DEPT. COMM. NO. 439

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
(808) 587-4160

August 7, 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 June. This report includes actions taken by the Commission and expenses for the preceding month. This report may be reviewed electronically at http://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/reports.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 808-587-4160.

Respectfully,

Mark Patterson
Chair

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

Enclosure



Hawai‘i Correctional System Oversight Commission

Monthly Oversight Coordinator Report – July 2026

Contents

Introduction 3
Death in Custody 3
Tours 3
Events Attended 3
Complaints Received by the Commission 5
Findings on Lack of Movement Throughout the Prison System 7
Past Meetings 10
Expenses for the Preceding Month – July 11
Monthly Meetings 11

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.

Death in Custody

On Sunday, March 29th, 2026, at approximately 7:35p.m., a Japanese male in custody, 65 years old, at Halawa Correctional Facility was found unresponsive his cell. Medical personnel immediately responded, conducted CPR, and alerted 911 emergency services. Federal Fire and Emergency arrived on scene at approximately 7:45p.m. At approximately 8:40p.m. the individual was pronounced deceased. An autopsy will determine the official cause of death.

Tours

No tours were made for the month of July

Events Attended

Going Home Hawai'i Consortium Meeting

HCSOC staff participated in the Going Home Hawai'i Consortium meeting held on July 14, 2026, an event that is part of an ongoing collaborative effort between Going Home Hawai'i, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations (DCR), and community partners to strengthen continuity of care for justice-involved individuals and effectively leverage the benefits of Hawai'i's 1115 Medicaid Reentry Waiver. This meeting followed the consortium's earlier coordination work—most notably a multi-agency convening in August 2025 in which public defenders, prosecutors, DCR representatives, and medical professionals met to discuss their respective roles across Intercepts 2–4 of the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM), the framework used to organize system-wide continuity of care and reentry processes. During the July 14 meeting, attendees were divided into committee working groups. HCSOC staff joined a group where DCR outlined how the department determines which correctional facilities qualify for 1115 waiver participation, and partners discussed the ongoing challenge of obtaining complete medical histories for incarcerated individuals—information necessary to assess waiver eligibility and support prerelease coordination. The session provided valuable alignment across agencies and

reinforced joint commitments to building more seamless health, housing, and reentry pathways for people transitioning from custody back into the community.

2026 Webinar Series - AI Police Reports and Machine-Generated Evidence: What Civilian Oversight Needs to Know

On July 22, 2026, HCSOC staff attended the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) webinar titled "AI Police Reports and Machine-Generated Evidence: What Civilian Oversight Needs to Know." Led by Robert Thies, Senior Investigator for the Federal Public Defender's Office (Eastern District of Missouri), the session examined the growing integration of AI-assisted tools in law enforcement reporting that are specific to drafting police reports. Mr. Thies made it clear that all information presented during the webinar is a reflection of his personal disposition, not the disposition of any entities he works for.

The webinar focused largely on Axon's Draft One AI tool (https://www.axon.com/products/draft-one), providing concrete examples demonstrating why it remains premature to rely on generative AI for drafting official police reports. Notably, while some jurisdictions such as California have implemented legislation requiring the retention of rough drafting materials, Draft One is designed specifically not to retain drafting materials after finalizing a report. This means, according to Mr. Thies, there is no way to know how much human influence or oversight was applied in finalizing a report prepared by Draft One. Mr. Thies also highlighted that artificial intelligence is increasingly being utilized within prisons and jails to author institutional incident reports.

While the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) recently selected Harris to implement its new statewide Offender Management System (https://dcr.hawaii.gov/2026/07/13/hawai%ca%bbi-department-of-corrections-and-rehabilitation-selects-harris-to-implement-new-statewide-offender-management-system/), it remains unclear whether the new platform will incorporate native artificial intelligence capabilities. The Department must exercise caution regarding the integration of generative AI into documentation used for formal *adjudications* or disciplinary actions, given that the technology is still immature and has not been perfected for official *adjudicative* reporting.

