DEPT. COMM. NO. 341

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
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February 6, 2026

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 January. This report includes actions taken by the Commission and expenses for the preceding month. 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 808-849-3580.

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 – January 2026

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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 Friday 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 December 30, 2025, a 67-year-old white male was transferred to the hospital after experiencing a medical event at the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC). On January 11, 2026, at 7:57am, the individual was pronounced deceased. The circumstances leading to the death and cause of death are still being investigated by the Department. An autopsy will determine the official cause of death.

2. On Saturday, January 24, 2026, at approximately 7:38pm, a Hawaiian male in custody, 29 years old, at Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) was found unresponsive in his cell. Security personnel immediately responded, conducted CPR, and alerted 911 emergency services. EMS arrived on scene at approximately 7:56pm. At approximately 8:45pm. the individual was pronounced deceased. The death appears to be a suicide. An autopsy will determine the official cause of death.

3. On January 26, 2026, a 53-year-old Asian male in custody was reportedly transported to the hospital from OCCC after feeling chest pains. The individual was pronounced deceased on January 27, 2026, at 12:35am while hospitalized. An autopsy will determine the official cause of death.

Events Attended

Restrictive Housing Working Group Meeting and Presentation

On January 13, 2026, the Commission participated in the Act 292 Restrictive Housing Legislative Working Group. This group was established by the Legislature and enacted into law by Governor Josh Green on July 3, 2025, to develop and recommend more comprehensive laws, policies, and procedures regarding restrictive housing for members

of vulnerable populations. The group has expanded its role to provide feedback on any amendments needed to Act 292 of 2025.

On January 27th, 2026, the Commission presented to the Working Group to give an overview of the jail and prison system, help clarify terms as defined by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) and by Act 292, highlight why Act 292 matters, encourage members to center the focus and conversations around the human beings impacted by restrictive housing, highlight lived experiences, and note potential solutions that DCR could take on right now to alleviate challenges behind implementing Act 292, including focusing on system movement. The presentation is available on the working group's webpage and attached to this report.

Waiawa Correctional Facility - InsideOut Dad/7 Habits on the Inside

On Friday, January 16, 2026, HCSOC staff attended a graduation ceremony at the Waiawa Correctional Facility recognizing 10 participants from the InsideOut Dad parenting program and 14 participants from 7 Habits on the Inside personal development program run by KOKA (Keiki O Ka ʻĀina). These programs support rehabilitation by strengthening family relationships, promoting personal accountability, and improving reentry readiness. Participants received certificates and shared reflections on personal growth, with several expressing emotions during the ceremony. The event underscored the value of structured programming in supporting positive behavior and rehabilitation.

Women's Community Correctional Center – Makahiki Season of Peace

On Monday, January 26, 2026, HCSOC staff attended a Makahiki Season of Peace event at the Women's Community Correctional Center. The program was facilitated by Dr. Kaleo Patterson through the Pacific Justice and Reconciliation Center and Native Hawaiian Church. There were 20 women who participated in this event held in the chapel. Participants learned about the cultural significance of Makahiki. More information regarding this and other Makahiki events that the Commission has attended will be posted in a later report.

House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee Informational Briefing: Hawaii's Pretrial System

On Thursday, January 29, 2026, HCSOC staff attended an informational briefing focused on Hawaiʻi's current pretrial systems and national pretrial reform efforts. The purpose of the briefing was to provide an overview of how pretrial decision-making operates in Hawaiʻi, including the roles of involved agencies and the range of outcomes for individuals following arrest. The briefing also examined national trends and reforms being implemented in other states and jurisdictions, with attention to the importance of incorporating victim rights perspectives into discussions of pretrial reform.

The briefing featured presentations from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) Intake Service Centers Team, the Kentucky Pretrial Services Unit of the Kentucky Court of Justice, the R Street Institute, the Judiciary, and the Sex Abuse Treatment Center at Kapiʻolani Medical Center for Women & Children.

