate who exhibit behaviors that impact their ability to be safely placed in administrative segregation. If an inmate is placed in administrative segregation during a weekend in a facility without seven-day mental health coverage, mental health staff shall conduct a review immediately upon next reporting to duty.
5. If there are compelling security reasons for the continued placement of an inmate in administrative segregation, despite health care

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concerns, the Warden shall be immediately notified by the Watch Commander or higher authority.

The Warden shall review the findings of the Watch Commander and health care staff. Based on these findings, the Warden shall determine the most appropriate placement for the inmate, and notify in writing the Institutions Division Administrator (IDA) of the placement and reasons for the inmate's placement.

g. Review of Inmate's Status In Administrative Segregation

1. The Warden or designee shall review the documentation related to the inmate's placement in administrative segregation within twenty-four (24) hours of placement or as soon as is practicable on the next business day following a weekend or holiday. This is when the Warden or designee shall make the initial decision as to whether the inmate is to be placed on administrative segregation or released back to the general inmate population.
2. The Warden or designee shall conduct a personal interview with the inmate no later than seventy-two (72) hours from the date of the placement in administrative segregation to determine if administrative segregation is still warranted.
3. The Warden or designee shall prepare a written record to document the interview, the decision whether to continue placement, and the justification for the recommended action. A copy of the decision and justification shall be provided to the inmate on DCR 8226, Part B.
4. By the fifteenth (15th) day after an inmate's initial placement in administering segregation, the Facility Program Committee shall hold a due process hearing to assess the need to continue an inmate's placement in administrative segregation. This shall be the inmate's formal due process opportunity to contest his/her placement in administrative placement.
5. The Facility Program Committee shall formulate a case management action plan for the inmate's "progression out" of administrative segregation and include a written record of their decision to confirm the administrative segregation placement or to release the inmate back to the general inmate population. A copy of the decision shall be provided to the inmate on DCR 8226, Part C.

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6. Thirty (30) days after an inmate's initial placement in administrative segregation and every thirty (30) days thereafter, the Warden or designee shall personally interview the inmate, reassess the case management action plan, and make a written record of his/her decision to either confirm the continued administrated segregation housing or to release the inmate back to the general inmate population. A copy of the decision shall be provided to the inmate on DCR 8226, Part D.
7. The Warden shall notify the IDA every thirty (3) days of an inmate's continued placement in administrative segregation and the status of the inmate's compliance with the case management action plan.
8. The IDA shall conduct monthly reviews of all inmates who have been in administrative segregation for thirty (30) days or more. This shall include a review of all documentation relevant to the inmate's placement including, but not limited to: Incident reports or IOMs generated as part of the initial placement; case management action plan; documentation justifying continued placement; grievance appeals; and medical/mental health assessments.
9. The IDA shall consider whether a transfer of the inmate to a facility where he/she may be placed in the general inmate population would be appropriate or if continued placement in administrative segregation is warranted.
10. The IDA shall submit a written report of the results of each thirty (30) day review to the Deputy Director of Corrections (DEP-C).
11. The DEP-C shall consider whether a transfer of the inmate to a facility where he/she may be placed in the general inmate population would be appropriate or if continued placement in administrative segregation is warranted.

.2 DISCIPLINARY SEGREGATION

- a. Inmates may be required to serve a period of disciplinary segregation as a consequence of a guilty finding for a violation of a serious misconduct. Disciplinary segregation includes the loss of certain privileges as dictated by facility policy.

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- b. All inmates have the right to seek administrative review of an adjustment committee's decision of placement in disciplinary segregation through the grievance process.
- c. Placement
 1. The Watch Commander or higher authority is authorized to place an inmate in disciplinary segregation based on an adjustment committee hearing and finding of guilt based on a preponderance of the evidence for violating a serious misconduct (COR.13.03).
 2. If an adjustment committee issues a sanction of disciplinary segregation exceeding a period of sixty (60) days, he expressed written approval of the IDA is required.
 3. Any disciplinary segregation sanction shall consider an inmate's medical and mental health needs, the gravity of the facts, and the severity of the serious misconduct violation.
 4. The Warden or his/her designee may modify any adjustment committee's sanction in accordance with COR.13.03.
- d. Required Documentation
 1. The Adjustment Committee shall document their findings and disposition on the Notice of Report of Misconduct and Hearing form (DCR 8210A).
 2. A copy of the Notice of Report of Misconduct and Hearing form (DCR 8210A) shall be signed by the inmate and a copy shall be provided to the inmate. The inmate's refusal to sign shall be documented.
 3. The Notice of Report of Misconduct and Hearing form shall include, but not be limited to the following information:
 - a) A listing of the misconduct violated;
 - b) Findings of the adjustment committee;
 - c) The evidence relied upon;
 - d) The denial of witnesses;
 - e) Listing of any privileges revoked and the justification;
 - f) Length of the disciplinary segregation.

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e. Notification

1. The Watch Commander/Correctional Supervisor or higher authority shall immediately notify health care staff of the placement of an inmate in disciplinary segregation.
2. At any facility without twenty-four (24) hour on site health care, the inmate's placement in disciplinary segregation shall be reviewed immediately when health care next reports for duty. The facility shall ensure that the inmate has more frequent observations (15 minute checks or constant observation), until reviewed by health care staff and/or mental health staff. It should be noted that a facility is able to schedule placement when health care staff is on duty.
3. The designated health care staff shall assess the inmate's placement in disciplinary segregation prior to his/her assignment to the segregation unit. As any facility without twenty-four (24) on site health care to assessment shall occur when health care staff next reports for duty to determine whether physical health or mental health issues exist that contraindicate the inmate's placement in disciplinary segregation. The health care staff must immediately notify a mental health professional if there are any indications that the inmate has mental health issues.
4. Mental health staff shall conduct a mental health review within twenty-four (24) hours of an inmate's placement in disciplinary segregation. This review applies to all inmates, and is not limited to those inmates with known or suspected mental health issues or inmates who exhibit behaviors that impact their ability to be safely placed in disciplinary segregation. If an inmate is placed in disciplinary segregation during a weekend in a facility without seven-day mental health coverage, mental health staff shall conduct a review immediately upon next reporting day.
5. If there are compelling security reasons for the continued placement of an inmate in disciplinary segregation despite health care concerns, the Warden shall be immediately notified by the Watch Commander or higher authority.
6. The Warden shall review the written findings of both the Watch Commander and the health care staff. Based on these findings, the Warden shall determine that most appropriate placement for the

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inmate, and notify in writing the Institutions Division Administrator of the placement and reasons for the inmate's placement. The IDA will discuss the matter or any conflict with the Deputy Director of Corrections, who will make the final decision on the inmate's placement.

f. Review of Inmate's Status In Disciplinary Segregation

1. The Warden shall review the adjustment hearing documentation (DCR 8210A) related to an inmate's placement in disciplinary segregation within twenty-four (24) hours, or on the next official business day if placement was effectuated on a weekend or holiday.
2. The IDA shall be notified in writing prior to day sixty (60) of an inmate's disciplinary segregation to seek authorization for any consecutive sanction.

g. Inmate Monitoring in Administrative Segregation and Disciplinary Segregation

1. A health care professional shall tour each segregation housing unit by observing each inmate at cell front once per day. The health care professional shall communicate with the staff on duty in the segregation unit to identify any inmate with medical or mental health concerns.
2. Each segregation unit shall have a locked inmate medical request collection box located in an area accessible to inmates during out of cell time (i.e. showers, recreation, phone calls). Only health care staff shall have access to the contents of these boxes. Health care staff shall retrieve the contents of these boxes daily, review and address any inmate request slips located within the box or make a referral to the appropriate health care professional.
3. The health care professional shall review any inmate request slips deposited in the units' medical request collection boxes to ascertain any other health related issues or concerns. Any action taken shall be documented in the inmate's official medical record file. The health care professional's tours shall be documented in the segregation unit logbook.

