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No. _____

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION
Ka 'Oihana Ho'omalu Kalaima a Ho'oponopono Ola
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

January 12, 2026

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

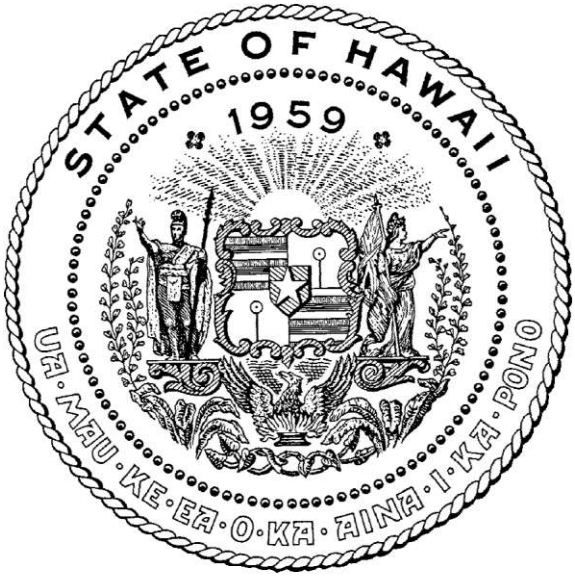
The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Speaker
Members of the House of Representatives
Thirty-Third Hawai'I State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

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

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Report on Gender Responsive Community Base Programs for Women, as required section 367D-8, Hawai'i Revised Statutes. In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at https://dcr.hawaii.gov/publications/reports-to-legislature/.

Sincerely,

Tommy Johnson
Director



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION
REPORT TO THE 2026 STATE LEGISLATURE

ANNUAL REPORT ON GENDER RESPONSIVE COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN

Pursuant to section 367D-8, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes

DECEMBER 2025

ANNUAL REPORT ON GENDER RESPONSIVE COMMUNITY BASED PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN
Pursuant to section 367D-8, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes

Introduction:

Section 367D-2, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS), mandates that the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) foster a gender responsive environment by providing model gender-responsive programs for female offenders that are responsive to statewide needs and geographical areas and award contracts for programs subject to funding by the Legislature. The gender-responsive environment and programs were to:

1) Respond in a rehabilitative way to the type of offenses female offenders generally commit and address pathways to crime;
2) Respond to the problems of female offenders with dependent children;
3) Respond to the importance of developing self-determination through independent living and marketable job skills;
4) Assist female offenders in overcoming their own extreme degree of dependency by developing and fostering strong and healthy relationships without losing self- esteem;
5) Respond appropriately to the specific health care needs of women, including but not limited to mental health and substance abuse services;
6) Offer transitional support for female offenders and their families to promote successful reentry into their families and communities; and
7) Offer technical assistance and training toward the implementation of other similar programs.

This report is being submitted in response to §367D-8, which requires DCR to report on the following areas: program descriptions, type and costs of contracts made, name of the private agency awarded each contract, and the success of each contract in meeting program specifications.

Corrections Program Services - Education Branch:

The Corrections Program Services - Education (CPS-E) Branch provides learning opportunities through a holistic, Integrated Basic Education Skills Technical Training (IBESTT) program that focuses on preparing individuals with marketable skills in preparation for productive re-entry to the community. With the goal of fostering and maintaining a commitment to educational excellence, CPS-E Branch works toward maintaining a continuum of services that provides consistency in the development of the whole person throughout the period of incarceration.

Adult Literacy Classes – Emphasis is placed on training and education for those who do not have high school or high school equivalency diplomas. These classes are conducted by Corrections Education Specialists and by contract instructors through the Hawai‘i Department of Education–Adult Community School, particularly the McKinley Community School for Adults-Moanalua Campus.

- Adult Basic Education/GED Prep: In FY2025, 306 women enrolled with 60 completions; and
- High School Equivalency: In FY2025, 10 women enrolled with 6 graduates.

Post-Secondary Programs are made possible by Windward Community College's Pu‘uhonua Program. It serves incarcerated individuals through credit-bearing college coursework. The program actively engages students through rigorous coursework, skill building, and proactive counseling and support services. The program was funded by a grant through the U.S. Department of Education and subsequently utilized Second Chance Pell/Pell grant funding. Some of the courses included in this program are: English 100, Math 100, Hawaiian Language 101 & 102, Psychology, Sociology, Speech, and Religion. In FY2025, sixty-four women enrolled in various courses with thirty-six women completing courses towards a certificate in Mental Health Technician or an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) – Active partnerships with various agencies that focus on the skills and knowledge required for specific jobs or fields of work.

