

Sustaining a Culture of Collaboration and Community

The New O'ahu Jail Project

STATUS UPDATE

April 2026

Senate Committees on Public Safety
& Military Affairs and Hawaiian Affairs



ahl.

Topics

- **Before We Start: Jail vs Prison**
- **Project History**
- **Project Goals/Vision**
- **Accomplishments**
- **Current Activities**
- **Cost Implications**
- **Project Timeline**

Difference Between a Jail and a Prison



	Jail	Prison
Length of Stay:	< 12 months. Average stay for OCCC is 3 weeks.	> 12 months Average stay at Halawa Correctional is several years.



Jurisdiction:	Operated by local law enforcement agencies or by for-profit private companies through state contracts.	Operated by federal and state law enforcement or by for-profit private companies through state contracts.
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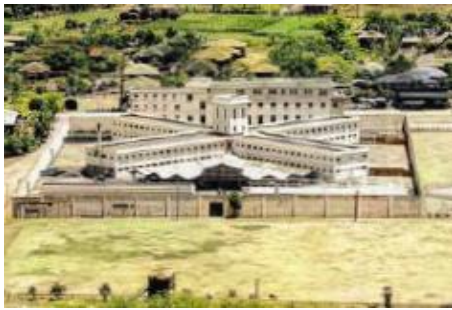
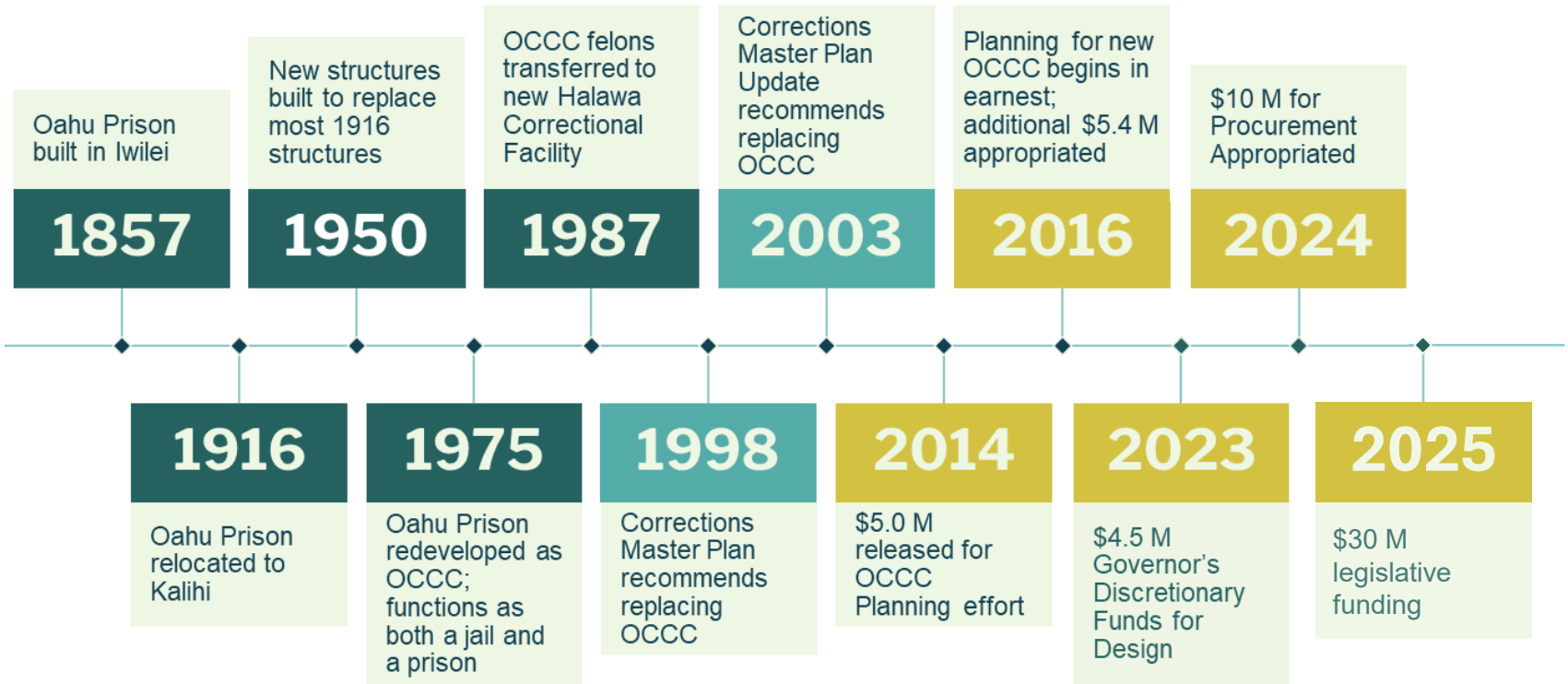