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4. A mental health professional shall tour each segregation housing unit(s) not less than five (5) times per week. The mental health professional shall communicate with the staff on duty in the segregation unit to identify any inmate with mental health or well-being concerns. Any action taken shall be documented in the inmate's official medical record file. The mental health care professional's tours shall be documented in the segregation unit logbook.
5. The Adult Correctional Office (ACO) in the segregation unit shall personally observe each inmate in segregation once every thirty (3) minutes at irregular intervals, unless an inmate's behavior requires more frequent observations (15 minute checks or constant observations), based on a recommendation from a health care professional or as required by Section 4.1.f.2. The ACO shall document his/her observations in the unit logbook.
6. The ACO shall document in real time the following: meals, showers, hygiene, cell inspections, recreation, visits, telephone calls, and interaction with medical, mental health, facility administration, watch supervisors, case managers, grievance specialist, and other program staff on the Weekly Segregation Activity form (DCR 8316). The ACO shall maintain the unit logbook in accordance with COR.05.08: Post and Area Logbooks. This shall be maintained for the purpose of review and a formal record.
7. The Segregation Unit Sergeant, Security Lieutenant, and Watch Commander shall observe every inmate in the segregation unit at least once on each shift, inclusive of weekends and holidays. These individual's observations shall be documented in the unit logbook and the visit shall be documented on DCR 8316.
8. The Warden, Deputy Warden, and COS shall tour each segregation unit once each week to observe each inmate, review DCR 8316, and sign the unit logbook. This is to assure that an inmate's visits, activities, privileges, recreation, observations by staff, and reviews are being conducted as required by this policy.
9. The IDA shall tour each segregation unit once every ninety (90) days for compliance and observation of each inmate, review DCR 8316, and sign the unit logbook.

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h. Basic Living Conditions for Administrative Segregation and Disciplinary Segregation

1. Inmates in segregation shall receive privileges consistent with a facility's available resources and security consideration.
2. Disciplinary segregation is a punitive action for an inmate found guilty of serious rule misconduct. An Adjustment Committee may deny the inmate any number of privileges as set forth in the misconduct policy and disciplinary record.
3. Inmates in segregation shall have non-contact personal visits in accordance with the facility visit policy. All official visits shall be non-contact, except at the discretion of the Warden a contact official visit may be afforded. It is important to note that the presence of a security concern will always warrant non-contact official visits.
4. Inmates in segregation shall be allowed non-official telephone calls in accordance with the facility's telephone policy. All official or legal phone calls, such as attorney (if a docketed case exists), ombudsman, and other official State and Federal agencies shall not be restricted.
5. All inmates in segregation based on their status as administrative segregation or disciplinary segregation shall have the opportunity to maintain basic hygiene and shall have access to courts, health care, social workers, spiritual advisors, reading materials, and recreation.

i. Documentation for Administrative Segregation and Disciplinary Segregation

1. All completed administrative segregation documentation and adjustment hearing documentation shall be distributed as dictated on the relevant form(s).
2. The original documents for administrative segregation and disciplinary segregation shall be filed in the inmate's institutional file or jail file.
3. Each Warden shall submit the Administrative Segregation Facility Report to the IDA by Wednesday of the following week.

NOT CONFIDENTIAL

DCR P & P M	SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE SEGREGATION AND DISCIPLINARY SEGREGATION	POLICY NO.: COR.11.01
		EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2024
		Page 13 of 13

4. It is important to retain all information as dictated by the State of Hawaii, Department of Accounting and General Services' (DAGS) records retention schedule.

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED:


JAN 01 2024

Deputy Director for Corrections Date

APPROVED:


JAN 01 2024

DIRECTOR Date

NOT CONFIDENTIAL



**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND
REHABILITATION
ADMINISTRATIVE SEGREGATION
FORM PART A**

INMATE'S NAME:

INMATE'S SID:

HOUSING MOVEMENT FROM/TO:

REASON(S) FOR PLACEMENT IN ADMINISTRATIVE SEGREGATION (PART A)
TO BE COMPLETED BY WATCH COMMANDER OR HIGHER AUTHORITY

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

- ☐ INMATE PRESENTS AN IMMEDIATE THREAT TO SAFETY OF SELF OR OTHERS
- ☐ INMATE JEOPARDIZES INTEGRITY OF INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED SERIOUS MISCONDUCT OR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY
- ☐ INMATE ENDANGERS INSTITUTIONAL SECURITY
- ☐ OTHER _____

DESCRIPTION OR CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH SUPPORT THE REASON(S) FOR PLACEMENT:

☐ CONTINUED ON ATTACHED PAGE ☐ IF BASED ON CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, DATE INMATE NOTIFIED _____

DATE OF PLACEMENT:	PRINT NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZING PERSON:	SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZING PERSON:
DATE AND TIME NOTICE SERVED ON INMATE: _____/_____/_____ HOURS	PRINT NAME AND TITLE OF STAFF SERVING PLACEMENT NOTICE:	SIGNATURE OF STAFF SERVING PLACEMENT NOTICE:
	INMATE SIGNATURE AND DATE:	<input type="checkbox"/> INMATE REFUSED TO SIGN. THE STAFF MEMBER SERVING THE FORM WITNESSED THE REFUSAL AND PROVIDED THE INMATE A COPY THIS FORM.

DISTRIBUTION: INMATE, INSTITUTIONAL FILE, SEG UNIT, FACILITY HCU CLINICAL SECTION ADMINISTRATOR, COS, CS I/II



**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND
REHABILITATION
ADMINISTRATIVE SEGREGATION
FORM PART B**

INMATE'S NAME:

INMATE'S SID:

CURRENT HOUSING:

FACE TO FACE REVIEW (PART B)

THE FOLLOWING IS TO BE COMPLETED DURING THE 72 HOUR ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW BY THE WARDEN OR DESIGNEE

INMATE WAIVERS:

- ☐ INMATE WAIVES OR DECLINES INTERVIEW WITH REVIEWING PARTY
☐ NO WITNESS(ES) REQUESTED BY INMATE

INMATE SIGNATURE

DATE/TIME:

WITNESSES REQUESTED FOR REVIEW PROCESS

WITNESS NAME AND SID:

WITNESS NAME & SID:

WITNESS NAME AND SID:

WITNESS NAME & SID:

DECISION: ☐ RELEASE TO _____ ☐ MAINTAIN SEG HOUSING PENDING PROG COMMITTEE REVIEW
☐ MUST BE HOUSED IN A SINGLE CELL

REASON FOR DECISION (IF NECESSARY, ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES):

PRINT NAME OF WARDEN OR DESIGNEE :

SIGNATURE OF WARDEN OR DESIGNEE:

DATE/TIME: /

PRINT NAME AND TITLE OF STAFF SERVING RESULTS:

SIGNATURE OF STAFF SERVING RESULTS:

DATE/TIME: /

INMATE SIGNATURE AND DATE/TIME:

☐ INMATE REFUSED TO SIGN. THE STAFF MEMBER SERVING THE FORM WITNESSED THE REFUSAL AND PROVIDED THE INMATE A COPY THIS FORM.

