

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



MARK PATTERSON
CHAIR

DEPT. COMM. NO. 20
CHRISTIN M. JOHNSON
OVERSIGHT COORDINATOR

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

COMMISSIONERS
HON. R. MARK BROWNING (ret.)

HON. RONALD IBARRA (ret.)

MARTHA TORNEY

HON. MICHAEL A. TOWN (ret.)

December 5, 2025

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 November. This report includes actions taken by the Commission and expenses for the preceding month. Also included is the Commission's facility report of the Kulani Correctional Facility. 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 808-900-2200.

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 – November 2025

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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 posts the monthly report publicly to increase transparency and accountability. This report will also be shared with each individual who is responsible for appointing members of the Commission. This includes:

- 1) Governor of Hawai‘i
- 2) President of the Hawai‘i Senate
- 3) Speaker of the Hawai‘i House of Representatives
- 4) Hawai‘i 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 Sunday, November 16, 2025, at approximately 2:20pm, a male in custody, 56 years old, at Halawa Correctional Facility was found by medical staff in the infirmary unresponsive and not breathing when conducting a routine check for vital signs. Medical staff immediately checked for a pulse, but no pulse was detected. The decedent was pronounced deceased by medical staff at 3:30pm. An autopsy will determine the official cause of death.
2. On Wednesday November 19, 2025, at approximately 3:53pm, a male in custody, 66 years old, at Saguaro Correctional Facility in Arizona was pronounced deceased at a hospital in Tucson, AZ. Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations (DCR) records indicate that the decedent was hospitalized on October 11, 2025, for abdominal pain. An autopsy will determine the official cause of death.
3. On Saturday, November 29, 2025, at approximately 4:50am, a male in custody, 56 years old, at Halawa Correctional Facility was found by medical staff in the infirmary with no pulse. Medical staff immediately attached an AED, started CPR, and alerted 911 emergency services. EMS arrived around 4:59am and continued life saving measures. At approximately 5:35am, EMS transported the patient to the hospital. At approximately 5:48am, DCR security were informed that the patient was pronounced deceased by medical staff. An autopsy will determine the official cause of death.

Tours

Tour of OCCC with the ACLU Hawai'i

On November 18, 2025, the ACLU of Hawai'i joined the Commission's Oversight Coordinator to tour the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC). The ACLU was able to see the deteriorating conditions of OCCC firsthand and speak to people in custody and staff about their experiences within the facility. The Oversight Coordinator would like to thank OCCC's Warden and the ACLU for touring OCCC and continuing to foster a collaborative relationship with the Commission in finding better solutions for staff and those in custody.



Photo from the ACLU Hawai'i standing in front of OCCC

Events Attended

Civil Beat Editorial Interview

On November 4, 2025, Chair Patterson and Oversight Coordinator Johnson participated in the "Sunshine Interview" series hosted by Honolulu Civil Beat. The two discussed funding challenges, staffing shortages, safety issues, investigations and rehabilitation at the state's prisons and jails. The article was posted on November 9, 2025 and can be read [here](#) or at civilbeat.org.



WCCC Mental Health Day

On November 10, 2025, HCSOC staff attended the Women’s Community Correctional Center (WCCC) Mental Health Day at Olomana Cottage, an uplifting event dedicated to honoring the women participating in mental health programming. The mental health wāhine shared powerful expressions of healing through skits, songs, poetry, and artwork—each performance reflecting their resilience, growth, and courage. Department leadership, including Tommy Johnson, Sanna Muñoz, and facility staff, were present to support and celebrate the women. After a shared lunch, participants joined in exercise relays and races, reinforcing wellness of both mind and body. Overall, the event highlighted the remarkable talent and progress of the mental health women and underscored the importance of programs that foster confidence, connection, and community at WCCC.

Hawai‘i Homeless & Housing Conference 2025

On November 14, 2025, HCSOC staff attended the 2025 Hawai‘i Homelessness & Housing Conference, a statewide gathering focused on housing solutions, policy updates, and culturally rooted approaches to homelessness. Governor Josh Green highlighted progress on kāhale villages, supportive housing, and mental health initiatives, while breakout sessions such as *He Alo, A e Alo* emphasized trauma-informed and culturally grounded care. Legislators shared statewide data, funding priorities, and ongoing barriers like permitting delays and housing shortages. A major highlight was the lived-experience panel, “From Surviving to Thriving,” where five speakers – including the Commission’s Reentry Oversight Specialist, Kimmy Takata – shared powerful stories of resilience and healing. The conference strengthened collaboration and reinforced the importance of lived-experience leadership in shaping Hawai‘i’s future housing and homelessness policies.

Reports

Halawa Correctional Facility Site Observations

On Thursday, October 9, 2025, the Commission toured the Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) collectively as a group. The tour included two of the five Commissioners – Mark Patterson (Chair) and Martha Torney, in addition to Commission staff. The full report was published on November 13, 2025, and can be read at: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/facility-specific-reports/>. Below are recommendations to be considered by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation which stemmed from the HCF tour.

Prior recommendations to be considered by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation:

1) Permanently close the Special Needs Facility.

The Special Needs Facility has been permanently closed. This recommendation is resolved.

