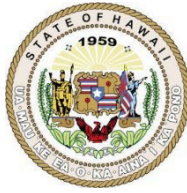


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



MARK PATTERSON
CHAIR

DEPT. COMM. NO. 522
CHRISTIN M. JOHNSON
OVERSIGHT COORDINATOR

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
E HUIKALA A MA'EMA'E NŌ
235 S. Beretania Street, 16th Floor
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COMMISSIONERS
HON. R. MARK BROWNING (ret.)

HON. RONALD IBARRA (ret.)

MARTHA TORNEY

HON. MICHAEL A. TOWN (ret.)

October 8, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

In accordance with Chapter 353L-6, I am submitting the monthly Oversight Coordinator Report for the month of September. This report includes actions taken by the Commission and expenses for the preceding month. Also included is the Commission's facility report of the Women's Community Correctional Center and Oahu Community Correctional Center. These reports may be reviewed electronically at <http://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/reports>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 808-900-2200.

Respectfully,

Christin Johnson
Oversight Coordinator

c: Governor's Office
Legislative Reference Bureau Library (1 hard copy)

Enclosure



Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

Monthly Oversight Coordinator Report – September 2025

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Introduction

In accordance with Chapter §353L-6, the Oversight Coordinator shall submit a monthly report to the Commission, the Governor, and the Legislature. The monthly report shall include actions taken by the Commission and expenses for the preceding month. In addition to the mandated parties this report must be shared with, the Oversight Coordinator publicly posts the monthly report to increase transparency and accountability. This report will also be shared with each individual who has the responsibility of appointing members of the Commission. This includes:

- 1) Governor of Hawaii
- 2) President of the Hawaii Senate
- 3) Speaker of the Hawaii House of Representatives
- 4) Hawaii Supreme Court Chief Justice
- 5) Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

The Oversight Coordinator monthly reports are released on the first Thursday of each month, covering the previous month, and will be discussed on the second Thursday of each month at the monthly Commission meetings.

Deaths in Custody

1. On September 2, 2025, at approximately 8:24pm mountain standard time (MST), a 49-year-old male in custody was found injured on a cell floor at the Northeast New Mexico Correctional Facility in Clayton, NM (interstate compact facility). At approximately 8:29 pm MST, medical staff entered the pod with a gurney and removed the individual. Medical staff performed chest compressions until emergency medical services (EMS) arrived and assumed life saving measures. The male was transported by ambulance to Union County General Hospital where he was pronounced deceased at 9:13 pm MST. The medical examiner will determine the official cause of death following an autopsy.
2. On September 25, 2025, at approximately 5:00pm, security staff were alerted that a 62-year-old male in custody needed assistance at Halawa Correctional Facility. Security staff called for medical backup, who arrived at approximately 5:10pm before EMS arrived and assumed life saving measures. The decedent was transported to Pali Momi Medical Center's emergency room where he was pronounced deceased at approximately 6:18pm. The medical examiner will determine the official cause of death following an autopsy.

Tours

Waikiki Health Center

On September 4, 2025, Commission staff visited the Waikiki Health Center where Director of Native Hawaiian Healing/Pu'uhonua Prison program, Francine Dudoit-Tagupa, shared the history and mission of the center. As the first health clinic in Waikiki and a federally Qualified Health Center, Waikiki Health provides medical, dental, behavioral health, and shelter services across eight sites on O'ahu. Unique among health centers, it is the only one

focused on reentry, offering prison classes, pre-release support for SNAP and Med-Quest, and traditional Hawaiian healing practices like Ho‘oponopono and Lomi to foster whole person and family care. Waikiki Health plays a critical role in Hawai‘i’s reentry system, with its work aligning closely to the upcoming 1115 waiver set to begin January 2026.

Hale Kipa

On September 30, 2025, Commission staff visited Hale Kipa in ‘Ewa Beach and met with Executive Director Venus Rosete-Medeiros, who shared the facility’s innovative and community-focused programs. Highlights included an aeroponics project where one container equals 3–5 acres of food production, with the first harvest donated to kūpuna, as well as shelters and services for youth up to age 25. Hale Kū Ola provides housing for mothers with children, and the Executive Director hopes to extend this resource to women leaving prison, especially those under 26 who may also access program funding and Housing First vouchers. Hale Kipa also offers the 10-week Kamalama parenting program, currently taught inside WCCC. Despite funding challenges and staff shortages, Hale Kipa remains a vital resource for transition-age youth and holds strong potential to support reentry for justice-involved women.