Women's Community Correctional Center- Mental Health Technician Graduation

On Friday, January 30, 2026, HCSOC staff attended a Mental Health Technician graduation ceremony held at the Women's Community Correctional Center. The program, provided through Windward Community College's Pu'uhonua Academic Center, recognized 10 women who successfully completed the training and received their certificates. The program supports rehabilitation by building workforce skills, increasing mental health awareness, and preparing participants for continued education and employment opportunities upon release. The ceremony highlighted the importance of educational pathways in supporting successful reentry and long-term stability.

Projects

Complaint Management

After 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 completed a 15-week systems integration process, which involved integrating the case tracking system developed by Commission staff with the newly developed case management system. As staff finalize the project, the Commission will be better equipped for tracking, monitoring, investigating, and responding to incoming complaints.

Past Meetings

Monthly Commission Meeting

On January 8, 2026, 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/2026-meetings. All meetings are live streamed on our Facebook and YouTube channel.

Expenses for the Preceding Month – January

Item	Cost	Qty	Total	Description
Operating Expenses			**$685.68**	
TELEPHONE	$262.33	1	$262.33	NOVEMBER
OFFICE SUPPLIES	$109.27	1	$109.27	B&H PHOTO
OFFICE SUPPLIES	$314.08	1	$314.08	B&H PHOTO
Inter-Island Travel			**$660.33**	
AIRFARE-KRT	$161.36	1	$161.36	12/18 - ALASKA
AIRFARE-CMJ	$151.86	1	$151.86	12/18 - ALASKA
AIRFARE-ANJ	$156.61	1	$156.61	12/13 - ALASKA
CAR RENTAL-ANJ	$76.50	1	$76.50	11/13 - ENTERPRISE
P. DIEM MEAL-CMJ	$20.00	1	$20.00	11/13 - PER DIEM
PARKING	$27.00	1	$27.00	11/13 - TRAVEL PARKING
P. DIEM MEAL-KRT	$20.00	1	$20.00	11/13 - PER DIEM
P. DIEM MEAL-MTT	$20.00	1	$20.00	11/13 - PER DIEM
PARKING	$27.00	1	$27.00	11/13 - TRAVEL PARKING
Mainland Travel			**$0.00**	
Conferences			**$25.00**	
NACOLE WEBINAR-ANJ	$25.00	1	$25.00	12/11
		TOTAL	**$1,371.01**	

** 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 February 12, 2026. The next monthly meeting is scheduled to occur on March 12, 2026, at Leiopapa A. Kamehameha Building, 235 S. Beretania Street, Room 204, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 or online via teleconference. More information can be found on the Commission's webpage here: https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/information.

HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

Mark Kawika Patterson

CHAIR

Christin M. Johnson

OVERSIGHT COORDINATOR

WHAT WE WILL COVER

- About Us
- Jail and Prison System
- DCR Definitions
- Act Definitions
- Why Act 292 Matters
- What Could Help DCR Now

ABOUT US



We are a five-member Commission + staff that is mandated to:

1. oversee the State's correctional system
2. have jurisdiction over investigating complaints at correctional facilities and
3. facilitate a correctional system transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model

Jail vs. Prison

Jail

- Going through trial (pretrial) OR sentenced to less than 1 year
  - pretrial felon, pretrial misdemeanant, probation violation, sentenced felony probationer
- Typically less severe crimes.

Prison

- Sentenced to more than 1 year.
  - Sentenced felon, parole violation
- Typically more severe crimes.

JAILS

- Hawaii Community Correctional Center (292)
- Kauai Community Correctional Center (83)
- Maui Community Correctional Center (209)
- Oahu Community Correctional Center (960)

Jail Population: 1,544

PRISONS

- Halawa Correctional Facility (812)
- Waiawa Correctional Facility (170)
- Kulani Correctional Facility (82)
- Saguaro Correctional Facility (799)

Prison Population: 1,863

HYBRID

- Women's Community Correctional Center (Oahu) (300)

Jail Population: 157

Prison Population: 143

Numbers pulled on 1/22/2026

Hawaii (Big Island)

- Jail
- Prison



Hawaii Community Correctional Center (HCCC)

Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF)

Maui

- Jail
- Prison



Maui Community Correctional Center (MCCC)

Oahu

- Jail
- Prison



Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC)

Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF)

Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC)

Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF)

Kauai

- Jail
- Prison



Kauai Community Correctional Center (KCCC)

Arizona

Saguaro Correctional Center



DCR DEFINITIONS: RESTRICTIVE HOUSING

ADMINISTRATIVE SEGREGATION (COR.11.01)

Placed 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.