DISTRIBUTION: INMATE, INSTITUTIONAL FILE, SEG UNIT, FACILITY HCU CLINICAL SECTION ADMINISTRATOR, COS, CS III



**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND
REHABILITATION
ADMINISTRATIVE SEGREGATION
FORM PART C**

INMATE'S NAME:

INMATE'S SID:

CURRENT HOUSING:

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REVIEW (PART C)

THE FOLLOWING IS TO BE COMPLETED DURING THE ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW BY
THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE ON THE FIFTEENTH (15TH) DAY FOLLOWING SEGREGATION PLACEMENT

INMATE WAIVERS:

- ☐ INMATE WAIVES OR DECLINES TO BE PRESENT AT PROGRAM
COMMITTEE REVIEW
☐ NO WITNESS(ES) REQUESTED BY INMATE

INMATE SIGNATURE

DATE/TIME:

WITNESSES REQUESTED FOR PROGRAM COMMITTEE

WITNESS NAME AND SID:

WITNESS NAME & SID:

WITNESS NAME AND SID:

WITNESS NAME & SID:

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEMBER OR MEMBERS (LIST NAME, TITLE, AND IDENTIFY THE CHAIRPERSON):

DECISION: ☐ RELEASE TO _____ ☐ MAINTAIN SEG HOUSING SUBJECT TO NEXT SCHEDULED REVIEW
(HOUSING) ☐ MUST BE HOUSED IN A SINGLE CELL

REASON FOR DECISION (IF NECESSARY, ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES):

PRINT NAME OF CHAIRPERSON:

SIGNATURE OF CHAIRPERSON:

DATE/TIME: /

PRINT NAME AND TITLE OF STAFF SERVING RESULTS:

SIGNATURE OF STAFF SERVING RESULTS:

DATE/TIME: /

INMATE SIGNATURE AND DATE/TIME

DATE/TIME: /

☐ INMATE REFUSED TO SIGN. THE STAFF MEMBER
SERVING THE FORM WITNESSED THE REFUSAL AND
PROVIDED THE INMATE A COPY THIS FORM.

DISTRIBUTION: INMATE, INSTITUTIONAL FILE, SEG UNIT, FACILITY HCU CLINICAL SECTION ADMINISTRATOR, COS, CS III

DCR 8226 (01/2024)



**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND
REHABILITATION
ADMINISTRATIVE SEGREGATION
FORM PART D**

INMATE'S NAME:

INMATE'S SID:

CURRENT HOUSING:

WARDEN OR DESIGNEE REVIEW (PART D)

THE FOLLOWING IS TO BE COMPLETED DURING THE ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW BY THE WARDEN OR DESIGNEE
ON DAY THIRTY (30) FOLLOWING THE ADMINISTRATIVE SEGREGATION PLACEMENT
AND EVERY THIRTY (30 DAYS) THEREAFTER

INMATE WAIVERS:

- ☐ INMATE WAIVES OR DECLINES INTERVIEW WITH
WARDEN/DEPUTY WARDEN
☐ NO WITNESS(ES) REQUESTED BY INMATE

INMATE SIGNATURE

DATE/TIME:

WITNESSES REQUESTED FOR REVIEW

WITNESS NAME AND SID:

WITNESS NAME & SID:

WITNESS NAME AND SID:

WITNESS NAME & SID:

DECISION: ☐ RELEASE TO _____ ☐ MAINTAIN SEG HOUSING PENDING PROG COMMITTEE REVIEW
(HOUSING) ☐ MUST BE HOUSED IN A SINGLE CELL

REASON FOR DECISION (IF NECESSARY, ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES):

PRINT NAME OF WARDEN OR DESIGNEE:

SIGNATURE OF WARDEN OR DESIGNEE:

DATE/TIME: /

PRINT NAME AND TITLE OF STAFF SERVING RESULTS:

SIGNATURE OF STAFF SERVING RESULTS:

DATE/TIME: /

INMATE SIGNATURE AND DATE/TIME

DATE/TIME: /

☐ INMATE REFUSED TO SIGN. THE STAFF MEMBER
SERVING THE FORM WITNESSED THE REFUSAL AND
PROVIDED THE INMATE A COPY THIS FORM.

**DISTRIBUTION: INMATE, INSTITUTIONAL FILE, SEG UNIT, FACILITY HCU CLINICAL SECTION ADMINISTRATOR, COS, CS III,
IDA, DEP-C**

DCR 8226 (01/2024)

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION
WEEKLY ADMINISTRATIVE SEGREGATION LOG**

WEEK OF _____

INMATE NAME:	SID #:	LOC OF UNIT:
DATE AND TIME ADMITTED:	TENTATIVE RELEASE DATE:	
DATE AND TIME RELEASED:	MH CASELOAD: Y / N	MEDICATION: Y / N

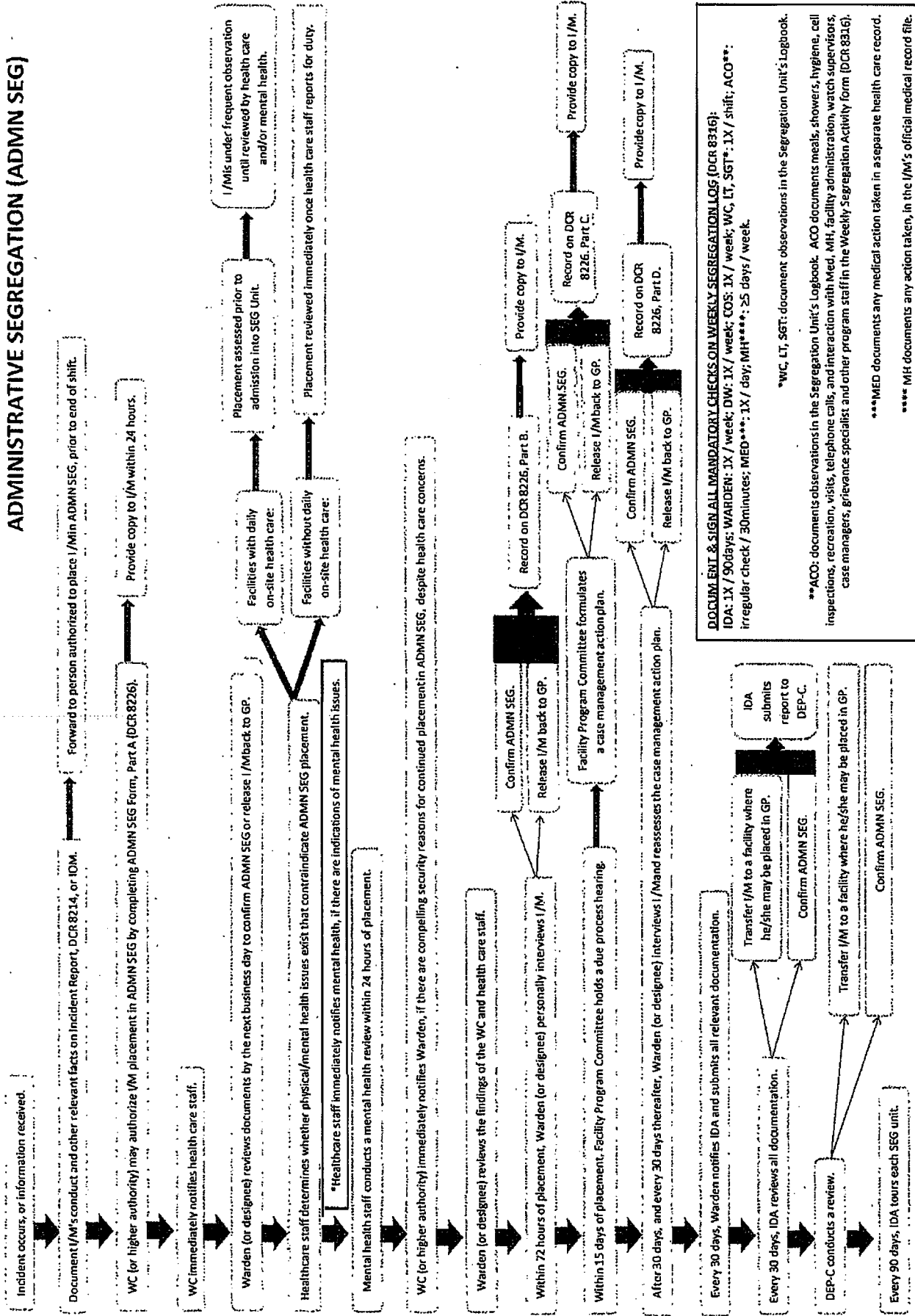
DATE	SHIFT	CHOW (P/D) (W/B/L)	SHOWER SHOWER	HYGIENE (P/D) (W/B/L)	CELL INSPECTION	RECREATION	VISITS (W) PHONE (P)	MENTAL HEALTH	MEDICAL	WARDEN/DUTY WARDEN/COS	WATCH COMMANDER/ SUPERVISOR	SW, JSP, GRIEV, VOL.	DAY
	1												S U N
	2												
	3												
	1												M O N
	2												
	3												
	1												T U E
	2												
	3												
	1												W E D
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	2												
	3												
	1												F R I
	2												
	3												
	1												S A T
	2												
	3												

