JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

DEPT. COMM. NO. 312

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Vacant
Deputy Director
Correctional Institutions

Sanna Muñoz
Deputy Director
Rehabilitation Services
and
Programs

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

No. _____

January 14, 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

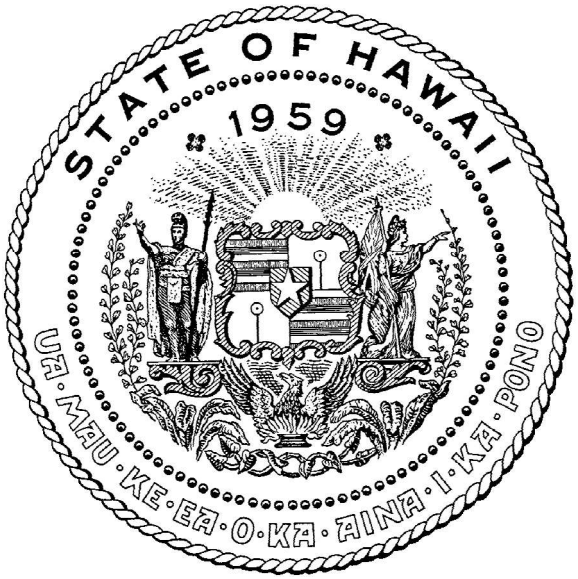
The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Speaker
Members of the House of Representatives
Thirty-Third Hawai'I State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

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 Cognitive Restructuring, as required by Act 193, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2010. 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 COGNITIVE RESTRUCTURING
Pursuant to Act 193, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2010

DECEMBER 2025

ANNUAL REPORT ON COGNITIVE RESTRUCTURING
Pursuant to Act 193, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2010

INTRODUCTION:

In 2010, the Twenty-Fifth Legislature passed Act 193 with the purpose of authorizing the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) (formerly the Department of Public Safety) to offer reentry/reintegration programs within Hawai‘i’s correctional facilities that included cognitive-behavioral therapy with cultural and other interventions. The legislative intent of these programs is to promote the successful transition of offenders from incarceration to the community by addressing domestic violence, addictions, self-mastery through identity, and community connections.

DCR continues to focus on implementing programs that are evidence-based. However, the Department does not differentiate between Native Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian participation in these programs. Enhanced data collection will be necessary to make the distinction to better track outcomes other than just completions. This includes recidivism outcomes which were relied upon at a departmental level from the Interagency Council on Integrated Sanctions (ICIS).

In Fiscal Year 2025, cognitive based intervention programs to address reentry/reintegration focused on self-development and substance abuse treatment services. The overall challenge continues to be staff vacancies that would allow access to programs for more incarcerated individuals and the ability to track outcomes other than program completions. The following list of programs provides general course descriptions, criteria for admission to the programs, number of enrollments, and number of successful completions.

EDUCATION PROGRAM SERVICES:

Self-Development Programs focus on personal change and personal growth. Programs in this group include Cognitive Skills, Building Healthy Relationships, Parenting, Mindfulness, Languages, Yoga, Toastmasters, and Career and Technical Education. Cognitive Skills courses are offered at the Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF), Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF), Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF), Women’s Community Correctional Center (WCCC), Hawai‘i Community Correctional Center (HCCC), and Kauai Community Correctional Center (KCCC).

Admission Criteria: Cognitive Skills requires a reading level at grade point 4.0 as determined on the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE). All other self-development courses are open to any interested student or students referred for the course by their case managers.

Lifestiles is a 12-week program of self-change that meets the cognitive skills requirement. It teaches criminal thinking intervention, building motivation, setting goals, thinking skills, recognizing thinking errors, making critical choices, and getting a discharge plan delivered by Worknet, Inc. at HCF and WCCC.

According to FY2025 data, 20 incarcerated individuals enrolled, with 13 successful completions.

Thinking for a Change 4.0 (T4C) is an integrated cognitive behavioral change program authored by Jack Bush, Ph.D., Barry Glick, Ph.D., and Juliana Taymans, Ph.D., under a cooperative agreement with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC). T4C incorporates research from cognitive restructuring theory, social skills development, and the learning and use of problem-solving skills. The program is delivered by Corrections Program Services - Education Branch staff at the Maui Community Correctional Center (MCCC), HCCC, KCCC, and KCF.

According to FY2025 data, 46 incarcerated individuals enrolled, with 24 successful completions.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) is an evidence-based program developed by The Change Companies. Using the curriculum, Journey to Pono LLC delivers the program at HCF, WCCC, and WCF. The curriculum demonstrates that antisocial thoughts and cognitive skill deficits are causally related to criminal behavior. It targets these antisocial thoughts and skill deficits by using a behavioral approach that includes modeling, rehearsing, and rewarding. This program is not for substance abuse treatment.