DISCIPLINARY SEGREGATION (COR.11.01)

Placed after being found guilty of a misconduct violation and issued a sanction by a formal adjustment committee hearing.

SPECIAL PROBLEM INMATES (COR.11.04)

Those housed in restrictive housing units (excluding protective custody) that have been assigned there, as a result of one or more disciplinary violations which have substantially endangered the safety, security and orderly operation of the facility.

PROTECTIVE CUSTODY (COR.11.03)

Placed for separation from the general population for offenders requesting or requiring protection from the offenders. This type of segregation is non-punitive.

ACT 292 DEFINITIONS: RESTRICTIVE HOUSING

RESTRICTIVE HOUSING CAN BE USED WHEN:

There is reasonable cause to believe that the committed person would create a substantial risk of immediate serious harm to the committed person's self or another, as evidenced by recent threats or conduct, and that a less restrictive intervention would be insufficient to reduce this risk; provided that the correctional facility shall bear the burden of establishing the foregoing by clear and convincing evidence

RESTRICTIVE HOUSING OCCURS WHEN ALL THREE ARE PRESENT:

(1) A committed person is confined in a correctional facility pursuant to disciplinary, administrative, protective, investigative, medical, or other purposes;
(2) The confinement occurs in a cell or similarly physically restrictive holding or living space, whether alone or with one or more other committed persons, for twenty hours or more per day; and
(3) The committed person's activities, movements, and social interactions are severely restricted.

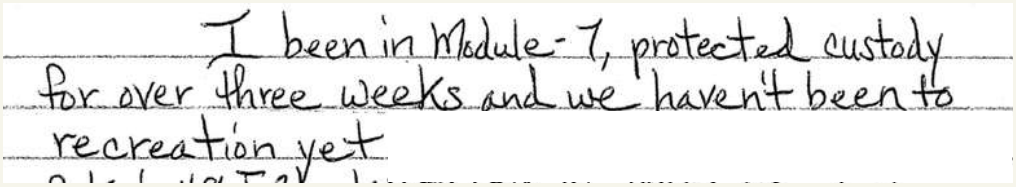
WHY IS THIS BILL IMPORTANT?

REFRAMES CORRECTIONS AROUND HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Shifting from isolation being a routine management tool to being used as a last resort that is tightly regulated and monitored

- Strong due process protections, including a prompt hearing (24 hrs), a written explanation for placement, the ability to challenge the decision, and ongoing review.
- Impacts Saguaro, where they utilize a “SHIP program” that places people in restrictive housing for at least one year. This will be banned through this legislation.
- Can prevent psychological damage, self-harm, and suicide, potentially lowering the death in custody rate.
- Requires third-party reports and monitoring (from us!).

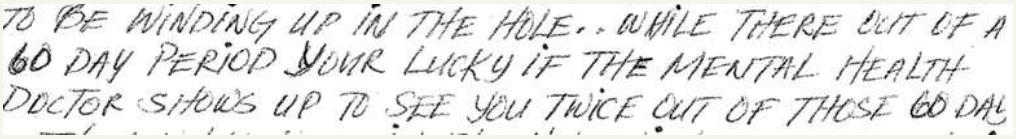
REAL STORIES


I been in Module-7, protected custody for over three weeks and we haven't been to recreation yet

OCCC

SAGUARO

I truly hope you are doing better than I am, as I find myself on day 49 of what will likely be at least 450 days in segregation.