CHOW, SHOWER, CELL INSPECTION, RECREATION: (Y) for YES; (N) for NO; (R) for REFUSED, PRINT INITIALS AND THE TIME. SCHEDULE OF MANDATORY CHECKS: WARDEN - 1X every week; DW - 1X every week; COS - 1X every week; WC - 1X every shift.

UNIT LOGBOOK: SEG UNIT LT/SGT - 1X every shift; SEG UNIT ACO - Irregular checks every 30 min.; MEDICAL - 1x per day; MH - 25x per week. TURN IN COMPLETED FORM TO COS AT THE END OF THIRD WATCH (SATURDAY).

REVIEWED BY ADMIN CAPT/LT/WC DATE _____

ADMINISTRATIVE SEGREGATION (ADMN SEG)



WEEK OF

[illegible]

INCIDENT REPORT

Prepared on: _____

(Watch Supervisor)

(Specify inmate name & ID and location if related to misconduct)

Title

PINK - ATTACH TO MISCONDUCT REPORT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION
CORRECTIONS DIVISION

Prepared On: _____ Facility: _____
Date: _____ Time: _____

NOTICE OF REPORT OF MISCONDUCT AND HEARING

TO: _____
NAME SID NO. HOUSING UNIT

You are herein notified that a written report of misconduct was filed against you on _____.
A copy of the charge(s) is listed below.

A hearing on the charge(s) has been scheduled and you are to be present at _____
(LOCATION)
_____, on _____
(TIME) (DATE)

As required by Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation procedure, this hearing has been scheduled to determine the facts and administer just corrective action. You have the right to: 1) Have any charge explained to you; 2) Explain any written material concerning the charge; 3) Request charge(s):

CHAIRMAN

.....
Received notice of charges and rights:

I acknowledge receipt of the Notice of Report of Misconduct and Hearing. I understand I may have counsel substitute. The Adjustment Committee must be notified as to who your counsel substitute is within a reasonable time, not less than 12 hours prior to the hearing.

I do ☐ I do not ☐ waive my right to 24 hour prior notice.

Date: _____ Signature: _____
RESIDENT

Findings and Disposition of Corrective Action with evidence relied upon for decision:

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

DATE

Findings and disposition:

INMATE

DATE

ORIGINAL: Inmate Active File
COPY: Committee Chairperson; Inmate

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



MARK PATTERSON
CHAIR

CHRISTIN M. JOHNSON
OVERSIGHT COORDINATOR

COMMISSIONERS
HON. R. MARK BROWNING (ret.)

HON. RONALD IBARRA (ret.)

MARTHA TORNEY

HON. MICHAEL A. TOWN (ret.)

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
E HUIKALA A MA'EMA'E NŌ
235 S. Beretania Street, 16th Floor
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 587-4160

TO: The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Mark Patterson, Chair
Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 104, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1, Relating to Corrections
Hearing: Wednesday, March 19, 2025; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 325

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) **supports** Senate Bill 104, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1, Relating to Corrections, which restricts the use of restrictive housing in state-operated and state-contracted correctional facilities.

The Commission has been concerned regarding the use of restrictive housing throughout the state and state contracted correctional facilities. A small example of this is the Commission's July 2022 reporting on the usage of a program called, Special Housing Incentive Program (SHIP) utilized by the contracted CoreCivic Saguaro facility in Arizona. Regarding SHIP, the July 2022 monthly Oversight Coordinator report states:

The Commission has serious concerns regarding the Special Housing Incentive Program (SHIP). Although SHIP is noted to be a programming house, **the reality is that it is 12-plus months in a segregated housing setting**. SHIP placement occurs after the violation of specific institutional rules. SHIP is broken down into three Phases, each four months long, with more out-of-cell time introduced in each phase. Phase one has one hour of outdoor recreation time per day (**23 hours in cell**), phase two has one hour of outdoor recreation and one hour of dayroom recreation per day (**22 hours in cell**), and phase three has three hours of combined outdoor and dayroom recreation time per day (**21 hours in cell**).

During the visit, more than 80 people from Hawaii were in the three phases of SHIP. Saguaro also houses people in custody from Idaho, and SHIP is not an option for or offered to those from Idaho. None of the facilities operated by Hawaii PSD offer SHIP either. For example, if an institutional rule violation occurs at Halawa Correctional Facility, the person

in custody usually faces up to 60 days in disciplinary segregation if found guilty, not 12 months in SHIP.

The Commission is extremely concerned about the long-term physical and psychological effects of 12-plus months in a segregated housing setting, which are now well-documented and studied. The trend nationally is to decrease the amount of time in segregated housing settings. With the state of Hawaii's transition to a therapeutic model of corrections, SHIP should be reevaluated and potentially eliminated in totality as it does not align with a rehabilitative framework.

To this day, SHIP is still utilized daily and again, this is only one example. The Commission believes there are various examples of segregated and restrictive housing utilized throughout the corrections system and appreciates the legislature's foresight to include required quarterly reporting from the Commission on the usage of restrictive housing through the corrections system.