According to FY25 data, 105 incarcerated individuals enrolled Statewide, with 77 successful completions. An additional 33 incarcerated individuals from Hawai‘i housed at the Saguaro Correctional Center in Eloy, Arizona, enrolled, with 28 successful completions.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES

Effective August 1, 2024, the Substance Abuse Treatment Services Branch began assigning incarcerated individuals to substance abuse treatment levels by utilizing scores attained through the implementation of the Texas Christian University Drug Screen, version 5 (TCUDS 5). The TCUDS 5 is a brief, evidence-based screening tool designed to identify the presence and severity of substance use disorders among individuals, especially those involved in the criminal justice system. It consists of 17 self-reported items that align with the DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for substance use disorders, allowing classification of an individual’s substance use into 4 categories of need: none, low, moderate, or high. By utilizing the TCUDS 5, Corrections Program Services – Substance Abuse Services Branch staff can identify and provide three levels of separate and specific substance abuse treatment to address an offender’s criminogenic risk and needs level.

Outpatient Level of Care (offered at HCF, KCF, WCF, KCCC, MCCC, WCCC) is best suited for individuals assessed as low risk with low needs, typically those meeting diagnostic criteria for low to moderate substance use disorders with minimal psychosocial or vocational disruption. The program emphasizes CBT components and strategies to help incarcerated individuals recognize and modify thinking patterns that contribute to substance use and criminal behavior. Two-hour group sessions take place twice a week, for four to six months, utilizing evidence-based interactive journaling.

According to FY2025 data, 96 incarcerated individuals enrolled, with 81 successful completions.

Intensive Outpatient Level of Care is offered at HCF and WCCC through Purchase of Services contracts. Substance Abuse Services Branch staff deliver services at WCF and KCF. The program is designed for moderate-risk individuals with moderate to high needs, who meet diagnostic criteria for moderate to high substance use disorders. The program builds upon CBT principles to explore the relationship between an incarcerated individual's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors associated with substance use and criminal activity. Services include individualized treatment planning, counseling, and continuing care over the course of nine months, meeting a minimum of four times a week, up to three hours per session.

According to FY2025 data, 105 incarcerated individuals enrolled, with 89 successful completions (Please note completions reflect carryover from the previous fiscal year).

Residential Level of Care operates as a cognitive therapeutic community at WCF (KASHBOX) and WCCC (Ke Alaula). The program provides intensive, long-term treatment utilizing the Therapeutic Community model, combining CBT and Social Learning Theory, emphasizing role modeling, peer accountability, and community living to address criminal thinking and behavior. The average length of stay ranges from nine to twelve months, with extensions as clinically indicated. Residential programming is best suited for incarcerated individuals assessed as high-risk for re-offending and have moderate to high needs for substance use/abuse treatment.

According to FY2025 data, 43 incarcerated men enrolled at WCF, with 44 successful completions. Additionally, 8 females enrolled at WCCC, with 5 successful completions (Please note completions reflect carryover from the previous fiscal year for both locations).

Reintegration and Continuing Care services are offered at the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) and WCCC. Recognizing that delivering effective, research-driven interventions is essential to fostering long-term recovery, reducing recidivism, and supporting successful community reintegration, the Substance Abuse Services Branch also manages a specialized transition program for the furlough populations.

- Bridge programs provide substance abuse–specific reentry services to incarcerated individuals transitioning from incarceration to the community. The goal is to promote successful reintegration by extending treatment gains and addressing real-world challenges. Federal funding through a Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) grant supports both programs that feature job development and life skills training; family education, therapy, and reunification support; with an evidence-based curriculum of continued substance abuse counseling. Reintegration Services and Continuing Care are best suited for individuals that have completed primary, intensive outpatient or residential levels of care within the correctional setting, and eligible for furlough. This includes incarcerated individuals assessed as moderate to high risk for recidivism and moderate to high needs for substance abuse treatment.

According to FY2025 data, 61 incarcerated men enrolled at OCCC, with 43 successful completions. Additionally, there were 13 incarcerated women enrolled at WCCC, with 20 successful completions. (Please note completions reflect carryover from the previous fiscal year).

- Fernhurst Ka Hale Hoʻāla Hou No Nā Wāhine (Home of Reawakening for Women) program, contracted through the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), program provides safe, supportive housing for female furlough participants from WCCC, focusing on community reintegration and access to supportive services such as job development, money management, life skills, anger management, domestic violence prevention, and relapse prevention education. This program is best suited for incarcerated women that have completed primary treatment within the correctional setting (outpatient level of care) and assessed as low risk for recidivism and low to moderate substance needs.

According to FY2025 data, 13 incarcerated women enrolled, with 11 successful completions. (Please note completions reflect carryover from the previous fiscal year).

CoreCivic Contracted Services, for Hawaiʻi's incarcerated individuals housed at the Saguaro Correctional Center in Eloy, Arizona, offers substance abuse services at the Outpatient and Intensive Outpatient Levels of Care. The programs are modeled after DCR's Therapeutic Community structure. The Intensive Outpatient program includes a 24-hour structured therapeutic environment separate from the general population. Incarcerated individuals participate in daily routines, peer-led activities, and treatment sessions designed to reinforce accountability and prosocial behavior. Incarcerated individuals are appropriate for services when assessed as low risk for recidivism, low to moderate needs, for the outpatient level of care, and moderate risk for recidivism, moderate to high needs, for the intensive outpatient level of care.

According to FY2025 data, 49 incarcerated individuals enrolled in Outpatient services, with 31 completions. An additional 155 incarcerated individuals enrolled in Intensive Outpatient, with 108 completions.