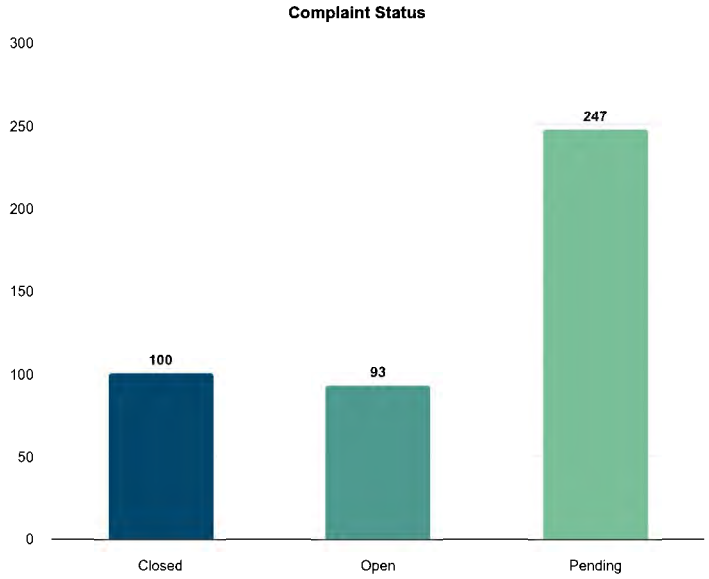
District Court Jail Diversion Program Graduation

On July 31, 2026, HCSOC staff attended the District Court's Jail Diversion Program graduation, presided over by the Honorable Judge Tracy Fukui. Before the ceremony began, Judge Fukui received status updates on participants still progressing through the program to ensure they were connected with the care and services necessary for continued success. Following these updates, three graduates were honored with certificates and were each presented with a lei and warm embrace from Judge Fukui. The supportive and collaborative dynamic between Judge Fukui, her jail-diversion team, the public defender, and the prosecutor closely mirrored the positive atmosphere observed by HCSOC staff during diversion hearings in December 2025. In a notable moment of flexibility and recognition of progress, the State agreed to dismiss petty misdemeanor charges for one graduate—charges not originally tied to program completion. To commemorate the occasion, the court provided food for graduates, current participants, and all parties in attendance, creating a celebratory environment that highlighted the program's commitment to encouragement, stability, and rehabilitation.

Complaints Received by the Commission

After receiving dedicated funding for a case management system from the legislature, the Commission has been better equipped for tracking, monitoring, investigating, and responding to incoming complaints. Below is a breakdown of the office's current status of complaints including open complaints, pending complaints, closed complaints. Additionally, there is a breakdown of how many complaints the Commission has received from each correctional facility.

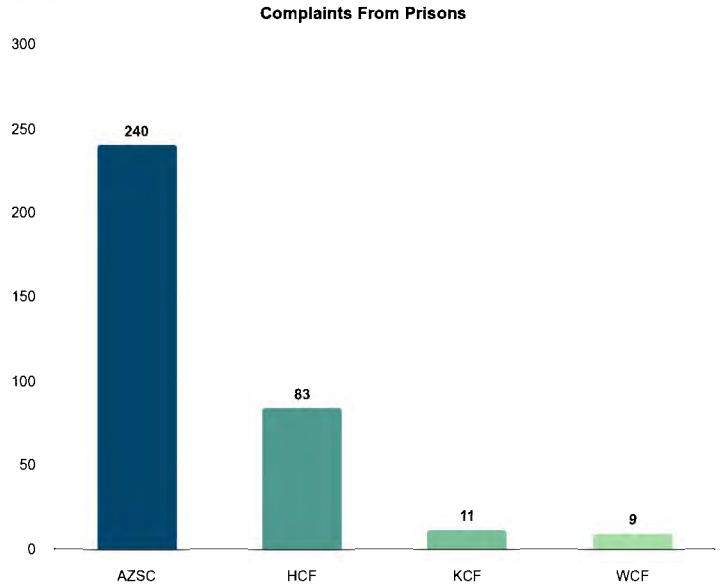
Complaint Status



***Note**: number of incoming complaints is subject to change as some letters may contain multiple complaints.*

As of July 27, 2026, the Commission had 100 closed complaints and 247 complaints pending waiting for review and potential investigation. The Jail and Prison Oversight Specialists currently have 93 complaints that are open and being actively investigated.