Events Attended

WCCC Ohana Family Day

On September 13, 2025, Commission staff attended the first-ever ‘Ohana Family Day at WCCC, held at Olomana Field. The event brought together 16 women in custody, and their loved ones who came to enjoy the moment, creating a rare and meaningful opportunity for families to reunite in a supportive environment. Families enjoyed booths, food, a bounce house, and a petting zoo, supported by 14 work line participants and community partners including Chaplain Tammy, Education, Chaminade University, and the Women’s Prison Project. Leadership support was visible with Warden Guillonta welcoming families and Director Tommy Johnson attending. The day created joy, belonging, and meaningful family connections while strengthening case manager relationships and underscoring the vital role of ‘ohana in reentry success. The Commission would like to thank the Women’s Prison Project for their generous donations to ensure the events success and thank Department leadership and Warden Guillonta for prioritizing family connections.

Reports

Women’s Community Correctional Center Site Observations

On Thursday, September 11, 2025, the Commission toured the Women’s Community Correctional Center (WCCC) collectively as a group. The tour included one of the five Commissioners – Commissioner Torney in addition to the Oversight Coordinator and staff. There were no additional recommendations to be considered by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation that stemmed from the WCCC tour. The full report can be read at: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/facility-specific-reports/>.

Oahu Community Correctional Center Site Observations

On Wednesday, September 17, 2025, the Commission toured the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) collectively as a group. The tour included three of the five

Commissioners – Chair Patterson, Commissioner Torney, and Commissioner Browning– in addition to the Oversight Coordinator, staff, and State House Representatives Della Au Belatti and Kim Coco Iwamoto. Commissioner Town was present for a meeting with Warden John Schell prior to the tour.

Below are recommendations to be considered by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation which stemmed from the OCCC tour. The full report can be read at: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/facility-specific-reports/>

Follow-up on Previous Commission Recommendations

The Commission made the following recommendations following the HCSOC February 2023 tour, which have not yet been implemented. The Commission continues to recommend the following:

- 1) Allow for Natural Light by Removing Wood Covering from all Cell Windows**
Replace wood-covered windows in housing units with to allow natural light, in line with American Correctional Association (ACA) standards. Although some wood coverings have been removed over the past year, wood coverings still remain on some cell windows. According to ACA Standard 4-ALDF-1A-16, all inmate rooms/cells must provide occupants with access to natural light through at least three square feet of transparent glazing, plus two additional square feet per inmate in rooms/cells housing three or more individuals. Therefore, the Commission recommends OCCC continue replacing wood coverings to ensure all cell windows in all modules allow natural light. Compliance with the ACA standards is of particular importance with OCCC moving toward ACA accreditation.
- 2) Restoration of Contact Visits**
OCCC has not offered in-person contact visits for five years, initially due to COVID-19. Extensive research underscores the importance and rehabilitative benefits of contact visits for those in custody, as these visits allow individuals to maintain closer connections with their loved ones and communities. The Commission therefore continues to recommend OCCC reinstate contact visits.
- 3) Expand Programming Opportunities**
People in custody at OCCC have too much idle time and limited access to programming, including cultural, education, and reentry preparation. The Commission recommends expanding programming opportunities and community partnerships to reduce idle time and increase programming opportunities. While the facility has made some progress in this area, it is essential to continue and be innovative (even within limited space) to support people in custody and gain community support and trust.
- 4) Prioritize Kitchen Upgrades, Including Dishwasher Repair and Mold-Free Trays**

The kitchen at OCCC is in dire need of updates to ensure sanitary conditions for staff and the kitchen workline, and to provide safe food for the entire facility. Urgent repairs are needed for the dishwasher, along with replacement of ceiling and floor tiles, rusted appliances, and food service trays. Although there are plans for a new facility, these conditions cannot wait until then and must be addressed immediately.