2) Increasing non-security staffing must be a priority for transitioning to a rehabilitative and therapeutic system. *Unclear

Two years ago, the two main staffing shortages that the Commission learned about were in the Learning Center and social work. At the time, education was down three full-time teachers, one secretary, and two workline positions leaving one full-time

employee to run all educational programs. Additionally, the facility had eight (8) social work vacancies which resulted in high caseloads (80+ people per social worker) for the existing social workers.

During the Commissions visit in 2024, it was confirmed that there are no social work vacancies, and that education vacancies had gone down from four vacancies to two (education supervisor and office assistant). The Commission congratulates the Department on its success with aggressive recruitment tactics for filling these imperative positions; however, the Commission hopes the Department will continue to place a strong focus on the need for mental health staff – particularly Psych Social Workers and Clinical Psychologists.

3) Prioritize and expedite Capital Improvement Projects to repair electricity and the perimeter fence.

There has been significant progress on this as both projects have been funded and are currently in progress. The Commission emphasizes the need to complete these projects promptly to relocate people in custody currently at Saguaro Correctional Center back to Hawaii, preventing these transfers from becoming long-term out-of-state placements.

4) Incorporate Therapeutic and Rehabilitative Practices Throughout the Facility

Consider reopening and staffing the large yard so individuals can enjoy grass, fresh air, and sunlight and have an opportunity to look away from concrete. Additionally, consider incorporating murals throughout the housing units and on Main Street for a less restrictive feel. Lastly, consider planting native plants throughout Main Street for additional color and connection to ‘āina. There has been no progress on this recommendation.

5) Include Medical and Mental Health Staff in Future Construction Plans
***Unclear**

Include the medical and mental health team in any plans for construction to ensure a more therapeutic and rehabilitative space. If the mental or medical spaces are extended to the basement, ensure ample natural lighting by adding as many windows as possible and consider bright paint for a less restrictive space.

6) Expand the Correctional Industries worklines to include specific training in skilled trades that would lead to gainful employment after incarceration.

At some point, there used to be an electrical and plumbing workline that helped keep the facility maintained. The electrician union previously came to the facility and trained people in custody, and then people leaving prison would have an income-generating trade and connections to the unions and jobs in high demand. However, that program has not existed for some time. It would benefit the Department to work with skilled trade unions to train individuals in plumbing, electrical, welding, HVAC, etc. This would not only create opportunities for individuals to earn gainful employment upon release, but also help the facility with desperately needed maintenance concerns. Correctional Industry worklines can

assist in upkeeping the facilities while learning skills that are at the core of the Hawaii Correctional Industry work. There has been no progress on this recommendation.

7) Increase training and support for uniformed staff.

To expedite and stay current on uniformed staff training, consider placing or training certified instructors to be onsite full-time at Halawa. This would allow the facility to train staff more efficiently in a way that corresponds to the facility's schedule and specific needs. Also, consider updating the training academy curriculum to better prepare staff for their actual roles onsite at facilities. Although there has not been progress on focus on training HCF staff in house, the DCR is currently updating its training academy curriculum for new recruits.

8) Increase training and support for case/unit managers to better meet the population's needs upon release. *Unclear

The role of social workers and unit managers is vital to successful rehabilitation and reentry for people in custody. The Commission is aware that many people in custody are released directly to the community from Halawa. Here, it would be helpful to identify and offer additional training to support the critical role these staff members assume. Staff should stay current on local and national best practices in their field. The crucial role of these staff members and the importance of a mindset dedicated to supporting people in custody and their success should be included in the training.

Although it is unclear if national best practices are being implemented, the Commission is aware that the reentry office in DCR has been having consistent meetings with case managers to keep staff aligned with DCR's reentry efforts and initiatives. Additionally, the reentry office has been updating case managers on policy and procedure changes to ensure consistent implementation of reentry efforts statewide. Each of these meetings take several hours depending on the specific facilities needs and questions. The Commission does view this as important progress.

9) The Department should support legislative efforts toward Compassionate Release or transfer to a more appropriate medical setting for the severely ill.

The Department, in collaboration with the Hawaii Paroling Authority and the Commission, has drafted a compassionate release bill to be introduced during the 2026 legislative session. The Commission applauds the Department on their collaborative efforts towards this legislation.

The Commission extends special thanks to the HCF staff for their time, professionalism, and expertise during the tour. The Department responded to the HCF report on November 12, 2025, which is attached to this report.

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 November 13, 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 – November

Item	Cost	Qty	Total	Description
Operating Expenses			\$0.00	
Inter-Island Travel			\$80.00	
PER DIEM-ANJ	\$20.00	1	\$20.00	10/07 PER DIEM
PER DIEM-ANJ	\$20.00	1	\$20.00	10/10 PER DIEM
PER DIEM-KRT	\$20.00	1	\$20.00	10/07 PER DIEM
PER DIEM-KRT	\$20.00	1	\$20.00	10/07 PER DIEM
Mainland Travel			\$2,946.73	
PER DIEM-KRT	\$1,254.25	1	\$1,254.25	10/20-10/29 (PA & MN)
EXCESS LODGING-KRT	\$1,376.96	1	\$1,376.96	10/20-10/29 (PA & MN)
BAGGAGE FEE-KRT	\$205.00	1	\$205.00	10/20-10/29 (PA & MN)
GROUND TRANSPORTATION-KRT	\$110.52	1	\$110.52	10/20-10/29 (PA & MN)
TOTAL			\$3,026.73	

** All expenses reflect posted transactions procured*

General Office Information

Mailing Address: Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission meeting on December 11, 2025. The next monthly meeting is scheduled to occur on January 8, 2026, at Leiopapa A. Kamehameha Building, 235 S. Beretania Street, Rom 204, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 or online via teleconference. More information can be found on the Commission's webpage here: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/information>.