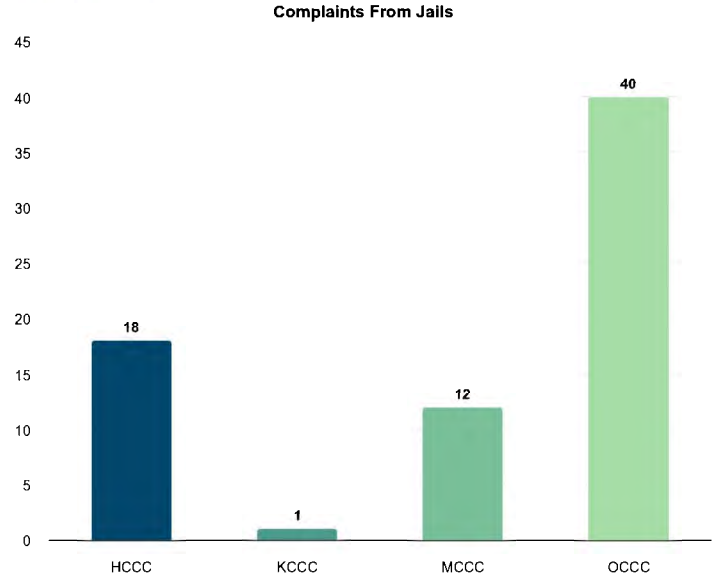
Complaints from Prison System



***Note**: number of incoming complaints is subject to change as some letters may contain multiple complaints.*

The Commission received a total of 342 complaints from the prison system (not including the Women's facility which is detailed below). A total of 240 complaints came from Saguaro Correctional Center (AZSC), a privately run facility in Arizona, 83 complaints from Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF), 11 complaints from Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF), and 9 complaints from the Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF).

