DEPT. COMM. NO. 347

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
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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January 2, 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 December. 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 – December 2025

Contents

Introduction 3
Deaths in Custody 3
Welcoming New Staff 4
Events Attended 4
Projects 6
Past Meetings 7
Expenses for the Preceding Month – December 8
General Office Information 9
Monthly Meetings 9

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 Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at approximately 9:20am, a male in custody, 45 years old, was found unresponsive on suicide watch at Oahu Community Correctional Center. Medical staff were immediately informed and directed staff to call 911. DCR records indicate that HFD arrived at 9:38am, and EMS arrived at 9:45am. DCR records indicate that the decedent was transported to the hospital at 9:57am and was pronounced dead at 10:39am in the emergency room at the hospital. An autopsy will determine the official cause of death and time of death.

2) On Friday, December 5, 2025, at approximately 11:46am, a male in custody, 48 years old, was found unresponsive in his cell at Halawa Correctional Facility. Security staff immediately began CPR until medical staff arrived and continued CPR. At approximately 12:17pm, EMS arrived on the scene and transported the decedent to the hospital emergency room at approximately 12:26pm. The cause of death appears to be a suicide. An autopsy will determine the official cause and time of death.

3) On Friday, December 19, 2025, at approximately 6:20pm., a white male in custody, 34 years old, at Halawa Correctional Facility was found unresponsive in his cell. Security personnel immediately responded, conducted CPR, and alerted 911 emergency services. EMS arrived on scene at approximately 7:15pm. At approximately 7:46p.m. the individual was pronounced deceased. The death appears to be a suicide. An autopsy will determine the official cause of death.

4) On Thursday, December 25, 2025, at approximately 1:51pm., a male in custody, 74 years old, was pronounced dead, after being booked into the DCR custody on December 22, 2025. The circumstances leading up to the decedent's death are

unclear and still being investigated. An autopsy will determine the official cause and time of death.

Welcoming New Staff

Christopher Albritton, Prison Oversight Specialist

Christopher (Chris) Albritton brings a commitment to positive reform as well as professional experience in research, public policy, and corrections administration. During his studies, Chris interned at the Hawai‘i State Legislature and later worked for the Department of Public Safety, managing recruitment and promotion for all uniformed personnel statewide. In 2023, his responsibilities expanded to overseeing and managing the newly sanctioned Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's internal employee disciplinary process as a Departmental Hearings Officer. In this role, he worked through a backlog of cases, identified and resolved systemic and procedural issues, and provided recommendations for disciplinary action on sensitive matters, including incidents of workplace violence and deaths in custody.

Chris holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Hawai‘i Pacific University, where he received formal training in research and policy analysis. Chris intends to further his education by attending law school.

Events Attended

Women's Community Correctional Center: Ku‘u Mana, Ku‘u Ala: My Power, My Path Women's Empowerment

On December 5, 2025, Commission staff attended the *Ku‘u Mana, Ku‘u Ala: My Power, My Path* Women's Empowerment Conference, hosted by WCCC‘s Education staff and held at the Maunawili Cottage. The event included opening cultural protocol, a keynote presentation by Honolulu City Council District 3 Councilmember Esther Kia‘āina, panel discussions, interactive workshops, and facilitated opportunities for dialogue and community connection centered on women's empowerment. A total of 88 incarcerated women participated in the conference. HCSOC staff served as speakers alongside other women with lived experience, sharing perspectives on resilience, healing, and justice-involved pathways. The conference provided meaningful opportunities for community engagement and alignment with trauma-informed and healing-centered approaches relevant to reentry and system oversight efforts.

Misdemeanor Post-Booking Jail Diversion Program

On Wednesday, December 10, 2025, HCSOC staff attended a meeting focused on reviewing enhanced diversion efforts for misdemeanants diagnosed with a mental health disorder. The discussion centered on the Misdemeanor Post-Booking Jail Diversion Program, a pilot initiative jointly implemented in February 2023 by District Court Judge Hon. Melanie May, Prosecuting Attorney Steve Alm, Public Defender Jerry Villanueva, and Adult Mental Health Administrator Amy Curtis, Ph.D.

The meeting brought together several interagency representatives who play a critical role in the diversion process, including staff from DCR's Intake Service Center and the

Department of Health. A highlight of the session was the participation of Hon. Steve Leifman, who successfully implemented the diversion model that inspired the current pilot program. Judge Leifman (Ret.) provided valuable insights and posed challenging questions to help the group identify strategies for strengthening and sustaining the program for long-term success.

This collaborative effort underscores the commitment of all stakeholders to improving outcomes for individuals with mental health needs and reducing unnecessary incarceration, paving the way for a more humane and effective justice system.

H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Every day) Program

On Wednesday December 10, 2025, Commission staff visited the H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Everyday) program to observe operations and engage with staff and participants. The visit highlighted the program's strong emphasis on family connection and peer support as key components in supporting accountability, healing, and successful reentry for justice-involved individuals, and contributing to HCSOC's understanding of effective reentry support.

Jail Diversion Observation

On Thursday, December 11, 2025, HCSOC staff observed several hearings at District Court presided over by the Honorable Deputy Chief Judge Melanie May. During these proceedings, individuals facing misdemeanor charges were considered for diversion opportunities. The court's jail diversion staff provided Judge May with real-time updates on participants actively enrolled in the program, including one individual whose charges were dismissed following successful completion of diversion requirements.