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

Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF)
October 2025 Site Tour Observations
Date of Report: November 13, 2025

On Thursday, October 9, 2025, the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (the Commission, HCSOC) toured the Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) collectively as a group. The tour included two of the five Commissioners – Mark Patterson (Chair) and Martha Torney, in addition to Commission staff.

This report encompasses notes from the Commissioners and will be discussed at the Commission's monthly public meeting held on November 13, 2025.

General Findings

The Commission found that the facility is demonstrating best efforts to maintain programming despite staffing shortages and ongoing renovations. Additionally, the Commission found that the facility has several Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) underway intended to improve the safety and wellbeing of both staff and people in custody including:

- *Upgraded Perimeter Fence:* A portion of the perimeter fence has been replaced with a double-fence design to improve security. The facility is awaiting approval for additional funding to replace the remainder of the perimeter fence.
- *Updated Plumbing in all Housing Units:* Light fixtures and plumbing are being systematically replaced for all 496 cells. The Warden explained that when old plastic pipes running from the main water line failed, water seeped into the light fixtures causing extensive damage to infrastructure and safety hazards. The Commission applauds the Warden's efforts to prioritize updating the plumbing to prevent further deterioration of infrastructure, and replacing old, inoperable light fixtures with new LED lights. Additionally, rusted and deteriorating cell window screens, some of which have developed large holes that created security vulnerabilities, are being replaced by more durable punch plates.
- *Air Conditioning in Education Center:* The education center is currently closed because the air conditioner system is being upgraded. During this time, the Warden and his staff have resourcefully utilized other areas of the facility to continue education and programming as follows:
 - *Correctional Industries:* An air-conditioned space in the Correctional Industries building is being utilized for Substance Abuse (or 2.5) programming. Commissioners were able to witness a class in session and observed that the participants were engaged and happy to have the opportunity to continue programming in an air-conditioned space.

- Indoor Basketball Gym: The gym's large, indoor floor space was furnished with tables and chairs to accommodate Cognitive Skills, Geography 101, Counseling, and court-mandated classes. People in custody who the Commission spoke with expressed enthusiastic gratitude and appreciation for how alternative spaces are being utilized to continue programming while the education building is under construction.
- Visitation Area: People in custody reported that the visitation area is also being used to accommodate court-mandated classes.
- *Incorporated New Staff Gym*: A space located near intake is being renovated as a new staff gym. The gym, approximately 800sf, will include a variety of exercise equipment to cater to a variety of workout styles and preferences. This is a much-needed improvement for staff health and wellness.

Housing Units

HCF has four main housing modules, each with 124 cells. Each of the four modules are divided into two blocks, Block A and Block B. The Commission toured Module 4B which was undergoing renovations. For security purposes, each module block is completely emptied while renovations are underway.

Medical Unit

The Commission toured the medical unit which included the mental health unit and infirmary. The Commission found that it was overcrowded with patients who do not receive regular access to programming. The Commission also found that Halawa's ability to serve the needs of its mental health population are limited, however they are better equipped than other facilities. The Department is currently reviewing a recent assessment led by experts to identify recommendations that can be implemented to better serve the mental health population. The assessment resulted from a lawsuit (*Opulento, et al. v. State of Hawaii, et. al.*) and can be found in a report drafted by Jeffrey L. Metzner, M.D., University of Colorado School of Medicine and Bhushan S. Ahgarkar, M.D., D.F.A.P.A., Distinguished Fellow, American Psychiatric Association. The report is dated June 23, 2025 and can found publicly at:

<https://psychrights.org/States/Hawaii/250623OpulentoExpertsReport.pdf>.

The facility faces other challenges such as finding a way to accommodate 19 people in custody who require CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) machines without safe and secure access to an adequate number of electrical outlets.

Programming and Correctional Industries

Although the facility's industrial area is currently being utilized to hold various classes while the air conditioning is fixed in the education building, the Commission has found that overall, the industrial area for vocational training is underutilized. The Commission was informed that the facility will be receiving stadium seats, donated by Aloha Stadium, which may be repurposed for programming and recreational spaces.

Prior recommendations to be considered by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation:

1) Permanently close the Special Needs Facility.

The Special Needs Facility has been permanently closed. This recommendation is resolved.

2) Increasing non-security staffing must be a priority for transitioning to a rehabilitative and therapeutic system. *Unclear

Two years ago, the two main staffing shortages that the Commission learned about were in the Learning Center and social work. At the time, education was down three full-time teachers, one secretary, and two workline positions leaving one full-time employee to run all educational programs. Additionally, the facility had eight (8) social work vacancies which resulted in high caseloads (80+ people per social worker) for the existing social workers.