TO BE WINDING UP IN THE HOLE.. WHILE THERE OUT OF A 60 DAY PERIOD YOUR LUCKY IF THE MENTAL HEALTH DOCTOR SHOWS UP TO SEE YOU TWICE OUT OF THOSE 60 DAY

SAGUARO

OCCC

"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...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."

HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION SEPTEMBER 2025 SITE TOUR OBSERVATIONS
DATE OF REPORT: OCTOBER 9, 2025

WHAT CAN BE DONE NOW?

Systemic Change	Impact
Focus on system movement throughout prison system	• Moving individuals out of HCF to a proper classification gives the facility more room to breathe and separate individuals as needed. • Having a smaller inmate population in one facility helps alleviate staffing shortages and facilitates effective population management. • These solutions exist outside of funding or staffing restraints
Continue to focus on staffing crisis, helping jails and prisons.	• DCR has done a great job focusing its efforts on hiring. If vacancies are filled, especially mental health and case managment, this will help DCR be able to comply with Act 292. • The Commission released a comprehensive staffing report with recommendations directly from staff to help with hiring and retention. If DCR adopts the recomendations, this may help with retention efforts.

SYSTEM MOVEMENT

CLASSIFICATION

An individual's classification declares where they can and should be housed.

Maximum Custody
Reserved for inmates who have shown through their institutional behavior that they are unable to function appropriately in the general population, regardless of the amount of time left to serve... When classified maximum custody, the inmate will be assigned to the highest restricted area or to a maximum security-type facility.

Close Custody
Used for prison inmates with long minimum sentences (21 years or longer), serious escape risks, and other types of characteristics that may require higher controls than in the general population... Inmates designated close custody can be assigned to facilities designated as medium but will be subject to restrictions concerning the hours they are allowed to mix with the general population and the types of programs they may access.

Medium Custody
Reserved for long term, moderate, low or marginal risk inmates, or the inmate's institutional conduct and adjustment dictates a need for continuous control and frequent supervision. The medium custody inmate is assigned to a more secure residency area within a multi-level security facility or to a medium security-type facility.

Continued on next page

CLASSIFICATION

The individual's classification declares where they can and should be housed.

Minimum Custody

Reserved for prison inmates who pose a low risk, and who have forty-eight (48) months or less to parole/release eligibility. Jail inmates may also be eligible who have demonstrated through their institutional conduct and adjustment, a minimal need for control and supervision. Inmates shall be assigned to the least restrictive housing area available within a multi-level facility or minimum-security facility. Inmates assigned to these types of housing shall present low escape risk or pose minimal problems for management.

Community Custody

Community custody is the lowest designation for prison inmates who have previously met the requirements for minimum custody and are within twenty-four (24) months to discharge or parole eligibility.

DCR Policy

"The goal shall be to place an inmate in the least restrictive environment using varying degrees of security to promote Corrections and Rehabilitation and opportunities for reintegration." (COR.18.01)

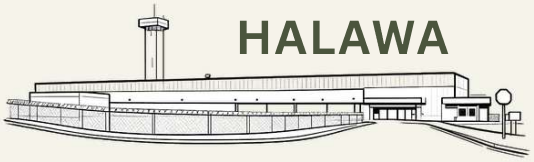
CLASSIFICATION

An individual's classification declares where they can and should be housed.