One of the most notable aspects of the process was the positive, respectful, and encouraging demeanor displayed by Judge May, court staff, and the public defender toward the accused. This approach reflects a core principle of rehabilitation – treating individuals with dignity and fostering an environment conducive to behavioral change. After the hearings concluded, invited attendees, including DCR staff, engaged in a meaningful discussion with Judge May and her diversion team on strategies to further improve and expand the program.

KCCC Keiki Day

On December 13, 2025, HCOSC staff joined a holiday-themed Family Day event at Kaua'i Community Correctional Center (KCCC). The celebration featured festive music, lunch, games, and a gingerbread house crafting activity. In total, 33 family members came together to share meaningful moments with 13 individuals in custody. Additionally, age-appropriate gifts were provided for the keiki in attendance, which was clearly appreciated by the families. The atmosphere was vibrant and full of positivity, as families embraced the opportunity to strengthen bonds and create cherished memories during the holiday season.

HCSOC extends its heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated KCCC staff and volunteers whose hard work, and compassion made this event possible. Their efforts exemplify the

power of community and the importance of fostering hope and connection. HCSOC remains committed to supporting initiatives that nurture family relationships and encourage positive growth for individuals in custody, paving the way for brighter futures.

NACOLE 2025 Webinar Series – Correctional Medical Oversight in California: Critical Components and Key Takeaways

In December 2025, HCSOC staff gained access to the 2025 Webinar Series – Correctional Medical Oversight in California: Critical Components and Key Takeaways, hosted by the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE). This session provided an in-depth look at how California's Office of Inspector General has structured its Medical Inspection Unit (MIU) and how the MIU has evolved its processes to ensure quality healthcare in correctional settings.

The MIU operates through a multidisciplinary structure that includes a Management Team, Analyst Team, Compliance Team, and Case Review Team. During the webinar, MIU representatives outlined their two-component process—case review and compliance—supported by 15 key indicators used to evaluate healthcare quality. These indicators serve as benchmarks for assessing medical care delivery, compliance with standards, and overall system performance.

For HCSOC, this webinar was more than an informational session—it was a strategic opportunity to gain insight into the resources, staffing models, and analytical frameworks necessary to build effective oversight for Hawai‘i's correctional healthcare system. Understanding the complexity of California's approach highlights the importance of specialized expertise, robust data analysis, and clear compliance metrics. These elements will guide HCSOC in identifying what tools, personnel, and processes are essential to ensure transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in healthcare for individuals in custody.

Looking ahead, HCSOC plans to leverage these insights to develop a comprehensive roadmap for correctional healthcare oversight in Hawai‘i. This includes assessing current gaps, engaging stakeholders, and advocating for the resources and expertise needed to implement a model that aligns with national best practices. By taking these steps, HCSOC aims to create a system that not only monitors compliance but actively promotes quality care, equity, and improved health outcomes for all individuals in custody.

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 are working through a 15-week systems integration process, which involves 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 December 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 – December

Item	Cost	Qty	Total	Description
Operating Expenses			**$434.60**	
TELEPHONE	$217.24	1	$217.24	SEPTEMBER
TELEPHONE	$217.36	1	$217.36	OCTOBER
Inter-Island Travel			**$425.18**	
AIRFARE-KRT	$137.58	1	$137.58	11/13 - ALASKA
AIRFARE-ANJ	$137.58	1	$137.58	11/13 - ALASKA
AIRFARE-ALS	$151.86	1	$151.86	11/13 - ALASKA
AIRFARE-RMB	-$142.34	1	-$142.34	11/13 - ALASKA REFUND
CAR RENTAL-ANJ	$76.50	1	$76.50	10/21 - ENTERPRISE
P. DIEM MEAL-RI	$20.00	1	$20.00	10/09 - PER DIEM
PARKING	$24.00	1	$24.00	10/09 - TRAVEL PARKING
P. DIEM MEAL-ANJ	$20.00	1	$20.00	10/10 - PER DIEM
Mainland Travel			**$6,762.41**	
P. DIEM MEAL-MKP	$1,389.50	1	$1,389.50	10/20-29/2025 (PA & MN)
EXCESS LODGING-MKP	$1,556.54	1	$1,556.54	10/20-29/2025 (PA & MN)
GROUND TRANSPORTATION-MKP	$205.00	1	$127.76	10/20-29/2025 (PA & MN)
P. DIEM MEAL-CMJ	$843.26	1	$843.25	10/24-30/2025 (MN)
EXCESS LODGING-CMJ	$897.90	1	$897.90	10/24-30/2025 (MN)
PARKING FEE-CMJ	$168.00	1	$168.00	10/24-30/2025 (MN)
P. DIEM MEAL-ANJ	$843.25	1	$843.25	10/24-30/2025 (MN)
EXCESS LODGING-ANJ	$897.90	1	$897.90	10/24-30/2025 (MN)
GROUND TRANSPORTATION-ANJ	$38.31	1	$38.31	10/24-30/2025 (MN)
Conferences			**$0.00**	
		TOTAL	**$7,622.19**	

** 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 January 8, 2026. The next monthly meeting is scheduled to occur on February 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.