During the Commission's visit in 2024, it was confirmed that there are no social work vacancies, and that education vacancies had gone down from four vacancies to two (education supervisor and office assistant). The Commission congratulates the Department on its success with aggressive recruitment tactics for filling these imperative positions; however, the Commission hopes the Department will continue to place a strong focus on the need for mental health staff – particularly Psych Social Workers and Clinical Psychologists.

3) Prioritize and expedite Capital Improvement Projects to repair electricity and the perimeter fence.

There has been significant progress on this as both projects have been funded and are currently in progress. The Commission emphasizes the need to complete these projects promptly to relocate people in custody currently at Saguaro Correctional Center back to Hawaii, preventing these transfers from becoming long-term out-of-state placements.

4) Incorporate Therapeutic and Rehabilitative Practices Throughout the Facility

Consider reopening and staffing the large yard so individuals can enjoy grass, fresh air, and sunlight and have an opportunity to look away from concrete. Additionally, consider incorporating murals throughout the housing units and on Main Street for a less restrictive feel. Lastly, consider planting native plants throughout Main Street for additional color and connection to 'āina. There has been no progress on this recommendation.

5) Include Medical and Mental Health Staff in Future Construction Plans *Unclear

Include the medical and mental health team in any plans for construction to ensure a more therapeutic and rehabilitative space. If the mental or medical spaces are extended to the basement, ensure ample natural lighting by adding as many windows as possible and consider bright paint for a less restrictive space.

6) Expand the Correctional Industries worklines to include specific training in skilled trades that would lead to gainful employment after incarceration.

At some point, there used to be an electrical and plumbing workline that helped keep the facility maintained. The electrician union previously came to the facility and trained people in custody, and then people leaving prison would have an income-generating trade and connections to the unions and jobs in high demand. However, that program has not existed for some time. It would benefit the Department to work with skilled trade unions to train individuals in plumbing, electrical, welding, HVAC, etc. This would not only create opportunities for individuals to earn gainful employment upon release, but also help the facility with desperately needed maintenance concerns. Correctional Industry worklines can assist in upkeeping the facilities while learning skills that are at the core of the Hawaii Correctional Industry work. There has been no progress on this recommendation.

7) Increase training and support for uniformed staff.

To expedite and stay current on uniformed staff training, consider placing or training certified instructors to be onsite full-time at Halawa. This would allow the facility to train staff more efficiently in a way that corresponds to the facility's schedule and specific needs. Also, consider updating the training academy curriculum to better prepare staff for their actual roles onsite at facilities. Although there has not been progress on focus on training HCF staff in house, the DCR is currently updating its training academy curriculum for new recruits.

8) Increase training and support for case/unit managers to better meet the population's needs upon release. *Unclear

The role of social workers and unit managers is vital to successful rehabilitation and reentry for people in custody. The Commission is aware that many people in custody are released directly to the community from Halawa. Here, it would be helpful to identify and offer additional training to support the critical role these staff members assume. Staff should stay current on local and national best practices in their field. The crucial role of these staff members and the importance of a mindset dedicated to supporting people in custody and their success should be included in the training.

Although it is unclear if national best practices are being implemented, the Commission is aware that the reentry office in DCR has been having consistent meetings with case managers to keep staff aligned with DCR's reentry efforts and initiatives. Additionally, the reentry office has been updating case managers on policy and procedure changes to ensure consistent implementation of reentry efforts statewide. Each of these meetings take several hours depending on the specific facilities needs and questions. The Commission does view this as important progress.

9) The Department should support legislative efforts toward Compassionate Release or transfer to a more appropriate medical setting for the severely ill.

The Department, in collaboration with the Hawaii Paroling Authority and the Commission, has drafted a compassionate release bill to be introduced during the 2026 legislative session. The Commission applauds the Department on their collaborative efforts towards this legislation.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Vacant
Deputy Director
Correctional Institutions

Sanna Muñoz
Deputy Director
Rehabilitation Services
and
Programs

No. _____

November 12, 2025

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION:

Mark Patterson, Chair
Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission
235 S. Beretania Street, 16th Floor
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) October 2025 Site Tour Observations

Dear Chair Patterson:

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) received the attached Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission's (HCSOC) October Site Tour Observations report and recommendations. DCR thanks the HCSOC for their efforts and our continued cooperative and collaborative working relationship. The purpose of this correspondence is to respond to the comments and recommendations contained in the report.

The following addresses previous recommendations:

Increasing non-security staffing must be a priority for transitioning to a rehabilitative and therapeutic system. *Unclear.

Response: DCR has placed a high priority on filling all vacancies statewide, including non-uniformed staff positions. The department's aggressive recruitment campaign includes radio ads, TV spots featuring DCR staff from several job classifications, Champion of Change posters on every public bus on Oahu through December 31, 2025, participation in job and career fairs, partnership with military transitions centers, and more.

Specific to HCF, the facility is now fully staffed with Unit Managers following two (2) recent promotions. Currently, there are four (4) vacant Case Manager positions, all of which are under active recruitment, as are other program-related vacancies such as educational and kitchen staff positions.