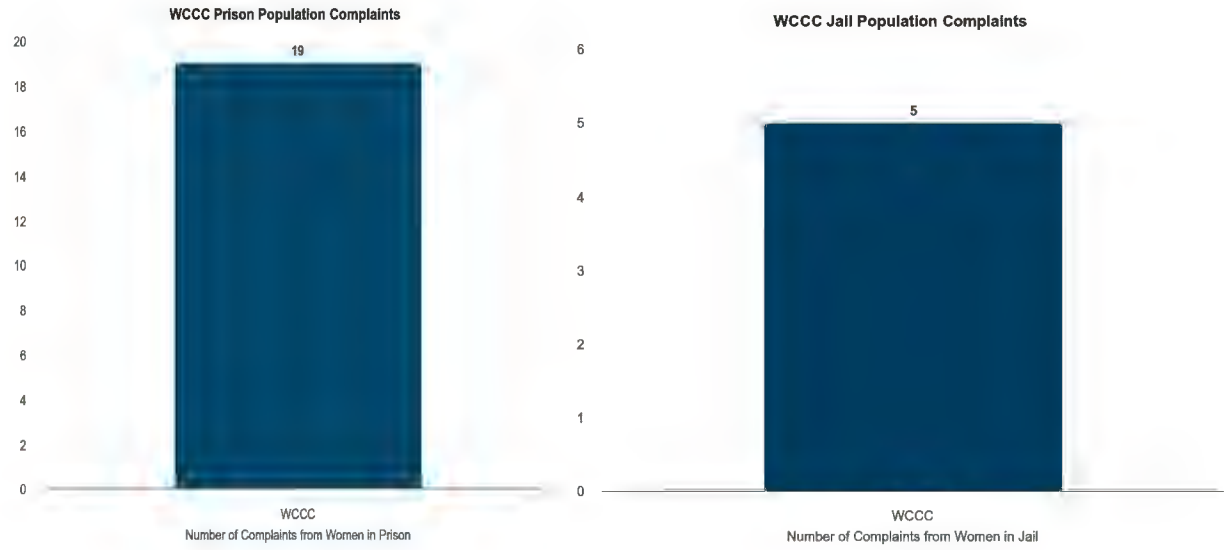
Complaints from Jail System



***Note**: number of incoming complaints is subject to change as some letters may contain multiple complaints.*

The Commission has received a total of 71 complaints from the jails (not including the Women's facility which is detailed below). A total of 18 complaints came from the Hawaii Community Correctional Center (HCCC), one complaint from the Kauai Community Correctional Center (KCCC), 12 complaints from the Maui Community Correctional Center (MCCC), and 40 complaints from the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC).

Complaints from Women's Hybrid System



***Note**: number of incoming complaints is subject to change as some letters may contain multiple complaints.*

The Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) functions as the State's only hybrid facility housing the jail and prison population of women. The Commission has received 19 complaints from the prison side of WCCC, and five complaints from the jail side of WCCC.

The Commission will continue to report on complaints on a monthly basis based on feedback from the Commissioners and public on what statistics are best to make available. If you have feedback you would like to share regarding complaint information you would like to see, please email us at hcsoc@hawaii.gov.

Findings on Lack of Movement Throughout the Prison System

Concerns Regarding Lack of Bed Utilization at Minimum Custody Facilities

The Commission has consistently reported on concerns regarding a lack of bed utilization at minimum custody facilities. Hawaii has two minimum custody prisons for men - Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF) and Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF). These facilities are designed for people who pose low public safety risk and are eligible for rehabilitation-focused programming. WCF can hold 334 individuals, and KCF can hold 160 individuals. Despite this:

- Both facilities are less full now than they were in 2023 (WCF is at 50% capacity, KCF is at 48% capacity).

- At the same time, **hundreds of people who qualify for minimum custody** remain housed in Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) (a higher-security prison), or Saguaro Correctional Center in Arizona (AZSC) (higher security, out-of-state prison).

The Commission has found that minimum custody beds are sitting empty while eligible individuals are housed in more expensive, more restrictive, and less rehabilitative settings.

	2023 Hawaii Male Prison Security Classifications						
Male Prison	*Community*	*Minimum*	*Medium*	*Close*	*Maximum*	*Unclassified*	**Total Population**
AZSC	--	53	455	369	--	--	877
HCF	4	183	435	187	2	11	822
WCF	27	154	--	--	--	--	181
KCF	24	61	--	--	--	--	85

Source: Hawaii Department of Public Safety Roster, Dated Nov. 13, 2023

	2024 Hawaii Male Prison Security Classifications						
Male Prison	*Community*	*Minimum*	*Medium*	*Close*	*Maximum*	*Unclassified*	**Total Population**
AZSC	--	77	506	411	--	--	994
HCF	6	179	306	204	6	5	706
WCF	23	113	--	--	--	--	136 - **DECREASE FROM 2023**
KCF	13	65	--	--	--	--	78 - **DECREASE FROM 2023**

Source: Hawaii Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Roster, Dated Oct. 14, 2024

	2025 Hawaii Male Prison Security Classifications						
Male Prison	*Community*	*Minimum*	*Medium*	*Close*	*Maximum*	*Unclassified*	**Total Population**
AZSC	--	67	409	340	--	--	816
HCF	4	173	351	271	5	8	812
WCF	17	148	--	--	--	--	165 - **DECREASE FROM 2023**
KCF	23	62	1	--	--	--	86 - **DECREASE FROM 2023**

Source: Hawaii Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Roster, Dated Nov. 17, 2025