5) Expand Furlough Utilization at OCCC

Although OCCC has the highest furlough participation and occupancy rate in comparison to the other three jails, there is still opportunity to increase furlough participation at OCCC. Identifying and addressing the roadblocks to furlough is crucial to allow more individuals to benefit from these programs and move through the correctional system. The Commission recommends that DCR assess, identify, and resolve systemic issues around furlough participation. The Commission would like to see furlough occupancy rates near 100% as it significantly increases the chances of success post-release.

6) Install Shade for Recreation Cages in the Holding Unit

The recreation area outside the Holding Unit consists of individual cages, which currently lack shaded areas to protect people in custody from the sun. The Commission recommends installing shade structures, even tarps, to provide protection from sun exposure.

7) Investigate and Address Concerns from People in Custody at OCCC

The Commission has received multiple complaints regarding the following issues at OCCC:

- **Roaches in Cells:** Roaches are present in the cells. This poses a health and sanitation concern. The Commission recommends implementing a pest control plan that effectively and safely eliminates the roach population.
- **Difficulties in Accessing Bail Calls:** The Commission learned that some individuals have experienced delays of several weeks in accessing bail calls, which has prevented those who could make bail from being released. This delay not only impacts individual rights but also contributes to overcrowding. The Commission urges the facility to establish and confirm a reliable system that allows timely access to bail calls for all eligible individuals and ensures all people in custody have prompt access to bail calls.

8) Ensure Regular Access to Books and Reading Material, Legal Calls, Mail, and Recreation for Those in Holding Unit, including those in Disciplinary Segregation

People in custody in the holding unit at OCCC reported irregular access to legal calls, daily recreation, and inconsistent mail service, along with no books or reading material. ACA standards require the following access for people in disciplinary segregation:

Mail: Inmates in Restrictive Housing can write and receive letters on the same basis as inmates in the general population.

Source: American Correctional Association (ACA) Performance-Based Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions, 5th ed., March 2021, 4B Restrictive Housing, 5-ACI-4B-20, p. 128.

Access to Legal and Reading Materials: Inmates in Restrictive Housing have access to reading materials.

Source: American Correctional Association (ACA) Performance-Based Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions, 5th ed., March 2021, 4B Restrictive Housing, 5-ACI-4B-23, p. 129.

Exercise Out of Cell: Inmates in Restrictive Housing receive a minimum of one hour of exercise outside their cells, five days per week, unless security or safety considerations dictate otherwise."

Source: American Correctional Association (ACA) Performance-Based Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions, 5th ed., March 2021, 4B Restrictive Housing, 5-ACI-4B-24, p. 129.

Telephone Privileges: Inmates in Restrictive Housing are allowed at minimum telephone privileges to access the judicial process and family emergencies as determined by the facility administrator or designee unless security or safety considerations dictate otherwise.

Source: American Correctional Association (ACA) Performance-Based Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions, 5th ed., March 2021, 4B Restrictive Housing, 5-ACI-4B-25, p. 129.

Access to Programs: Inmates in Extended Restrictive Housing have access to programs and services that include but are not limited to the following: educational services, commissary services, library services, social services, behavioral health and treatment services, religious guidance, and recreational programs.

Source: American Correctional Association (ACA) Performance-Based Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions, 5th ed., March 2021, 4B Restrictive Housing, 5-ACI-4B-26, p. 130.

Additional Recommendations to be Considered by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation:

1) Evaluate the Impacts of Requiring Post Closures to Limit Overtime Costs

The Department needs to seriously consider how requiring post closures to limit overtime impacts daily access to showers, out-of-cell time, outdoor recreation, programming and general conditions of confinement. The Department should allow Wardens to make these decisions as they should know the needs of their facilities the best. Additionally, the Department should consider holding regular inter-

divisional meetings between Division Administrators to evaluate the fiscal and humanitarian impacts of requiring post closures before authorizing overtime.

The Commission extends special thanks to the OCCC staff for their time, professionalism, and expertise during the tour.

Projects

Complaint Management

After recently receiving dedicated funding for a case management system from the legislature, the Commission secured a vendor to ensure a smooth and efficient system for the office. Commission staff are preparing for a 15-week systems integration process, which will involve integrating the case tracking system developed by Commission staff with the newly developed case management system. Once this process is complete, the Commission will be better equipped for tracking, monitoring, investigating, and responding to incoming complaints.