Should you have additional questions, the Oversight Coordinator, Christin Johnson, can be reached at 808-900-2200 or at christin.m.johnson@hawaii.gov. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JON N. IKENAGA
PUBLIC DEFENDER

DEFENDER COUNCIL
1130 NORTH NIMITZ HIGHWAY
SUITE A-254
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

HONOLULU OFFICE
1130 NORTH NIMITZ HIGHWAY
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

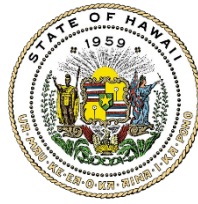
APPELLATE DIVISION
TEL. No. (808) 586-2080

DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
TEL. No. (808) 586-2100

FAMILY COURT DIVISION
TEL. No. (808) 586-2300

FELONY DIVISION
TEL. No. (808) 586-2200

FACSIMILE
(808) 586-2222



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

March 18, 2025

HAYLEY Y. C. CHENG
ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER

HILO OFFICE
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KAUAI OFFICE
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LIHUE, HAWAII 96766
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MAUI OFFICE
81 N. MARKET STREET
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793
TEL. No. (808) 984-5018
FAX No. (808) 984-5022

SB104 SD2 HD1: RELATING TO CORRECTIONS

Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **supports SB104 SD2 HD1**. This bill restricts the use of solitary confinement in both state-operated and state-contracted correctional facilities to certain limited situations, imposes important safeguards, including procedural due process protections, and subjects the use of solitary confinement to independent oversight.

Section 1 of the bill clearly sets out the numerous issues associated with the use of solitary confinement as a disciplinary or management tool in correctional facilities. There are no significant positive benefits associated with solitary confinement. By contrast, solitary confinement can often causes severe and permanent damages that persist even after individuals are released from incarceration.

Prisons and jails are already inherently harmful, and placing people in solitary confinement adds an extra burden of stress that has been shown to cause permanent changes to people's brains and personalities. In fact, the part of the brain that plays a major role in memory has been shown to physically shrink after long periods without human interaction. And since humans are naturally social beings, depriving people of the ability to socialize can cause "social pain," which researchers define as "the feelings of hurt and distress that come from negative social experiences such as social deprivation, exclusion, rejection, or loss." Social pain affects the brain in the same way as physical pain, and can actually cause more suffering because of humans' ability to relive social pain months or even years later.

The irreparable damages caused by solitary confinement are unjustifiable, and have led the Union Nations to consider solitary torture when used for longer than 15 consecutive days. But this overwhelming research is often

ignored in jails and prisons, where solitary confinement is frequently used as a “solution” to nearly every problem that arises, including disobedience, perceived threats, alleged gang affiliation, and even supposedly for individuals’ own protection.^[1]

While the OPD generally opposes the use of solitary confinement for any purpose, this bill addresses some of the major concerns that are raised when solitary confinement is utilized. Safeguards such as restrictions keeping individuals from “vulnerable populations” from being placed in solitary confinement, pre-confinement medical and mental health examinations and independent review of the cases of persons placed in solitary confinement are all critical.²

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

¹ Herring, Tiana, “The research is clear: Solitary confinement causes long-lasting harm,” Dec. 8, 2020, Prison Policy Initiative
(https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2020/12/08/solitary_symposium/)

² Subsection (a)(4)(C) of the bill at p.7, guarantees that the committed person be given representation at the hearing to contest the solitary confinement decision. The OPD suggests that the representation be by an independent person or agency who is not employed by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

SB-104-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 5:59:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louis Erteschik	Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

We have always felt that solitary confinement should either never be utilized or at most rarely, and only under exigent circumstances. It is particularly damaging to individuals who already have a mental illness. We understand from the testimony that there may currently be protocols in place regarding the use of solitary confinement. However, we believe that codifying these restrictions would be much better. For example, the Department's Policies state that while an inmate is supposed to receive a mental health evaluation within 24 hours of placement in solitary confinement, there is an exemption if it is on a weekend and no staff is available. That to a great degree sums up the concern. It goes without saying that there should never be a situation in any prison where any time goes by without a mental health worker available. So for the Department to say that we should not worry and they have it all covered, we submit that this alone is cause for worry.

In light of the experiences regarding the lack of quality mental health care provided in the prisons and the alarming number of suicides, it is clear that the current system is not adequate and that the assurances provided by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation offer little comfort.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com

Today's Inmate; Tomorrow's Neighbor



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative David Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Room 325 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

2:00 PM

STRONG SUPPORT for SB 104 SD2 - RELATING TO RESTRICTIVE HOUSING

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 3,720 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars¹ and under the "care and custody" of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation as of March 10, 2025. We are always mindful that 936 - 49.3% - of Hawai'i's male prison population (1,895) are serving their sentences abroad -- thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of SB 104 SD2 and thanks the committee for hearing this important bill about a subject that has lived in the darkest corners of public policy. We are happy to have these discussions in the light of awareness, research, and human rights.

TWO TYPES OF SOLITARY²

Two types of solitary confinement are commonly in use today. The first, known as disciplinary segregation, is leveled as punishment when inmates break the rules. Steal a cellmate's radio, for instance, and you might be in solitary for a week or two. During disciplinary segregation, an inmate is separated from other inmates for a specified period of time.

The second type of confinement is known as administrative segregation, which is used when prisoners are deemed a risk to the safety of other inmates or prison staff. Prisoners in

¹ DCR Weekly Population Report, March 10, 2025

<https://dcr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Pop-Reports-Weekly-2025-03-10.pdf>

²Alone, in 'the hole' Psychologists probe the mental health effects of solitary confinement, By Kirsten Weir, May 2012, Vol 43, No. 5, Print version: page 54. <http://www.apa.org/monitor/2012/05/solitary.aspx>

administrative segregation are placed into isolation units for months or years. Corrections officials first turned to this strategy in response to growing gang violence inside prisons, Dvoskin says.

Though critics contend that administrative segregation has never been proven to make prisons safer, use of this type of confinement has continued to rise. That's worrisome to most psychologists who study the issue. **Deprived of normal human interaction, many segregated prisoners reportedly suffer from mental health problems including anxiety, panic, insomnia, paranoia, aggression and depression, Haney says (Crime and Delinquency, 2003).**

ADMINISTRATIVE SEGREGATION USED AS RETALIATION

This discussion is relevant to administrative segregation because the many calls, letters and cries for help we receive center around administrative segregation used as retaliation. We personally know that in the past people in the corporate prison in Arizona had been put in the "hole" for speaking or writing to us at Community Alliance on Prisons. We also know that people unliked by certain officers get locked away, along with those who have the nerve to file grievances because they can't get their basic needs met (such as medical appointments).

Over the decades, Community Alliance on Prisons has developed relationships with correctional officials and researchers around the world so that we can keep abreast of best practices in corrections and justice issues. There is a larger discussion about solitary confinement taking place around the nation, however, we have been told by people from other jurisdictions that officials from Hawai'i rarely participate in these meetings.

WHAT CORRECTIONS OFFICIALS AND OTHERS HAVE SAID ABOUT ISOLATION

Here are some thoughts by corrections officials:

- The Association of State Correctional Administrators issued a report calling prolonged isolation of inmates in jails and prisons **"a grave problem in the United States."**
- Inmates sent to solitary should be prisoners "we're afraid of, not mad at," said Gary Mohr, director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

Charles Dickens visited the Eastern State Penitentiary in Pennsylvania in 1842, and the editors call him "one of the earliest—and still one of the most eloquent—critics of solitary confinement." He described the penitents there as men "buried alive."

THE RESEARCH

Bureau of Justice Statistics: The Department of Justice reports that **Hawai'i has the 7th highest number of prison suicides in the nation.** (<http://www.seattlepi.com/news/us/article/Rethinking-solitary-National-prisons-group-6763615.php>).

Isn't this a clarion call for reform? If it isn't, how many people have to die in state correctional facilities before something is done to reform this broken system? The Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution requires that prison officials "ensure that inmates receive adequate food, clothing, shelter, and medical care" and "take reasonable measures" to guarantee their safety.