Prioritize and expedite Capital Improvement Projects to repair electricity and the perimeter fence. [Progress].

Response: DCR works closely with the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) on all CIP projects. However, since DAGS is the expending agency, DCR has very little control over project schedules, including delays. It should also be noted that while DCR temporarily transferred approximately 240 inmates from HCF to the mainland to facilitate critically needed repairs and maintenance at the facility, given HCF's design capacity of 496 and its actual population of 830 as of October 27, 2025, the facility remains at approximately 167% of its design capacity. Therefore, the inmates temporarily transferred to mainland may be there longer than originally anticipated.

Incorporate Therapeutic and Rehabilitation Practices Throughout the Facility.

Response: The large yard will not be reopened soon and should be removed as an unresolved recommendation as DCR has made the decision on this matter. With respect to increasing the number of murals at HCF, DCR has been actively seeking local artists to assist with creating inspirational murals and this effort is ongoing. However, DCR has no plans to paint murals on main street, but we do plan to create murals in housing units, common areas, program spaces, including the gym. As for planting native Hawaiian plants along main street, this was previously done, but unfortunately, the plants died. DCR is willing to consider doing so again, providing we have the appropriate inmate work line and properly trained staff to maintain the vegetation.

Include Medical and Mental Health Staff in Future Construction Plans. *Unclear.

Response: DCR's Corrections Health Care Administrator, Medical Director, and Mental Health Branch Administrator are all included in discussions regarding planning, design and construction plans that affect detainee, inmate, health care staff, and health care operations.

Expand the Correctional Industries work lines to include specific training in skilled trades that would lead to gainful employment after incarceration. [Unresolved].

Response: The Hawai'i Correctional Industries (HCI) programs listed in the report were in existence in the mid-2000s. As an example on October 31, 2007, DCR (then known as PSD) held a total of 6,110 (5,331 males and 779 females) in custody. (Attachment A, p. 1). On the contrary, as of October 27, 2025, DCR held a total of 3,751 (3,339 males and 412 females) in custody. (Attachment A, p. 2). This represents a reduction of 2,359 people in DCR or 38.6% reduction in available inmate labor. Despite the sizable reduction in available inmate labor for HCI venture capital projects, they have continued to partner with trade craft unions to provide meaningful employment skills to the available inmate labor workforce.

In addition, on October 22, 2025, the attached directive and accompanying statute (HRS §354D-6 Required Programs) was provided to the Institutions Division Administrator and all Wardens reminding them of the requirement to provide space within each correctional facility for HCI operations. (Attachment B).

Increase training and support for uniformed staff. *Unclear.

Response: *DCR requested and received a legislative appropriation of \$100,000 to provide voluntary online trauma informed care for uniformed staff and has contracted with Windward Community College (WCC) to provide this training. The training is ongoing. With respect to HCF, training certified instructors and assigning an instructor to HCF. This was a previous practice. However, when there were staff shortages, which occurred frequently, the training Sergeant was routinely reassigned to staff a vacant post. DCR has decided to centralize all Oahu facility training Sergeants at the Training & Staff Development (TSD) location. This consolidation allows for more effective and efficient use of all Oahu training Sergeants as now more than one training Sergeant can be dispatched to Oahu facilities to provide training on all three (3) 8-hour ACO shifts.*

Currently, HCF has a cadre of 10 certified basic instructor qualified staff to assist with training needs. The challenge the facility faces is the scheduling/relieving staff for training. At present 25 – 35 ACO staff assigned to work call out sick on each of the shifts. Despite these issues, the facility is looking for creative ways to conduct required training.

Increase training and support for case/unit managers to better meet the population's need up release. *Unclear.

Response: *HCF case/unit managers work diligently to prepare offenders for release and successful transition. HCF sponsors housing and job fairs for those in its custody and care. The fairs are scheduled 6 – 12 months prior to scheduled release and encourages offenders who fall into this category to actively participate and take full advantages of the programs, services, and assistance offered.*

The Department should support legislative efforts toward Compassionate Release or transfer to a more appropriate medical setting for the severely ill. [Progress].

Response: *Working collaboratively with the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA), the Oversight Commission, and others, DCR recently agreed to support a legislative proposal addressing compassionate and medical release of inmates who otherwise would qualify for consideration.*

Mark Patterson, Chair HCSOC
Re: HCF October 2025 Site Tour Observations
November 12, 2025
Page 4

Finally, thank you again for working cooperatively and collaboratively with the department as we continue to shift from what some may have seen as a punitive corrections model to one that is holistic, evidence based, and focuses on successful reintegration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tommy Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tommy Johnson
Director

c: DEP-A Martin
DEP-R Muñoz
IDA Hoffman
Warden Cluney

Attachments.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
END OF MONTH POPULATION REPORT**