Past Meetings

Monthly Commission Meeting

On September 11, 2025, the Commission hosted its monthly public meeting. All past meeting agendas, video recordings, meeting minutes, and testimonies can be found on our website here: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/2025-meetings>. All meetings are live streamed on our [Facebook](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

Expenses for the Preceding Month – September

Item	Cost	Qty	Total	Description
Operating Expenses			\$23,202.54	
Telephone	\$217.24	1	\$217.24	
Advertising	\$350.00	1	\$350.00	Job Positing-Prison Oversight Specialist
Other Current Expenditures	\$1,094.24	1	\$1,094.24	In ArtSmart LLC
Other Current Expenditures	\$21,056.60	1	\$21,056.60	Compaint Management System
Other Current Expenditures	\$161.49	3	\$484.46	2TB DUO LINK Gen 2 Flash Drive
Inter-Island Travel			\$429.84	
AIRFARE-KRT	\$174.29	1	\$174.29	8/22
AIREFARE-ANJ	\$179.05	1	\$179.05	8/22
CAR RENTAL-CMJ	\$76.50	1	\$76.50	7/14
Mainland Travel			\$0.00	
Conferences			\$0.00	
TOTAL			\$23,632.38	

** All expenses reflect posted transactions procured*

General Office Information

Mailing Address: Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission
235 S Beretania Street, 16th floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

Website: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov>

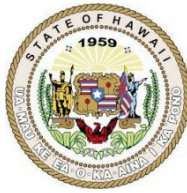
Submit Testimony: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/submit-testimony>

Email: hcsoc@hawaii.gov

Social Media: [YouTube](#)
[LinkedIn](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)

Monthly Meetings

This report will be discussed at the monthly Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission meeting on October 9, 2025. The next monthly meeting is scheduled to occur on November 13, 2025, at Leiopapa A. Kamehameha Building, 235 S. Beretania Street, Rom 204, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 or online via teleconference. More information can be found on the Commission's webpage here: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/information>.



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Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC)
September 2025 Site Tour Observations
Date of Report: September 11, 2025

In accordance with the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission's (the Commission, HCSOC) mandate to oversee the State's correctional system, on Thursday, September 11, 2025, the Commission toured the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) collectively as a group. The tour included one of the five Commissioners –Martha Torney in addition to the Oversight Coordinator and staff. The Commission had unfettered access to staff and the facility.

General Observations

During the Commission's prior visit in August 2024, there were three new buildings under construction: Building A (a secure housing unit now called "Pakui"), Building B (intake), and Building C (administration). All three structures are now complete. The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) is working with the Commission to rate the housing capacity for Pakui, the new secure housing unit.

Olomana Cottage

Olomana Cottage has a total capacity for 72 people between four dorms (Dorms A, B, C, and D) and primarily house people with a range of mental health issues. At the Commission's request, the mental health staff accompanied the Commission while touring the unit. Olomana Cottage reportedly does not have an assigned Case Manager and shares the Kaala Cottage Case Manager. People in custody report that the Case Manager does not spend adequate time in Olomana Cottage so when she comes to the unit, she is immediately overwhelmed with questions and requests. People in custody are aware of staffing shortages and do not fault the Case Manager.

Dorm A

On the day of the visit, the census for Dorm A was 38, with a 172% occupancy. Dorm A is a dormitory setting divided into cubicles separated by half walls with three to five individuals assigned to each cubicle. The jail population who are designated as medium to high acuity (primarily Level 3, some Level 2) occupy Dorm A.

Reading material is available, but a common complaint received from people in custody is that books are not rotated often enough. Another common complaint from people in custody pertains to how the Store Order is only every two weeks and expensive compared to costs in the community, which often leads to people in custody asking the facility to

provide snacks, especially in the evening. The time between dinner and breakfast is at least 12 hours, which is a common complaint at other facilities.

In the bathroom area, there were a number of problems indicative of the aging facility (opened in about 1952). Two of the sinks had poor water pressure. Of the four showers, hot water was not always available. People in custody discovered that if they kept one shower on all the time, there was more reliable hot water in the others. The first toilet was malfunctioning as the flush push button did not always work.