Vera Institute of Justice: Policy changes that will reduce the use and long term impact of segregation include the following:

- using alternative sanctions for minor violations

- reducing segregation time for certain categories of violations
 - employing standardized incentivized reductions in segregation time for sustained good behavior
 - providing opportunities for gradual resocialization to the general prison population
- (<http://archive.vera.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/prisons-within-prisons-segregation.pdf>)

CALCULATING TORTURE (2023), the first ever comprehensive accounting of the number of people in solitary in both prisons and jails, using data from the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics, two state prison systems that did not report to BJS, and Vera Institute of Justice's survey of local jails finds there are approximately 122,000 people locked in solitary for 22+ hours on any given day in the United States, far more than previously estimated.

This report documents that the incidence of solitary confinement in this country is far greater than anyone has previously reported. It is now more urgent than ever that local, state, and federal jurisdictions across the United States end this massive system of government torture that causes devastating harm; leads to death; increases the risks of violence in places of detention and outside communities; and is disproportionately inflicted on Black people, Latino/a/x people, Native people, and other people of color. Ending solitary confinement would stop torture, save lives, and improve safety — not only for 122,000 people, but for everyone.

(<https://solitarywatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Calculating-Torture-Report-May-2023-R2.pdf>)

ALTERNATIVES TO SOLITARY

“Alternatives to Solitary Enhance Prison Safety

Instead of addressing the root causes of violence in prisons, solitary confinement is used as a catch-all for responding to disobedience and managing populations. This has created a cycle within carceral facilities where both violent and nonviolent behaviors are punished with more violence. The following approaches have been shown to reduce violence against both correctional staff and incarcerated people.

Decarceration: When examining rates of prison violence in comparison with population levels, a 2007 study found that individuals with histories of violent behavior were more likely to commit violent acts when housed in an overcrowded facility. By decreasing overcrowding, facilities decrease the likelihood that a volatile individual will be placed in a situation that instigates violent acts. In addition, fewer people in prison means more resources for programming and other options shown to reduce violence.

Increased Visitation: A 2012 study found that individuals who were visited while incarcerated were less likely to commit both high and low-level misconduct. The same study found that those who had visitation were less likely to reoffend upon release. Through increasing opportunities to connect with loved ones, correctional departments can disrupt violence by fostering meaningful human connections and systems of support.

Racial Diversity Among Staff: Evidence gathered from a 1995 study found a correlation between prisons' ratios of white to Black correctional staff and rates of both inmate and staff assaults. This lack of diversity, combined with specific acts of racist discrimination and abuse, is a barrier to trust between staff and incarcerated individuals.

Positive Incentives: Reward systems in prison (RSPs), or remunerative controls, are used throughout the world as an alternative to punitive or coercive control methods of prison

management. A review of current research on RSPs showed that they are “effective in advancing mental health among mentally ill participants, decreasing violent behavior among high-risk participants, increasing academic achievement, and reducing problem behavior among adolescents and young adults.”

Increased Autonomy: As opposed to the “control model” that dominates U.S. prisons, some European prisons rely more on a “responsibility model” or “consensus model” that gives incarcerated people greater freedom and responsibility, while prison staff enact the minimum amount of control required to keep order. The principle of “normalization” is central to Norwegian prisons’ approach. When building Halden Prison, Norway set out to “design life inside correctional facilities to resemble life outside prison as much as possible.” Although “nearly half [of incarcerated people at Halden are imprisoned for violent crimes like murder, assault or rape,” incidents of violent behavior or threats are extremely rare.

Enhanced Programming: Data collected and analyzed by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics found that participation in substance abuse, sex offender, family and life skills, vocational, and educational programming was associated with significant reductions in prisoner-on-prisoner violence. Additionally, a 2003 study of 4,000 incarcerated people across 185 facilities showed that individuals “employed both inside and outside of the facility were significantly less likely to assault staff.”

Staff Training and Approaches: The Norwegian Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) base their operations on principles of “dynamic security,” emphasizing communications and relationship-building between staff and incarcerated people. In 2015, following participation in an exchange program with the NDCS, North Dakota began instituting reforms targeted at reducing the use of solitary confinement. Included in these reforms were the development of a transition unit for those exiting solitary, changes to disciplinary policies, changes to correctional officer training, and “articulating] individualized plans that incorporate positive reinforcement strategies to address negative behaviors.” (<https://solitarywatch.org/2023/02/28/new-fact-sheet-explodes-the-myth-that-solitary-confinement-reduces-violence-in-prison/>)

When the Hawaiʻi delegation went to Norway in 2015 they were accompanied by a delegation from North Dakota, whose Director of Corrections participated. Upon Warden Bersch’s return from Norway, she immediately went through 100 files of people in solitary confinement because she realized that solitary/segregation is inhumane. Hawaiʻi can also realize that punitive sanctions like restrictive housing don’t comport with the values that our communities hold dear.

In closing, **Community Alliance on Prisons cannot emphasize enough the importance of professional training – not just take-downs and cell-extraction – training in communications: how to talk with people in stressful situations who may be contending with mental health issues.**

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our thoughts and research that reflects 30 years of contact with people in desperate situations. We hope that putting this ‘practice’ in statute will send a message that there are better ways to assist people who may have lost their way. We hope you agree.

Mahalo nui!



March 17, 2025

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Representatives Della Au Belatti, Elle Cochran, Mark J. Hashem, Kirstin Kahaloa, Amy A. Perruso, Gregg Takayama, Chris Todd, Diamond Garcia, and Garner M. Shimizu, Committee Members

RE: SB 104 RELATING TO CORRECTIONS – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members,

I am submitting this letter in support of SB 104 on behalf of Easterseals Hawaii. Easterseals Hawaii served 2,025 Hawaii community members with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in 2024. Our purpose is to create a more equitable world where people with I/DD can choose their own path.

SB 104 would protect vulnerable populations by establishing limitations on restrictive housing, especially for individuals with I/DD as well as LGBTQIA+ individuals. Easterseals Hawaii recognizes the importance of intersectional identities and the implications of this bill for LGBTQIA+/MVPFAFF+ people with disabilities. Research demonstrates that the disabled and LGBTQIA+ populations are disproportionately affected by restrictive housing.¹ Restrictive housing significantly deteriorates one's mental health and has many long-term negative effects such as a 78% higher likelihood of suicide as compared to inmates who were not placed in restrictive housing.² Such punitive measures should only be taken if necessary and should not be used for non-disciplinary reasons. This bill is an essential step in protecting vulnerable populations from being unjustly punished through such cruel, isolating means as restrictive housing.

Easterseals Hawaii supports SB 104 and respectfully requests your "aye" vote. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this letter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel Liebert Lewis".

Rachel Liebert Lewis
Director, Public Policy and Advocacy
Easterseals Hawaii
PublicPolicyAndAdvocacy@eshawaii.org

¹ <https://vera-institute.files.svdcn.com/production/downloads/publications/the-impacts-of-solitary-confinement.pdf>

² <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2752350>



Committee: Public Safety
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 10:00am
Place: Conference Room 225 & via Videoconference
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in support of S.B. 104 S.D. 2
Relating to Corrections**

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto and Committee Members:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU of Hawai'i") writes in **support of S.B. 104 S.D. 2** that limits the use of restrictive housing in state-operated and state-contracted correctional facilities, with certain specified exceptions and requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to develop written policies and procedures regarding restrictive housing by 7/1/2026. In addition, the proposed measure requires the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission to review certain housing placements and for DCR to submit a report to the Legislature and Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission.