Type of Offense:	Individuals who have been arrested and are awaiting trial or have been sentenced for minor crimes.	Individuals who have been sentenced for major crimes and felonies.
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Programs and Services:	Aimed at helping individuals successfully re-enter society upon release.	Offer a wider range of comprehensive programs due to longer incarceration periods.
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Project History



Existing OCCC Shortcomings

- Most buildings date from 1970s; some date back to 1930s
- Existing facility issues include:
 - Obsolete design is inefficient
 - Deteriorated physical plant
 - Overcrowding
 - Limited space restricts available activities
 - Non-productive environment: Dark and narrow corridors, poor acoustics, limited natural light, lack of privacy
 - Incapable of providing conditions that are therapeutic, curative, compassionate, humane, and offering hope
 - Individuals with mental illness, serious medical conditions, and in protective and maximum custody, housed with general population to detriment to all
 - Security electronics and management technologies are outdated
 - Not prepared to deal with today's new challenges such as pandemics

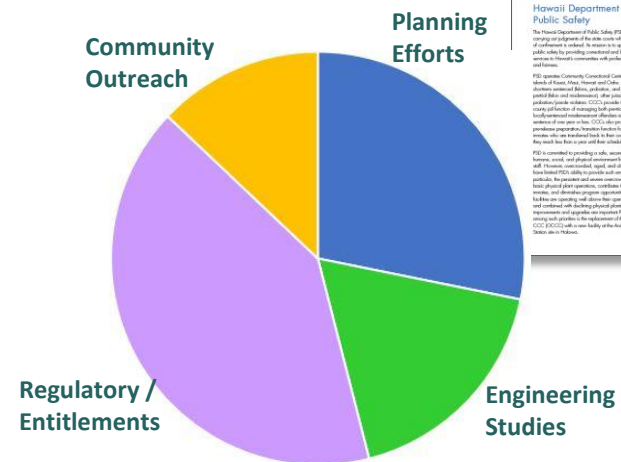
Project Goals and Vision

- Significantly improve how individuals are housed and treated at OCCC
- Eliminate need for costly temporary repairs that try to remedy obsolete physical plant and design
- Adopt new technologies, make more effective use of staff, and optimize cost efficiencies
- Expand number of transitional beds and treatment and program spaces to prepare inmates for successful community re-entry
- Ensure racial equity and provide therapeutic, rather than punitive, facilities and services
- Promote positive changes via new treatment programs, expanded medical and mental health services, and similar assistance
- Improve living and working conditions for occupants and staff
- Reduce recidivism

Phase 1 – Planning (2016 – 2020) \$5.3 Million

Completed

- Population forecast completed
- Public outreach and engagement program begins
- 12 alternative OCCC sites identified and evaluated
- Community Partnering Plan developed
- Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) accepted
- Governor Ige endorses new OCCC at Animal Quarantine Station site
- OCCC Master Plan completed
- Plan Review Use (PRU) application approved by City Council
- Boundary and topographic surveys completed



Current Animal Quarantine Station Site



Google Earth

OCCC Architectural Programming

- OCCC populations forecasted in 2016 for 10-year period
- 2021 forecast update shows a need for 1,012 beds for male detainees in 2024 declining to 911 beds in 2032

Year	OCCC (Males)			
	ADP	Peaking (5%)	Classification (10.6%)	Total Bed Need
2024	875	44	93	1012
2026	853	43	90	986
2028	831	42	88	960
2030	809	40	86	935
2032	788	39	84	911