Dorm B

On the day of the visit, the census for Dorm B was 13, with a 108% occupancy. Dorm B is made up of cells, all but two single celled. People in custody designated as medium to high mental health acuity occupy Dorm B.

Dorm C

On the day of the visit, the census for Dorm C was 21, with a 131% occupancy. Dorm C houses people with high mental health acuity in single cells and is the disciplinary unit for the Cottage. The Commission spoke with one person in custody who was reading a book prior to our discussion. Books are available but not tablets, which the person in custody would like to have access to. She also noted that those in Dorm C do not have much out-of-cell time, averaging one hour per day. This is concerning to the Commission given that individuals with mental health issues need more access to out of cell time.

Pakui Cottage

Pakui was recently built and occupied for less than one year. Pakui Cottage has three dorms (Dorm A, B , and C) and houses the prison population. The Commission is currently in the process of determining its operating capacity. Offender Services provides classes on a variety of subjects on Monday and Wednesday, Tuesday and Thursday are ukulele classes.

Dorm A

Dorm A is two stories and divided into cubicles with floor-to-ceiling side walls separating each cubicle and an open front. There are four cubicles on each floor, with four double-bunks in each cubicle for a total of eight beds. The bottom floor opens into the dayroom, the upper floor is an open hallway overlooking the dayroom.

The most common complaint was lack of airflow in the cubicle, resulting in hot conditions that were obvious during our tour. The windows, while providing adequate daylight, have small louvers on the top that open. Two plug-in fans were assigned to each cubicle but did not provide enough air flow to reduce the heat.

People in custody reported that many programs needed for parole eligibility were restricted from medium and close custody inmates. An example used was the Residential Drug Abuse Program (RDAP) only accepting minimum custody individuals. Other programs were available to all, as stated above.

Some complained that the mattresses become flattened over time, resulting in less cushion between the person and the hard bunk.

Dorm B

Dorm B, the same layout as Dorm A, is designated the Honor Dorm with individuals having more freedom of movement and access to classes outside the living unit. Some were interested in going to the new gym in Kaala Cottage that was literally donated to the prison population by the Women's Prison Project. However, it is challenging to manage security of escorting individuals when the pretrial and sentenced population must remain separate (the gym is located where pretrial individuals are housed).

One person in custody complained about the lack of a notary at the facility. In the past, facility secretaries and other clerical workers were trained as state notaries and provided notary services to people in custody and, when needed, for official business carried out by State employees. It appears that the Department no longer allows this.

Dorm C

Dorm C is two stories with 12 cells on each floor. People in custody assigned to Dorm C include those classified as Maximum custody, Protective Custody or housed in disciplinary segregation as a result of a misconduct. The space is used judiciously, with only 14 people in custody occupying the 24 cells available. People in custody are given one hour per day out of cell, during which time they have access to phones or tablets for contacting their families or participating in programming available on the tablet.

Maunawili Cottage

Maunawili Cottage is where the library, education services, medical and infirmary, and the kitchen are located. No people in custody are housed in Maunawili Cottage.

Education

The Education Supervisor shared some of the programs offered including obtaining a GED, Dental Assistance Training, Career Building, Mindfulness, etc. Windward Community College provides college courses, such as Psychology 100, Religion 150, English 100, and the very popular Culinary Arts. The educational staff are doing a great job in offering a variety of courses.

Library

The library has a very large selection of books available. At the time of the visit, there were no staff available to explain how people in custody access the law library.

Medical

Medical staff noted the medical records system is running very slow which can impede their work. There are also a number of vacancies that include one RN IV, three RN III, two

LPN II, and two Human Service Professionals. Medical staff were informed that agency nurses will not be assigned after September 30th due to “lack of funds.” Medical staff at MCCC reported the same staffing issue and removal of agency nurses. Given that the Fiscal Year began on July 1, 2025, it is very concerning to the Commission that no funds may be available after the first quarter of the fiscal year.