Over the past few decades, Hawai'i, and its contractor, CoreCivic, has increasingly used solitary confinement to hold incarcerated people in isolation. Although the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation ("DCR") uses the label "restrictive housing," "administrative segregation," or "disciplinary segregation" rather than solitary confinement, this is merely a difference in terminology that amounts to the same practice.

Solitary confinement that lasts more than 15 consecutive days is recognized by the National Commission on Correctional Health¹, the United Nations and various human rights organizations as torture. The practice of placing incarcerated persons alone in cells for 22-24 hours per day with little or no human interaction or outside stimulus, often causes negative psychological reactions in all persons subjected to it. Solitary confinement is known to be especially devastating for people with mental illness who are disproportionately represented in solitary confinement.² It can also bring on mental illness where it did not exist before. Some people are confined in solitary for months, years, and even decades.

¹ In 2016, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care issued guidance to correctional health officials explaining that this type of confinement beyond 15 consecutive days is "inhumane, degrading treatment, and harmful to an individual's health." <https://www.ncchc.org/wp-content/uploads/Solitary-Confinement-Isolation.pdf>

² Roy King, The Rise and Rise of Supermax: An American Solution in Search of a Problem? 1 PUNISHMENT & SOC. 163, 177 (1999). See also, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2011/10/392012>

Solitary confinement is extremely costly, and studies show that it neither deters violent behavior in jails and prisons nor prevents recidivism.³ Research also shows that incarcerated people deprived of normal human contact cannot properly reintegrate into society, resulting in higher recidivism rates.⁴

As long as jails and prisons exist, we must limit the use of solitary confinement. **At minimum, Hawai‘i’s practices must meet the American Bar Association Standards for Criminal Justice, Treatment of Prisoners.**⁵ This requires appropriate procedures prior to placing a person in solitary; decreasing extreme isolation, close mental health monitoring for people in solitary and ending the solitary confinement of persons with mental illness.

In addition, **better alternatives exist to placing people in solitary confinement. Here are a few examples of successful federal and state measures:**

- Colorado Department of Corrections had an external review conducted of its administrative segregation policies and practices. As a result of reforms implemented, Colorado reduced its administrative segregation by 36.9%.
- Michigan reformed its administrative segregation practices through incentive programs. As a result, the number of violent incidents and misconduct dropped.
- Maine reduced its special management population by over 50% and expanded access to programming and social stimulation.
- Mississippi changed its use of solitary confinement and reduced the segregated population of one institution from 1000 to 150 and eventually closed the entire unit.

DCR Has Failed to Provide Solitary Confinement Data for Consideration by Lawmakers

In the past, and even now, DCR has opposed this bill, in part, because it “has many similarities with DCR’s established policies and procedures which are periodically reviewed and updated as appropriate.”

Rather than citing system-wide data to support their opposition in the past, DCR cited anecdotal data. **While anecdotal data should be considered in shaping public policy, it is not a substitute for system-wide data.** DCR, like all governmental agencies, have a responsibility to provide agency wide data to assist Hawai‘i lawmakers while deliberating on proposed bills that may become public policies.

To assist with meaningful discussion on this measure, the following questions are offered for consideration by lawmakers:

³ DANIEL P. MEARS, URBAN INST., EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SUPERMAX PRISONS 4 (2006).

⁴ See, e.g., KERAMET REITER, PAROLE, SNITCH, OR DIE: CALIFORNIA’S SUPERMAX PRISONS AND PRISONERS 50 (2006).

⁵ ABA Standards for Criminal Justice, Treatment of Prisoners, 23-1, et. Seq (2010).

1. Is it a goal or objective of DCR to reduce the number of people placed under **administrative and disciplinary segregation**?⁶
2. What is the **current total number and percentage** of people in **administrative segregation** compared to the general population in Hawai‘i’s jails and prisons and out-of-state private for-profit prisons? How does the current total number and percentage of people placed in administrative segregation compared to 5 years ago?
3. What is the **current total number and percentage of people in disciplinary segregation** compared to the general population in Hawai‘i’s jails and prisons and out-of-state private for-profit prisons? How does the current total number and percentage of people placed in disciplinary segregation compared to 5 and 10 years ago?
4. What **reforms** have DCR implemented in the past five years to reduce the number of people placed under administrative and disciplinary segregation?
5. How are DCR’s current policies and practices relating to administrative and disciplinary segregation **similar** to the proposed bill?
6. How are DCR’s current policies and practices relating to administrative and disciplinary segregation **different** from the proposed bill?
7. How **many people** are placed under **administrative segregation** in Hawai‘i’s jails and prisons, as well as Saguaro prison in Arizona?
8. How **many people** are placed under **disciplinary segregation** in Hawai‘i’s jails and prisons, as well as Saguaro prison in Arizona under the SHIP Program⁷?
9. What is the **duration** under **administrative segregation (shortest to longest length)**?
10. What is the **duration** under **disciplinary segregation (shortest to longest length)**?
11. How many people in our jails and prisons in Hawai‘i and out of state private for-profit prisons have **committed suicide** while under administrative segregation or disciplinary segregation, or upon release from administrative segregation or disciplinary segregation in the past five years?
12. Has the Department of Public Safety **consulted with experts to conduct a third party external review of its administrative and administrative segregation policies and**

⁶ <https://www.civilbeat.org/2016/12/do-hawaii-prisons-overuse-solitary-confinement/>

⁷ The Hawai‘i Correctional System Oversight Commission has repeatedly expressed serious concerns regarding the Special Housing Incentive Program (SHIP) at Saguaro prison operated by CoreCivic in Saguaro. Although SHIP is noted to be a programming house, the reality is that it is 12-plus months in a segregated housing setting. Regardless of CoreCivic and DCR’s characterization of SHIP as a “program,” this restrictive housing amounts to torture.

practices similar to Colorado that reduced its administrative segregation population by 30%?

Since the vast majority of people in solitary confinement are eventually released back into the community, it is essential that we invest our limited public dollars in proven alternatives that lead to greater rehabilitation and pave the way for successful re-entry and reintegration.

In closing, we request that you pass **S.B. 104 S.D. 2** and restrict DCR and its contractors from torturing people through long-term solitary while incarcerated under the custody of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Shirota
Policy Director
ACLU of Hawai'i
cshiota@acluhawaii.org

The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai'i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. Since 1965, the ACLU of Hawai'i has been serving Hawai'i.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
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www.acluhawaii.org



Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe

March 19, 2025, at 2:00 pm CF325 and Videoconference
SB 104 SD2 HD1– Relating to Corrections

TESTIMONY

Stephen Munkelt, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports BILL NUMBER SB 104 SD2 HD1

This bill will place new and necessary restrictions on the use of “restrictive housing” in correctional facilities, colloquially known as solitary confinement. The League of Women Voters supports the humane treatment of prisoners, with a focus on rehabilitation and successful re-entry into the community. The League also supports the elimination of bias, including the disproportionate treatment of marginalized individuals based on gender identity, sex, race, ethnicity, or other individual characteristics. This bill aligns with each of those goals.

Sadly, over the last several decades the United States has become the nation leading the world in a high rate of incarcerating our residents. We are also the world leader in the use of solitary confinement and particularly long-term solitary confinement. Evidence-based research here and internationally has made it clear that solitary carries a high risk of mental and physical harm to inmates. Mental breakdowns with psychosis, physical injuries from self-harm, suicide, long term increases in the risk of heart attack, stroke, and mental illness are common consequences of even short terms in restrictive housing.