- **Carpentry Pre-Apprenticeship –** This program was made possible through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between DCR and Honolulu Community College, which provides the program for the Carpenter's Union. In FY2025, nine women enrolled in the program with nine completions.
- **Culinary Arts –** This is a Post-Secondary Program through the Kapiolani Community College (KCC) which allows women to earn fourteen college credits and a Certificate of Competence. The program is made possible through an MOA with KCC and DCR. In FY2025, eight women enrolled with seven completions.
- **Landscaping Technician –** This course is designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to pursue a career in landscaping, offering a competitive edge in the hiring process. Delivered in partnership with the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience (CTAHR) Cooperative Extension, the curriculum follows the standards set by the National Association of Landscape Professionals and is taught by an industry expert. This 54-hour program is delivered through three 18-hour micro-courses, each of which leads to a Micro-Credential in the field of exterior landscaping. Micro classes are offered for Installation, Maintenance, and Irrigation. The program was made possible through an MOA between DCR and Windward Community College (WCC). In FY2025, nine women enrolled with nine completions.

- **Soft Skills & Career Communication Training –** This course provides a professional development course in soft skills and career communication. The program was possible by an MOA between Leeward Community College and DCR. In FY2025, eleven women enrolled with ten completions.
- **Yoga Teacher Training –** This is a 200-hour yoga instructor training program with certification provided by Project Koa Yoga. The program is delivered through private grant funds obtained by Project Koa Yoga. In FY2025, ten women enrolled with five completions.
- **Digital Literacy –** This course prepares participants to connect, learn, and create more promising professional success, as well as to improve their livelihood, by becoming discerning users of technology. Successful completion of this course earns participants a Digital Literacy Certificate of Professional Development and they gain the knowledge to effectively be prepared to use technology and the Internet confidently. Certification is provided by community partners (WCC, Purple Maia, and Worknet) utilizing the Good Jobs grant to deliver the program. In FY2025, twenty-two women enrolled with fourteen completions.

Personal Development Programs:

Cognitive Based Therapy (CBT) programs utilize an evidence-based curriculum designed to address criminal thinking, which includes introduction to key concepts of CBT, role modeling, role playing, and skill building activities that relate to criminogenic need.

- **Journey to Pono, LLC** delivered services to women who completed the Reception, Assessment, and Diagnostic (RAD) process at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) who were identified as moderate to high risk for recidivism, to include those who have violated their parole. The program includes decision making and anger/stress management with an emphasis on re-entry (transitioning to community, family, work) for women going to furlough. The contract is awarded from March 1, 2024, through February 28, 2026, for $240,000. In FY2025, twenty-eight women enrolled with twenty-one completions.
- **Keiki O Ka `Aina Family Learning Center** delivered Domestic Violence, Domestic Violence Anger Management, Parenting After Violence, and Victim Support Services at WCCC, that focused on assisting women with successfully transitioning back to their families and communities, to include issues relating to pregnancy and single parenthood. The contract from awarded from September 18, 2023, through September 18, 2026, for $662,247. In FY 25, KOKA provided the following classes: Domestic Violence & Anger Management (thirty-one women enrolled with twenty-six completions), Hawaiian Culture (twelve women enrolled with two completions), Healthy Relationships (twenty-seven women enrolled with eighteen completions), Parenting (twenty-six women enrolled with seventeen completions), and Financial Literacy (eighteen women enrolled with twelve completions).

Corrections Program Services – Library Services Branch:

The Corrections Program Services Library Services Branch administers the Read-To-Me program as part of the recreational library services. The program is a significant rehabilitative outlet for incarcerated individuals that connect them to their families and loved ones, that allows the women to select books and record themselves reading aloud for their children. Read-to-Me International Hawai'i Chapter, a non-profit organization, provides the resources. In FY2025, 545 women participated in the program.

Corrections Program Services – Substance Abuse Services Branch:

Outpatient Treatment Services (OTS):

DCR provides a cognitive-behavioral treatment component lasting between 40 to 60 hours. Groups meet at least twice a week and utilize evidence-based cognitive-behavioral therapy curriculum. Eligibility for OTS are for women that score at lower risk for criminal conduct and meet diagnostic criteria for substance use disorders. Women receiving services in this modality of treatment have had minimal disruption in their psychosocial or vocational functioning attributed to substance use. At Kauai Community Correctional Center (KCCC), services were provided by the Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services (SAATS) through a Purchase of Service Agreement (PSA) award extension from January 3, 2024, through March 31, 2025, for $91,315. Services were continued by Corrections Program Services - Substance Abuse Services Branch. In FY2025, twenty-eight women enrolled in the program with eighteen completions.

DCR staff also provide OTS at WCCC using the same curriculum. In FY2025, six women enrolled in the program with six completions.

Intensive Outpatient Treatment Services (IOP):

DCR staff provide IOP substance abuse treatment services to women located at WCCC. The IOP treatment modality consists of group sessions lasting approximately two to three hours, four days a week, with accompanying individual counseling sessions. IOP services are for women who are at moderate risk for criminal conduct and meet diagnostic criteria for substance use disorder.