Infirmary

The infirmary had one woman in the general room and three women in cells. Two of the women in cells were on suicide watch, the third on safety watch. When passing through the area where the cells are, the Adult Corrections Office (ACO) assigned was not at the desk, but in a room across from the cells talking with what appeared to be a person in custody on the work line. The Commission does not know how long the ACO was away from the desk, however, suicide watch requires constant surveillance.

Kitchen

The kitchen was busy preparing for dinner, but it was clean and in good order, especially for being 60 years old. There was only one piece of equipment (the steam cooker) in need of repair. The cooker produces heat but no steam, however, maintenance is being scheduled. The refrigerator and freezer temperatures were appropriate. The pantry was full, well organized and allowed air to flow adequately.

Follow Up on Previous Recommendations

While touring WCCC in 2024, the Commission noted a large number of women housed in the infirmary on suicide watch. After inquiring, the Commission learned that since February 2024, WCCC did not have a psychologist on staff. This caused a very serious backlog of individuals on suicide watch who otherwise would have been removed. However, the Commission has learned that DCR hired Dr. Erin Wilkinson in July 2025, who is an experienced Psychologist and has already started evaluating DCR’s mental health needs. The amount of individuals on suicide watch was significantly less concerning and the Commission applauds DCR’s recruitment efforts.

The Commission has no additional recommendations currently and extends special thanks to the WCCC staff for their time, professionalism, and expertise during the tour.



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Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC)
September 2025 Site Tour Observations
Date of Report: September 17, 2025

On Wednesday, September 17, 2025, the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (the Commission, HCSOC) toured the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) collectively as a group. The tour included three of the five Commissioners – Chair Patterson, Commissioner Torney, and Commissioner Browning– in addition to the Oversight Coordinator, staff, and State House Representatives Della Au Belatti and Kim Coco Iwamoto. Commissioner Town was present for a meeting with Warden John Schell prior to the tour.

Meeting with Warden John Schell

The Commission and Representatives had the opportunity to meet with the OCCC Warden at the beginning of the tour which took the majority of the visit. One of the largest concerns noted by the Commission was consistent complaints received by people in custody at OCCC regarding lack of out-of-cell time. It is the Commission's understanding that this issue is specifically caused by restrictive overtime requirements that have been set at the Department level. The Warden explained that OCCC is required to close a minimum of 21 posts on any given watch before overtime can be authorized. The requirement to close 21 posts has resulted in consistent 23-hour lockdowns for general population custody levels. This prevents OCCC from providing regular access to out-of-cell time, including time out of cell for meals, showers, outdoor recreation, visits, phone or tablet time, and programming. The short and long-term impacts of trauma experienced by people in custody are also a concern given the conditions of confinement created by extended lockdowns.

The Warden and OCCC staff expressed serious concern regarding the potential liability generated from closing that many posts on a consistent basis as it creates terrible conditions of confinement. It is the Commission's opinion that **the cost of liability would likely outweigh any of the savings from reducing overtime costs.**

The Commission is deeply concerned regarding the lack of out-of-cell time for those in custody and views the relationship between restricting overtime and population management as a serious management failure on the Department level. Many of the solutions and recommendations that the Commission has put forward previously cannot be implemented at the facility level but must be implemented at the Department level.

Facility Highlights:

The Commission wishes to highlight several significant improvements OCCC has made, and key issues addressed over the past year:

1) Relocation of Women to the Women's Community Correctional Center

Women in custody have been relocated to the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC). This movement has significantly reduced overcrowding, reduced the opportunity for women in custody to be placed in compromising situations, and has provided the opportunity to expand medical and mental health programs for the male population at OCCC. Last year, OCCC had tentative plans to use Module 3 (30 cells) as the Health Care Infirmary and Module 2 (24 cells) as the step-down unit from Module 1 suicide watch and critical care for mentally ill people in custody. However, it does not appear that previous plans have been implemented.