SB 104 represents a measured approach to management of correctional facilities and the welfare of the people entrusted to the care of corrections personnel. For these reasons the League of Women Voters of Hawaii **supports SB 104 SD2 HD1.**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Stephen Munkelt
Legislative Committee



Committee: Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 2:00pm
Place: Conference Room 225 & via Videoconference
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in support of S.B. 104
S.D. 2 H.D. 1 Relating to Corrections**

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and Committee Members:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU of Hawai'i") writes in **support of S.B. 104 S.D. 2 H.D.1** that limits the use of restrictive housing in state-operated and state-contracted correctional facilities, with certain specified exceptions and requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to develop written policies and procedures regarding restrictive housing by 7/1/2026. In addition, the proposed measure requires the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission to review certain housing placements and for DCR to submit a report to the Legislature and Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission.

Over the past few decades, Hawai'i, and its contractor, CoreCivic, has increasingly used solitary confinement to hold incarcerated people in isolation. Although the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation ("DCR") uses the label "restrictive housing," "administrative segregation," or "disciplinary segregation" rather than solitary confinement, this is merely a difference in terminology that amounts to the same practice.

Solitary confinement that lasts more than 15 consecutive days is recognized by the National Commission on Correctional Health¹, the United Nations and various human rights organizations as torture. The practice of placing incarcerated persons alone in cells for 22-24 hours per day with little or no human interaction or outside stimulus, often causes negative psychological reactions in all persons subjected to it. Solitary confinement is known to be especially devastating for people with mental illness who are disproportionately represented in solitary confinement.² It can also bring on mental illness where it did not exist before. Some people are confined in solitary for months, years, and even decades.

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² Roy King, *The Rise and Rise of Supermax: An American Solution in Search of a Problem?* 1 PUNISHMENT & SOC. 163, 177 (1999). See also, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2011/10/392012>

*Solitary confinement is extremely costly, and studies show that it neither deters violent behavior in jails and prisons nor prevents recidivism.*³ Research also shows that incarcerated people deprived of normal human contact cannot properly reintegrate into society, resulting in higher recidivism rates.⁴

As long as jails and prisons exist, we must limit the use of solitary confinement. **At minimum, Hawai‘i’s practices must meet the American Bar Association Standards for Criminal Justice, Treatment of Prisoners.**⁵ This requires appropriate procedures prior to placing a person in solitary; decreasing extreme isolation, close mental health monitoring for people in solitary and ending the solitary confinement of persons with mental illness.

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To assist with meaningful discussion on this measure, the following questions are offered for consideration by lawmakers:

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practices similar to Colorado that reduced its administrative segregation population by 30%?

Since the vast majority of people in solitary confinement are eventually released back into the community, it is essential that we invest our limited public dollars in proven alternatives that lead to greater rehabilitation and pave the way for successful re-entry and reintegration.

In closing, we request that you pass **S.B. 104 S.D. 2 H.D. 1** and restrict DCR and its contractors from torturing people through long-term solitary confinement while incarcerated under the custody of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Shirota
Policy Director
ACLU of Hawai'i
cshiota@acluhawaii.org

The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai'i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. Since 1965, the ACLU of Hawai'i has been serving Hawai'i.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
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SB-104-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 6:06:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isis Usborne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am in strong support of this bill.

This bill has been reviewed by past PSD directors, people in ‘restrictive housing’ currently as well as those who did time there when they were incarcerated

The SD1 amended the bill to NOT say solitary – the current euphemism for this brand of torture is now called ‘restrictive house’. The SD2 amended the bill by requiring **that a committed person held in restrictive housing not be denied access to their legal counsel.**

There is a ton of research showing the harms caused by almost any length of time in ‘restrictive housing’ by psychiatrists, psychologists, researchers, etc. Additionally, there have been too many preventable deaths. Civil Beat reported on the mental health crisis in Hawai‘i’s correctional facilities on 11.29.24: **‘The latest deaths would make the number of suicides the highest in a single year since 2020.’** Specifically, there have been a dozen confirmed or suspected suicides in the Hawai‘i correctional system since 2020. 9 of the 12 prisoner suicides or suspected suicides in Hawai‘i since 2020 happened in the state-run network of jails, including 6 in the Maui Community Correctional Center alone. A study by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (2021) found that from 2001 to 2019, the number of suicides increased 85% in state prisons and 13% in local jails. The US Dept. of Justice reported that Hawai‘i has the 7th highest number of prison suicides in the nation.

These facts are unacceptable and avoidable. Moreover, restrictive housing has been shown to disproportionately harm the most vulnerable populations, such as trans people. We must do more to protect trans people in prisons, especially now as our right to exist is under fire by the US administration and others who share their hateful views.

This bill would give prisons the flexibility to offer solutions to difficult housing problems across the many different facilities they run, while respecting the values of transparency and respect for human life that the State must prioritize.

Mahalo and I hope you pass this bill,

Isis Usborne (they/them)

2026 JD Candidate at William S. Richardson School of Law at UH Mānoa

Lambda Law Student Association Member, Co-Chair of the Lambda Advocacy Committee

March 19, 2025

To: Representative David Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta

RE: SB 104 SD2, HD1 Relating to Corrections

POSITION: SUPPORT

I am writing in support of SB 104 SD2, HD1 Relating to Corrections which would place necessary restrictions on the use of “restrictive housing” also known as solitary confinement for facilities in Hawai‘i and facilities contracted by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Evidence based research has shown that solitary confinement is detrimental and carries a high risk of mental and physical harm to incarcerated individuals.

This measure provides needed restrictions and regulations on the use of solitary confinement by our prison system.

I ask the committee to pass this important measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 104 SD2, HD1.

SB-104-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 9:32:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members,

- This bill has been reviewed by past PSD directors, people in ‘restrictive housing’ currently as well as those who did time there when they were incarcerated
- The SD1 amended the bill to NOT say solitary – the current euphemism for this brand of torture is now called ‘restrictive house’.
- The SD2 amended the bill by requiring **that a committed person held in restrictive housing not be denied access to their legal counsel**
- There is a ton of research showing the harms caused by almost any length of time in ‘restrictive housing’ by psychiatrists, psychologists, researchers, etc.
- There have been too many preventable deaths. Civil Beat reported on the mental health crisis in Hawai`i’s correctional facilities on 11.29.24: **‘The latest deaths would make the number of suicides the highest in a single year since 2020.’**
- There have been a dozen confirmed or suspected suicides in the Hawai`i correctional system since 2020.
- 9 of the 12 prisoner suicides or suspected suicides in Hawai`i since 2020 happened in the state-run network of jails, including 6 in the Maui Community Correctional Center alone.
- A study by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (2021) found that from 2001 to 2019, the number of suicides increased 85% in state prisons and 13% in local jails.
- The Dept. of Justice reported that Hawai`i has the 7th highest number of prison suicides in the nation.
- The Assn. of Correctional Administrators called prolonged isolation **“a grave problem in the United States.”**
- There are alternatives to ameliorate the harms:

- Decarceration
- Increased visitation
- Racial diversity among staff
- Positive Incentives
- Increased Autonomy
- Programming
- Staff training and approaches

Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Shannon M.

Hawai'i Island Resident

SB-104-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 10:56:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB104 SD1. Please take advantage of the volume of research by researchers, psychiatrists & psychologists that details the harms caused by any length of time spent in restrictive housing. There have been too many preventable deaths. Please support SB104 SD1.

Thank you,

Carla Allison - Honolulu