Date: **October 31, 2007**

FAC.	DESIGN BED CAP.	OPER. BED CAP.	HEAD COUNT ENDING																	COMM. SUPV		
			TOT.	M	F	SENT. FEL.		SENT. FEL. PROB.		SENT. MISD.		PRETRIAL FEL.		PRETRIAL MISD.		OTHER JURIS.		PAR/PRB VIOL.		TOT.	M	F
						M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			
HCCC	206	226	306	267	39	40	3	48	5	39	7	93	16	27	6	5		15	2			
SNF	90	132	109	109	0	109																
HMSF	496	992	838	838	0	526						8						304				
KCCC	110	128	154	128	26	44	7	14	4	16	3	35	5	10	6			9	1			
KCF	160	160	170	170	0	170																
MCCC	209	301	302	264	38	69	4	23	7	19		105	16	14	3	3	1	31	7	0		
OCCC	628	954	1197	1052	145	291	1	76	5	102	13	426	63	67	17	2	2	88	44	0	0	
WCCC	258	260	226		226		218		3				1						4			
WCF	294	334	264	264	0	198												66				
TOTAL	2451	3487	3566	3092	474	1447	233	161	24	176	23	667	101	118	32	10	3	513	58			

CONTRACTED FAC.	TOT.	M	F
RED ROCK CC, AZ	474	474	
SAGUARO CC, AZ	1374	1374	
OTTER CREEK CF, KY	175		175
FEDERAL DET. CTR.	239	213	26
TOTAL	2262	2061	201

FAC.	DESIGN BED CAP.	OPER. BED CAP.	ASSIGNED COUNT ENDING																OUTCOUNT			
			TOT.	M	F	SENT. FEL.		SENT. FEL. PROB.		SENT. MISD.		PRETRIAL FEL.		PRETRIAL MISD.		OTHER JURIS.		PAR/PRB VIOL.		TOT.	M	F
						M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			
HCCC	206	226	458	376	82	59	7	129	43	47	8	94	16	27	6	5		15	2	152	109	43
SNF	90	132	109	109	0	109														0	0	
HMSF	496	992	2699	2699	0	2138						8						553		1861	1861	
KCCC	110	128	166	135	31	50	12	14	4	17	3	35	5	10	6			9	1	12	7	5
KCF	160	160	170	170	0	170														0	0	
MCCC	209	301	327	286	41	73	5	28	7	32	2	105	16	14	3	3	1	31	7	25	22	3
OCCC	628	954	1463	1292	171	329	1	192	11	119	14	468	70	69	17	4	3	111	55	266	240	26
WCCC	258	260	454		454		444		4				1						5	228		228
WCF	294	334	264	264	0	198												66		0	0	
TOTAL	2451	3487	6110	5331	779	3126	469	363	69	215	27	710	108	120	32	12	4	785	70	2544	2239	305

**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION
WEEKLY POPULATION REPORT**

Date: **October 27, 2025**

FAC.	DESIGN BED CAP.	OPER. BED CAP.	HEAD COUNT ENDING																			
			TOT.	M	F	SF		SFP		SM		PTF		PTM		OJ		PARV		PRBV		
						M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
HCCC	206	226	292	247	45	15	2	29	8	11		130	22	15	1	3	1	1	1	43	10	
SNF	90	132	0	0	0	0																
HMSF	496	992	830	830	0	688		10				3						124		5		
KCCC	110	128	72	61	11	4	1	13	0	11	0	26	7	2	1	0	0	0	0	5	2	
KCF	200	200	86	86	0	86																
MCCC	209	301	214	179	35	8	4	25	6		1	85	12	14	2	2		13	2	32	8	
OCCC	628	954	938	938	0	73		12		12		619		70		1		8		143		
WCCC	258	260	295	0	295		130		13		1		85		14				27		25	
WCF	294	334	152	152	0	91												61				
TOTAL	2491	3527	2879	2493	386	965	137	89	27	34	2	863	126	101	18	6	1	207	30	228	45	

	CONTRACTED FACILITIES																		
	TOT.	M	F	SF		SFP		SM		PTF		PTM		OJ		PARV		PRBV	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
RED ROCK CC, AZ	0	0	0																
SAGUARO CC, AZ	816	816	0	796												20			
FEDERAL DET. CTR. ¹	0	0	0																
TOTAL	816	816	0	796	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0

FAC.	DESIGN BED CAP.	OPER. BED CAP.	ASSIGNED COUNT ENDING																		
			TOT.	M	F	SF		SFP		SM		PTF		PTM		OJ		PARV		PRBV	
						M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
HCCC	206	226	305	257	48	20	3	33	10	12		130	22	15	1	3	1	1	1	43	10
SNF	90	132	0	0	0	0															
HMSF	496	992	832	832	0	689		10				3						125		5	
KCCC	110	128	80	68	12	11	2	13	0	11	0	26	7	2	1	0	0	0	0	5	2
KCF	200	200	86	86	0	86															
MCCC	209	301	217	182	35	10	4	25	6	1	1	85	12	14	2	2		13	2	32	8
OCCC	628	954	946	946	0	80		12		12		620		70		1		8		143	
WCCC	258	260	317	0	317		150		14		1		85		14				27		26
WCF	294	334	152	152	0	91												61			
MAINLAND			816	816	0	796												20			
TOTAL	2491	3527	3751	3339	412	1783	159	93	30	36	2	864	126	101	18	6	1	228	30	228	46