Medical Unit/Infirmary

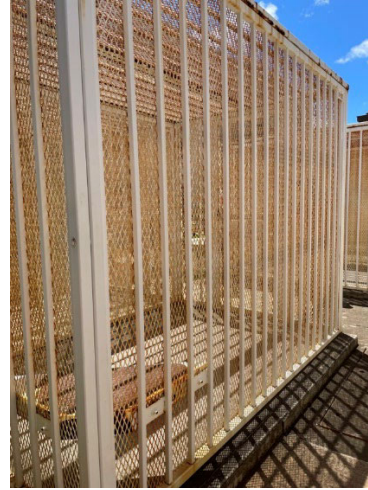
The Medical Unit was orderly and well-staffed, however, many staff vacancies exist and services are augmented by contract nurses. The physical space lacks privacy for medical practitioners who interview and examine people in custody, preventing what should be confidential medical communications. The infirmary is inadequate for a facility the size of OCCC, and the area completely lacks privacy.

Holding Unit

The Holding Unit was built in 1936 and, while functional, was clearly archaic. It is three stories with 12 cells on each floor. The front of the cells is made up of metal bars, not walls. Given the openness, there was no excessive noise detected. Thirty-nine (39) people in custody were housed in the Holding Unit with some double bunked whereas there are 36 cells. The unit was cold with some people in custody wrapped in their blankets to keep warm.

The outside recreation yard is made up of "cages" for a single individual. These cages, about double the size of a cell, do not have shaded areas to block the sun. It was reported by staff that about half the population in the holding unit take advantage of outdoor recreation time.





Module 17

During the Commission's visit, Module 17 housed approximately 49 people which was designed with a capacity of 48. The unit was under extremely high tension where nearly all people in custody, from behind their locked cells, were yelling complaints regarding not having daily access to showers, out-of-cell time, phone calls, programs, and outdoor recreation. This further highlights the importance of ensuring the population is managed to ensure appropriate conditions of confinement. High tensions such as these further the risk of inmate assaults, fights, suicides, staff assaults, use of force and other dangerous potentially avoidable situations for staff and people in custody.

Annex II

Annex II is a three-story concrete building divided into open bays on each floor, with dormitory-style housing that utilizes bunk beds. On the day of the Commission's visit, 134 men were housed in this area, which was designed with a capacity of 114. People in custody progress through the unit, moving from the first to the second, and then to the third floor. No complaints were expressed from staff or people in custody in this unit.

Visitation:

The visiting area allows for only non-contact visits, preventing any physical contact between people in custody and their loved ones.

Follow-up on Previous Commission Recommendations

The Commission made the following recommendations following the HCSOC February 2023 tour, which have not yet been implemented. The Commission continues to recommend the following:

1) Access to Confidential Policies

During the Commission's prior visit in August 2024, the Commission was surprised to learn that the Warden did not have access to DCR's "confidential" policies and procedures. Wardens are responsible for managing the facilities and upholding policies and procedures. Since August 2024, DCR has made confidential policies accessible to Wardens, as recommended by the Commission.

2) Allow for Natural Light by Removing Wood Covering from all Cell Windows

Replace wood-covered windows in housing units to allow natural light, in line with American Correctional Association (ACA) standards. Although some wood coverings have been removed over the past year, wood coverings do remain on some cell windows. According to ACA Standard 4-ALDF-1A-16, *all inmate rooms/cells must provide occupants with access to natural light through at least three square feet of transparent glazing, plus two additional square feet per inmate in rooms/cells housing three or more individuals*. Therefore, the Commission recommends OCCC continue replacing wood coverings to ensure all cell windows in all modules allow natural light. Compliance with ACA standards is of particular importance with OCCC moving toward ACA accreditation.

3) Restoration of Contact Visits

OCCC has not offered in-person contact visits for five years, initially due to COVID-19. Extensive research underscores the importance and rehabilitative benefits of contact visits for those in custody, as these visits allow individuals to maintain closer connections with their loved ones and communities. The Commission therefore continues to recommend OCCC reinstate contact visits.

4) Expand Programming Opportunities

People in custody at OCCC have too much idle time and limited access to programming, including cultural, education, and reentry preparation. The Commission recommends expanding programming opportunities and community partnerships to reduce idle time and increase programming opportunities. While the facility has made some progress in this area, it is essential to continue and be innovative (even within limited space) to support people in custody and gain community support and trust.

5) Prioritize Kitchen Upgrades, Including Dishwasher Repair and Mold-Free Trays

The kitchen at OCCC is in dire need of updates to ensure sanitary conditions for staff and the kitchen workline, and to provide safe food for the entire facility. Urgent repairs are needed for the dishwasher, along with replacement of ceiling and floor tiles, rusted appliances, and food service trays. Although there are plans for a new facility, these conditions cannot wait until then and must be addressed immediately.