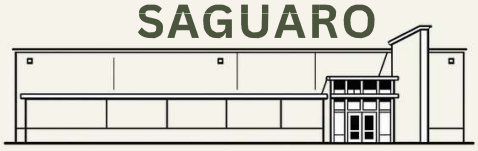
Cell-Based Facilites

- Maximum Custody
- Close Custody
- Medium Custody

HALAWA



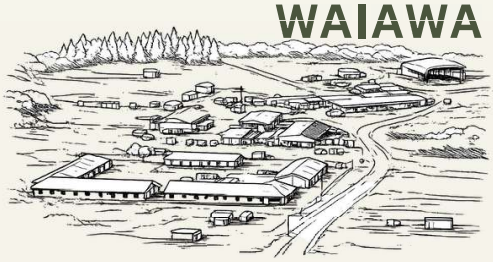
SAGUARO



Open-Air Dorm Facilities

- Minimum
- Community *(if not yet eligible for furlough)*

WAIAWA

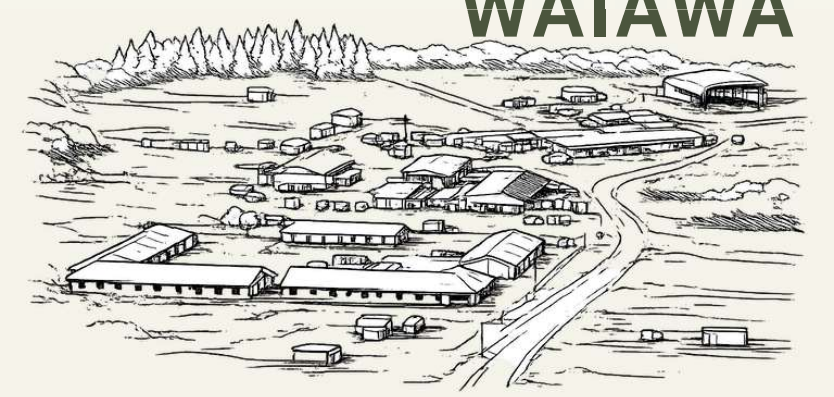


KULANI



REHABILITATIVE SPACES ARE UNDERUTILIZED

WAIAWA





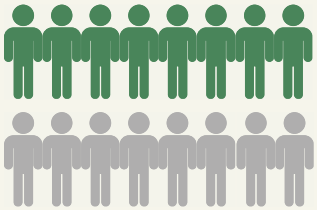
51% Utilized

170 *of* *334* *beds*

KULANI

51% Utilized

82 *of* *160* *beds*



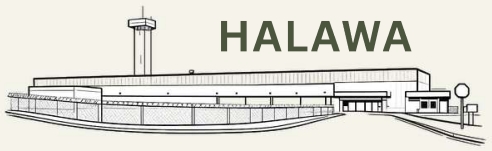


Numbers pulled on 1/22/2026

RESTRICTIVE SPACES ARE BEING OVERUTILIZED

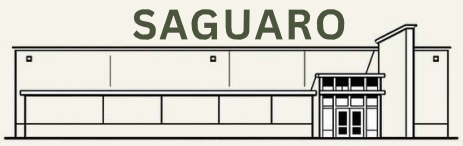
235 minimum custody individuals are housed in more restrictive settings

While 242 minimum custody beds are sitting open at less restrictive facilities



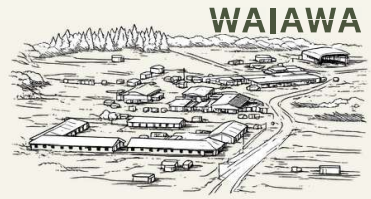
193 minimum custody individuals





42 minimum custody individuals





164 open minimum custody beds





78 open minimum custody beds



Numbers pulled on 1/22/2026

WHAT CAN BE DONE NOW?

Systemic Change	Impact
Focus on system movement throughout prison system	• Moving individuals out of HCF to a proper classification gives the facility more room to breathe and separate individuals as needed. • Having a smaller inmate population in one facility helps alleviate staffing shortages and facilitates effective population management. • These solutions exist outside of funding or staffing restraints
Continue to focus on staffing crisis, helping jails and prisons.	• DCR has done a great job focusing its efforts on hiring. If vacancies are filled, especially mental health and case managment, this will help DCR be able to comply with Act 292. • The Commission released a comprehensive staffing report with recommendations directly from staff to help with hiring and retention. If DCR adopts the recomendations, this may help with retention efforts.

POTENTIAL NEXT STEPS FOR RESTRICTIVE HOUSING WORKING GROUP

- Refocus energy on how we can support DCR in making this important transition.
- Shift focus to human-centered goals and how to achieve them, not how they cannot be achieved.
- Return attention to vulnerable populations as called for in Act 292.

QUESTIONS?