Att A - 002

10/28/2025

From: Johnson, Tommy <tommy.johnson@hawaii.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 1:47 PM

To: Hoffman, Michael J <michael.j.hoffman@hawaii.gov>; Schell, John H <john.h.schell@hawaii.gov>; Ornellas, Sean K <sean.k.ornellas@hawaii.gov>; Cluney, Shannon S <shannon.s.cluney@hawaii.gov>; Antonio, Lyle K <lyle.k.antonio@hawaii.gov>; Guillonta, Ione I <ione.i.guillonta@hawaii.gov>; Jona Jr, Jerry K <jerry.k.jona@hawaii.gov>; Endo, Liane A <liane.a.endo@hawaii.gov>; Rowe, Kenneth M <kenneth.m.rowe@hawaii.gov>; Mahoe, Cramer L <Cramer.L.Mahoe@hawaii.gov>; Mahoe, John N <John.N.Mahoe@hawaii.gov>

Cc: Munoz, Sanna <sanna.munoz@hawaii.gov>; Yasuda, Shawntay C <shawntay.c.yasuda@hawaii.gov>

Subject: Requirement to Provide Space in Facilities for HCI

Mick/Wardens:

FYI attached please find a copy of HRS §354D-6 (Required programs), which requires DCR to set aside space for HCI operations in our facilities. I have asked HCI Administrator, Shawntay Yasuda to provide me with information regarding the size and type of space HCI requires for operations. She will also contact each Warden regarding this matter and potentially visit each facility where HCI currently has operations in place and those where HCI plans to expand its operations. Please work with her to ensure HCI is provided with the space needed. HCI is responsible to maintain any space provided, including paying for any upgrades needed to facilitate its operations. To be clear, once space designations are made, as director I will be assigning the responsibility of these areas to HCI Administrator Yasuda. Thank you all for working with her on this statutory requirement. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanks,

Tommy Johnson, Director
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Ka 'Oihana Ho'omalu Kalaima a Ho'oponopono Ola
1177 Alakea Street, Room 602
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph: (808) 587-1350

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§354D-6 Required programs. (a) The administrator shall establish programs that provide essential products and services for each of the State's correctional facilities, for other state agencies, and for the counties, as may be required.

(b) To the extent that inventories and equipment for specific services may be dedicated to the development of correctional industries, the director may transfer the supervision of inventory and equipment to the administrator.

(c) A portion of real property at each correctional facility shall be designated by the director as an industry area. The director may assign these facilities to the administrator who shall be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the areas.

(d) The director or a designated representative may consult with the administrator of the state procurement office to identify goods or services which the correctional industries program may produce or provide to any state agency. The administrator of the state procurement office shall provide a list of goods and services available from the correctional industries program and any state agency may purchase these goods and services from the correctional industries program. [L 1990, c 341, pt of §1; am L 1998, c 140, §1]

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GOVERNOR



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MARTHA TORNEY

HON. MICHAEL A. TOWN (ret.)

Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF)
November 2025 site Tour Observations
Date of Report: December 11, 2025

On Thursday, November 13, 2025, the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission (the Commission, HCSOC) toured the Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF) collectively as a group. The tour included two of the five Commissioners – Martha Torney, and Ronald Ibara in addition to Commission staff. This report encompasses notes from the Commissioners and will be discussed at the Commission's monthly public meeting held on December 11, 2025.

Facility Overview

On the day of the visit, KCF housed 86 incarcerated men, with capacity to hold 160. This means the facility was at 54% capacity. Since this facility plays a key role in providing minimum security programming and reentry preparation for individuals nearing release, the Commission has continuously pushed the Department to use the facility to its full capacity. The Commission has been and continues to be disappointed by the lack of bed space at KCF utilized by the Department.

During the visit, Warden Rowe shared updates on facility improvements, including the completion of the staff offices, training center, and vehicle storage area. The grounds have been cleared of old vehicles and debris, significantly improving the campus' appearance and safety. However, infrastructure challenges persist. The facility's water plant has been non-operational for over two years, requiring daily hauling of water. This issue has been repeatedly submitted for Capitol Improvement Funding (CIP) but remains unresolved. Non-portable water from the reservoir is repurposed for irrigation and fire control. Additionally, power outages and connectivity issues affect communication and limit opportunities for technology-based programming.

Programs and Services

Kulani currently offers several rehabilitation and education programs, including:

- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Levels 2.0 and 2.5
- GED and vocational education in partnership with the community college
- Sex Offender Treatment Programs
- Safety and vocational certification courses

Since the last visit, the facility has added two case managers and one Substance Use Disorder Counselor. However, there is no Level 3.0 program Substance Abuse Disorder class, potentially impacting people's opportunities to meaningfully parole. The Commission is also concerned that a single instructor continues to manage both 2.0 and 2.5 groups.

There remains a significant gap in cognitive-behavioral and trauma-informed classes, such as *Thinking for a Change* or anger management programming. Staff expressed interest in expanding partnerships with community and cultural-based organizations to fill these service gaps, provided they meet security clearance requirements, but there is no indication of a concerted effort to make that happen.