6) Expand Furlough Utilization at OCCC

Although OCCC has the highest furlough participation and occupancy rate in comparison to the other three jails, there is still opportunity to increase furlough participation at OCCC. Identifying and addressing the roadblocks to furlough is crucial to allow more individuals to benefit from these programs and move through the correctional system. The Commission recommends that DCR assess, identify, and resolve systemic issues around furlough participation. The Commission would like to see furlough occupancy rates near 100% as it significantly increases the chances of success post-release.

7) Install Shade for Recreation Cages in the Holding Unit

The recreation area outside the Holding Unit consists of individual cages, which currently lack shaded areas to protect people in custody from the sun. The Commission recommends installing shade structures, even tarps, to provide protection from sun exposure.

8) Investigate and Address Concerns from People in Custody at OCCC

The Commission has received multiple complaints regarding the following issues at OCCC:

- **Roaches in Cells:** Roaches are present in the cells. This poses a health and sanitation concern. **The Commission recommends implementing a pest control plan that effectively and safely eliminates the roach population.**
- **Difficulties in Accessing Bail Calls:** The Commission learned that some individuals have experienced delays of several weeks in accessing bail calls, which has prevented those who could make bail from being released. This delay not only impacts individual rights but also contributes to overcrowding. The Commission urges the facility to establish and confirm a reliable system that allows timely access to bail calls for all eligible individuals and **ensures all people in custody have prompt access to bail calls.**

9) Ensure Regular Access to Books and Reading Material, Legal Calls, Mail, and Recreation for Those in Holding Unit, including those in Disciplinary Segregation

People in custody in the holding unit at OCCC reported irregular access to legal calls, daily recreation, and inconsistent mail service, along with no books or reading material. ACA standards require the following access for people in disciplinary segregation:

Mail: Inmates in Restrictive Housing can write and receive letters on the same basis as inmates in the general population.

Source: American Correctional Association (ACA) Performance-Based Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions, 5th ed., March 2021, 4B Restrictive Housing, 5-ACI-4B-20, p. 128.

Access to Legal and Reading Materials: Inmates in Restrictive Housing have access to reading materials.

Source: American Correctional Association (ACA) Performance-Based Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions, 5th ed., March 2021, 4B Restrictive Housing, 5-ACI-4B-23, p. 129.

Exercise Out of Cell: Inmates in Restrictive Housing receive a minimum of one hour of exercise outside their cells, five days per week, unless security or safety considerations dictate otherwise."

Source: American Correctional Association (ACA) Performance-Based Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions, 5th ed., March 2021, 4B Restrictive Housing, 5-ACI-4B-24, p. 129.

Telephone Privileges: Inmates in Restrictive Housing are allowed at minimum telephone privileges to access the judicial process and family emergencies as determined by the facility administrator or designee unless security or safety considerations dictate otherwise.

Source: American Correctional Association (ACA) Performance-Based Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions, 5th ed., March 2021, 4B Restrictive Housing, 5-ACI-4B-25, p. 129.

Access to Programs: Inmates in Extended Restrictive Housing have access to programs and services that include but are not limited to the following: educational services, commissary services, library services, social services, behavioral health and treatment services, religious guidance, and recreational programs.

Source: American Correctional Association (ACA) Performance-Based Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions, 5th ed., March 2021, 4B Restrictive Housing, 5-ACI-4B-26, p. 130.

Additional Recommendations to be Considered by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation:

1) Evaluate the Impacts of Requiring Post Closures to Limit Overtime Costs

The Department needs to seriously consider how requiring post closures to limit overtime impacts daily access to showers, out-of-cell time, outdoor recreation, programming and general conditions of confinement. The Department should allow Wardens to make these decisions as they should know the needs of their facilities the best. Additionally, the Department should consider holding regular inter-divisional meetings between Division Administrators to evaluate the fiscal and humanitarian impacts of requiring post closures before authorizing overtime.

The Commission extends special thanks to the OCCC staff for their time, professionalism, and expertise during the tour.