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STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
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TO: The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

FROM: Mark Patterson, Chair
Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

SUBJECT: Senate Concurrent Resolution 26, Requesting the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, in planning and designing the new Oahu Community Correctional Center in Halawa, to include circuit and district court facilities and establish a release procedure under which detainees or inmates, upon release are transported to a site other than residential communities or public spaces.
Hearing: Monday, March 10, 2025; 3:05 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) **supports** Senate Concurrent Resolution 26, Requesting the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, in planning and designing the new Oahu Community Correctional Center in Halawa, to include circuit and district court facilities and establish a release procedure under which detainees or inmates, upon release are transported to a site other than residential communities or public spaces.

Implementing an on-site courtroom presents a transformative opportunity to enhance security, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness in the judicial and correctional systems. The financial burden of defendant transportation is substantial, encompassing fuel expenses, vehicle maintenance, and the manpower required for safe transit. The establishment of an on-site courtroom alleviates these costs by removing the need for frequent and resource-intensive travel. Correctional officers can be reassigned to other critical duties within the facility, improving overall operational efficiency, reducing overtime, and allowing for a more strategic allocation of taxpayer dollars.

Further, early wake and transport times, coupled with extended holding periods, often result in undue stress and fatigue for individuals awaiting hearings. A courtroom within the jail facility allows for a more humane and efficient process, ensuring that defendants are presented before a judge in a timely manner while avoiding unnecessary distress and logistical complications. Additionally, the Department significantly reduces the risks associated with transporting people in

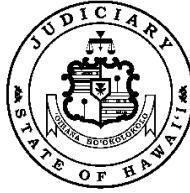
*Testimony of the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission
Senate Concurrent Resolution 20, Requesting the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, in
planning and designing the new Oahu Community Correctional Center in Halawa, to include circuit and
district court facilities and establish a release procedure under which detainees or inmates, upon release
are transported to a site other than residential communities or public spaces.
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custody to an external court by removing security vulnerabilities, including the potential for escape attempts and disruptions.

Lastly, the presence of a courtroom within the jail allows for expedited arraignments, bond hearings, and other legal proceedings, reducing case backlogs and ensuring swifter resolutions. Immediate access to defendants enables judges, attorneys, and court staff to process cases more efficiently, potentially fostering a more responsive and effective justice system which could lower the population of pretrial detainees in the jail system.

For the reasons noted above, the Commission supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 26. 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.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

Testimony to the Thirty-Third Legislature, 2025 Regular Session

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Monday, March 10, 2025, 3:05 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

by

Rodney A. Maile

Administrative Director of the Courts

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Resolution No. and Title: Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 26, Requesting the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, in Planning and Designing the New Oahu Community Correctional Center in Halawa, to include Circuit and District Court Facilities and Establish a Release Procedure Under Which Detainees or Inmates, Upon Release, are Transported to a Site Other than Residential Communities or Public Spaces.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary supports the intent of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 26 to incorporate a courtroom facility within the design of the new Oahu Community Correctional Center in Halawa, and we believe that a single multipurpose courtroom facility would be sufficient.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this Concurrent Resolution.