Library and Education

The Commission toured the library and education. The men expressed appreciation that it has reopened and received new books, many of which were based on popular movies. The librarian had organized the space to allow wheelchair accessibility and added additional shelving. The law library remained well-equipped with Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), LexisNexis, and other required legal references, allowing men to conduct legal research and prepare for hearings.

Kitchen and Food Service

The Commission toured the kitchen and spoke with both staff and incarcerated workers. Overall, the kitchen appeared organized and operational. Staff reported that one of the refrigerators was reading **57°F**, but they were actively adjusting the thermostat to bring the temperature down. The Commission noted that this should be monitored to ensure compliance with food safety standards.

Men working in the kitchen shared positive feedback about the quality of food at Kulani, describing it as “restaurant-style” and noting it was better than food served at other facilities. The kitchen staff were engaged and appeared to have a good rapport with the workers. However, the Commission encourages ongoing oversight of food storage temperatures and maintenance to prevent equipment failures or spoilage.

Dorm 6 & 7 Observations

The Commission visited Dorms 6 and 7, where several men openly discussed their concerns. A recurring issue was fear of submitting written requests or grievances. Multiple individuals stated that filing requests could lead to transfer delays, transfers back to Halawa, or other forms of retaliation. This fear discouraged men from reporting problems and undermines trust in the grievance process. Frustration was also expressed regarding delays in case management communication and a lack of clarity on program status or release timelines. Some individuals expressed that they have waited extended periods to enter SUD 2.5 classes due to limited staff and turnover. These concerns align with feedback received from previous visits and family calls to HCSOC, indicating ongoing issues with case management engagement and accountability.

Dorm 7 specifically required maintenance attention. One urinal had been non-functional for several months, tiles in the showers and walls were falling off, and the ceiling had active leaks. Maintenance staff reported that repairs are underway but have been delayed due to persistent rain.

Commissioner Recommendations

Kulani Correctional Facility continues to demonstrate commitment to maintaining safety and order with limited resources. The facility has made visible progress in cleanup and infrastructure organization. However, the rehabilitative mission remains hindered by systemic issues that directly affect program access and reentry preparation.

Follow Up on Previous Recommendations

Below are four recommendations that stemmed from the December 2023 KCF Site Observations report in addition to updated findings based on the October 2024 site observations.

1) Begin Offering In-Person Visitation and Expand Access to Phone Calls

The Commission is pleased to report that KCF has begun offering in-person contact visitation and this recommendation is resolved.

2) Increase the Population at Kulani as Kulani is One of the Most Rehabilitative Facilities in Hawaii

The DCR has not completed this recommendation, and in fact, the population numbers at KCF and WCF (both minimum custody) are worse in 2024 and 2025 than they were in 2023.

Kulani is one of the most rehabilitative facilities in Hawaii and sits around 50% capacity. As of November 2023, there were around 240 people in custody at Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) and Saguaro Correctional Facility in Arizona (AZSC) with a custody status of minimum or below. In October 2024, there were around 260. In 2025, there are around 244 with a custody status of minimum or below.

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

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

	2024 Hawaii Male Prison Security Classifications						
Male Prison	<i>Community</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Close</i>	<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Unclassified</i>	Total Population
<i>AZSC</i>	--	77	506	411	--	--	994
<i>HCF</i>	6	179	306	204	6	5	706
<i>WCF</i>	23	113	--	--	--	--	136 - DECREASE FROM 2023
<i>KCF</i>	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	<i>Community</i>	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Close</i>	<i>Maximum</i>	<i>Unclassified</i>	Total Population
<i>AZSC</i>	--	67	409	340	--	--	816
<i>HCF</i>	4	173	351	271	5	8	812
<i>WCF</i>	17	148	--	--	--	--	165 - DECREASE FROM 2023
<i>KCF</i>	23	62	1	--	--	--	86 - DECREASE FROM 2023

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

The Commission, again, recommends that the Department transfer eligible individuals at Halawa and Saguaro, with minimum custody or below, to Kulani and Waiawa Correctional Facilities. Due to the rehabilitative and therapeutic nature of the Kulani, this facility could be better utilized at a consistent capacity close to 100% and certainly over 90%.

3) Remove the Monetary Eligibility Requirement for Furlough Participation at all Furlough Sites

The Commission is pleased to report that the Department has fulfilled this recommendation.

4) Reinstate Transportation Shuttle for Staff

This recommendation has not been completed.

Additional recommendations to be considered by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation:

5) Prioritize Maintenance and Repair of Water System

The facility's water plant has been non-operational for over two years, requiring daily hauling of water. This issue has been repeatedly submitted for Capitol Improvement Funding (CIP) but remains unresolved. Non-portable water from the reservoir is repurposed for irrigation and fire control. The Department should prioritize securing CIP funding to repair the water system.

6) Prioritize Maintenance and Repair of Dorm 7

The Department should address long-standing needed repairs to plumbing, tiles, and leaking ceilings in the Dorm 7 bathroom. Additionally, the Department should address the lack of heat within the dorm given the cold temperatures that impact the facility.

7) Improve Digital Connectivity

The Department should secure funding to improve digital connectivity to support education and rehabilitation on tablets, computers, or other digital options. This is of particular importance given the distance of the facility from town and lack of in-person volunteers.