IOP participants work through gender-specific, evidenced based Residential Drug Abuse Program interactive journals purchased through The Change Companies. These journals allow the participants to address gender-specific situations to develop and practice the skill sets necessary for a successful transition back into the community. The gender-specific curriculum is important as statistics indicate that female offenders are 50% more likely to recidivate as their male counterparts when considering risk factors such as family/marital, vocational, as well as mental health matters. The duration of the program is approximately nine months until completion. Each group is a closed ended group with a maximum of fifteen women per group. Assessment and treatment planning, individual and family counseling, including continuing care services are provided for each participant.

In FY2025, thirty-eight women enrolled in the program with twenty-one completions.

Residential Treatment Services:

Ke Alaula Therapeutic Community (TC) utilizes up to 25 beds at WCCC. The program is operated by Hina Mauka through a Purchase of Service Agreement awarded from November 1, 2024, through April 30, 2025, for $150,000. The program is an intensive long-term, nine-to-twelve-month therapeutic community. In response to more complex cases, the duration of the program may be extended to meet the individual's needs.

Cognitive Behavioral Treatment and Social Learning Theory combine to address criminal thinking and behavior. As the TC residents live and work together separated from the general population, they hold each other accountable to practice recovery skills and change their criminal thinking and behavior. Specialized services were also provided in sexual and physical abuse, domestic violence, criminality, and other types of gender responsive issues. In FY2025, eight new women were admitted into the program, with five successful completions. (Please note completions reflect carryover from the previous fiscal year).

Bridge Program provides substance abuse specific reentry services for incarcerated individuals transitioning from the institution setting and back into the community. Its focus is to successfully re-integrate women back into the community by capitalizing on their completion of primary in-facility treatment and providing a continuum of care to build off past successes. Programming is enhanced at this juncture with job development services, life skills, and family education, therapy, and re-unification opportunities. Participants pursue work in the community while continuing to work on substance abuse issues and other criminogenic risk areas.

Family Education and Therapy is available to Bridge participants through contracted services within the community. Participants are introduced to educational group components using evidence-based curriculum for five sessions lasting up to two hours. The focus of these services is to increase awareness for offenders of benefits that family counseling may have when attempting to reunify with family in the community. Further sessions are available for the incarcerated individual past the initial five sessions by request and can include the offender's family in the community.

The Bridge program is staffed by Corrections Program Services - Substance Abuse Services Branch. Federal funding via the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) grant, continues to provide the primary funding of the Bridge program, that provides up to fifteen participants at a time.

In FY2025, thirteen new women were admitted into the program, with twenty successful completions. (Please note completions reflect carryover from the previous fiscal year).

Transition Services and Community Housing Programs:

Women's Furlough Community Housing Program: This program was contracted with the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) Oahu at Fernhurst from August 16, 2024, through August 15, 2026, for $400,000. The program is currently called Ka Hale Hoʻ Ala Hou No Na Wahine (Home of Re-awakening for Women) and provides up to fourteen beds per month. The contract focus is to provide housing for female offenders on furlough as they transition and re-integrate back into the community. This program provides access to many support and referral services including but not limited to job development, money management, life skills, anger management, domestic-violence prevention, and relapse prevention within the community. The program has been a long-time partner of DCR often filling gaps in services for the female population. In FY2025, thirteen new women were admitted into the program, with eleven successful completions. (Please note completions reflect carryover from the previous fiscal year).

Women in Need (WIN): This program provides clean and sober housing for women on furlough and parole. Participants are given the tools for healing and empowerment. WIN provides intensive case management, stabilizing courses in parenting, understanding and awareness of domestic violence, self-esteem, job readiness, basic life skills and mentorship. WIN is a non-profit organization contracted for services from February 1, 2025, through January 31, 2026, for $150,000. In FY2025, six women were admitted with five successful completions, who then transitioned to other housing opportunities.

Goodwill Industries of Hawai'i, Inc.: This provides job readiness services that include assessments and individual service plans, vocational training, employment and reentry support, job placement, and job maintenance/re-assessment. Contracted through DCR Reentry Coordination Office, for furlough and parole from June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2027, for $400,000. In FY2025, twenty-eight women sought and obtained services.

Ka Wehena O Ke Ao: This program is administered by the University of Hawai`i Office of Research Services, that provides a holistic approach and emphasizes that incarcerated individuals take responsibility for their choices and provide a means to assist in the reparation or establishment of relationships with their families or other close relationships through cultural practices. This approach incorporates group sessions, one on one counseling, and the Ohana Kukakuka Circle at WCCC. Contract extension from April 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026, with remaining funds from the original $180,000. In FY2025, twenty-eight women enrolled with nine graduates. Altogether, 42 one-on-one sessions were conducted, and no Ohana Kukakuka Circles occurred.