	2026 Hawaii Male Prison Security Classifications						
Male Prison	*Community*	*Minimum*	*Medium*	*Close*	*Maximum*	*Unclassified*	**Total Population**
AZSC	--	58	397	338	--	1	794
HCF	7	176	372	266	4	14	836
WCF	30	123	--	--	--	--	153 - **DECREASE FROM 2023**
KCF	29	48	--	--	--	--	77 - **DECREASE FROM 2023**

Source: Hawaii Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Roster, Dated March 30, 2026

The above charts highlight that since 2023, between 230–260 people classified as *minimum custody or below* have remained in Halawa or Saguaro. Meanwhile, Waiawa's population dropped from 181 (2023) to 136 (2024) to 165 (2025) and 153 (2026). Kulani's population dropped from 85 (2023) to 78 (2024) to 86 (2025) and 77 (2026). The Commission believes that this is not a year-by-year fluctuation, but a sustained pattern.

Differences Between Minimum and Medium+ Facilities:

Minimum Custody Facilities:

- Are **far less restrictive** than medium or higher custody prisons
- Focus on:
  - Education
  - Vocational training
  - Substance use treatment
  - Reentry preparation
- Allow more movement, work opportunities, and pro-social behavior
- Are designed to prepare people for successful release

Medium and Higher Custody Facilities:

- Emphasize **security and control**, not rehabilitation
- Offer fewer programs
- Often have long waitlists for classes or treatment
- Increase the likelihood that individuals:
  - Serve their entire sentence
  - Are released without skills, treatment, or planning

Impact:

Underusing minimum custody facilities increases the risk of people returning to the community unprepared.

When people are housed in higher custody settings than necessary:

- They are less likely to receive:
  - Treatment
  - Job skills
  - Education
- They are more likely to "max out" their sentence and be released with **no supervision and no preparation.**

By contrast, people in minimum custody are:

- More engaged in programming
- More likely to earn credits
- More likely to transition gradually back into the community

Cost to State:

Cost differences:

- Higher custody incarceration is **inherently more expensive** as they require**:**
  - More staffing
  - More security resources

Leaving minimum custody beds empty while paying for higher custody placements is:

- Operationally inefficient
- Financially wasteful
- Contrary to best practice

What the Commission Has Recommended (and Why)

Since 2023, the Commission has recommended transferring eligible minimum custody individuals from Halawa and Saguaro and fully utilizing Kulani and Waiawa. This recommendation aligns custody level with actual risk, maximizes rehabilitative impact, improves reentry outcomes, and uses state facilities as intended. However, the recommendation has **not been implemented**. The same underutilization continues into 2026.

Although the Commission understands that not all Minimums will be eligible to be in a Minimum facility (based on factors such as finishing programming, waiting for and passing medical clearance, pending misconduct adjudication, etc.), the Commission is still concerned regarding the high number of lower-level classifications in higher level facilities. Leaving minimum custody facilities 50% underused while eligible individuals sit in higher custody settings undermines rehabilitation, public safety, and responsible stewardship of state resources. The Commission will continue to report on this issue until it has been appropriately addressed.

Past Meetings

Monthly Commission Meeting

On Thursday, July 9, 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 – July

Item	Cost	Qty	Total	Description
Operating Expenses			**$1,355.35**	
TELEPHONE	$264.99	1	$264.99	JUNE
AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOC.	$1,081.36	1	$1,081.36	JOB POSTING-REENTRY OVERSIGHT
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY	$9.00	1	$9.00	DEATH CERTIFICATE REQUEST
Inter-Island Travel			**$269.20**	
AIRFARE-R	$192.20	1	$192.20	07/09 - ALASKA
CAR RENTAL-GC	$77.00	1	$77.00	[illegible] - ENTERPRISE
Mainland Travel			**$0.00**	
Conferences			**$50.00**	
NACOLE WEBINAR	$25.00	2	$50.00	07/[illegible] - ANJ & CMA
		TOTAL	**$1,674.55**	

** 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 August 7, 2026. The next monthly meeting is scheduled to occur on August 13, 2026, at the 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.