ADP = Average Daily Population

OCCC Bed Types & Space Requirements

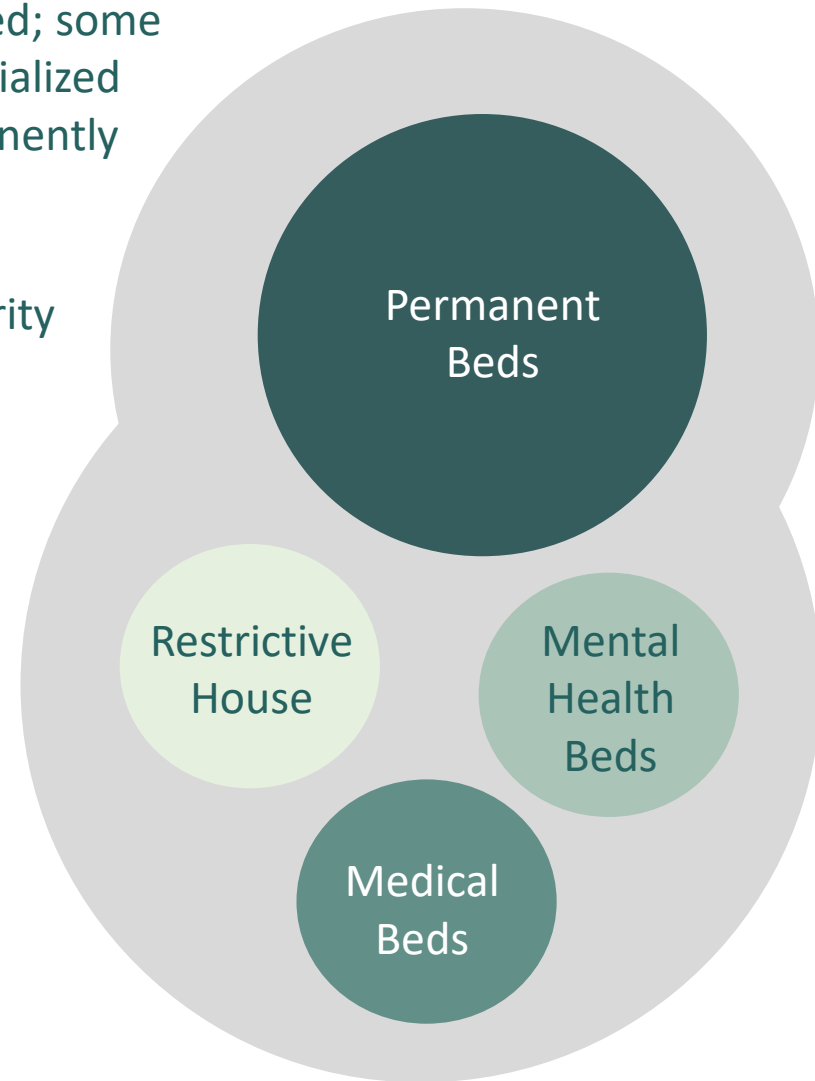
Inmates can't be assigned to just any bed; some types of beds need to be reserved for specialized treatment, either temporarily or permanently

1,000 (+/-) Permanent Beds

- Minimum, Medium, Maximum Security
- Mental Health Special Needs
- Medical Special Needs
- Special Management

Temporary Beds

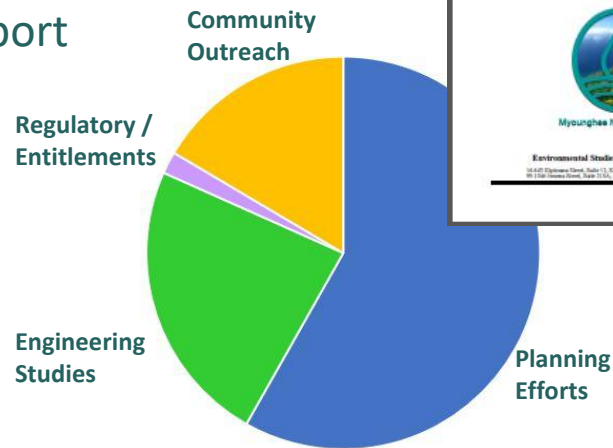
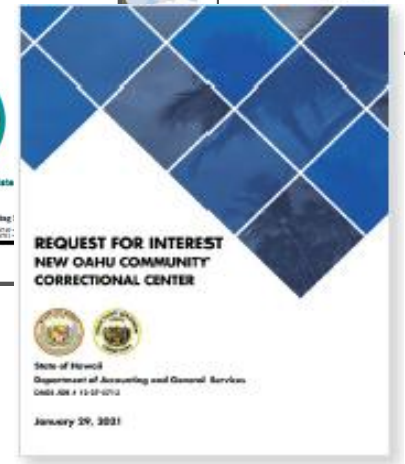
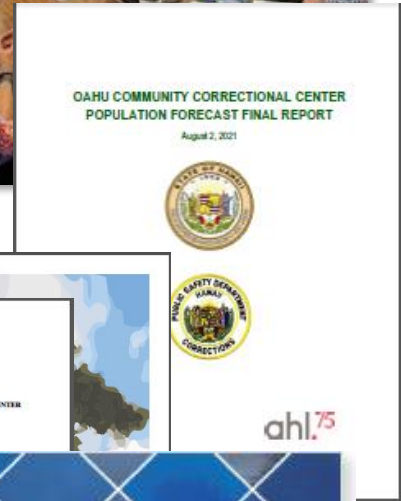
- Mental Health Acute
- Mental Health Subacute
- Medical Skilled Nursing
- Restrictive Housing



Phase 2 – Planning (2020-2024) \$4.5 Million

Completed

- Request for Interest (RFI) released
- New OCCC population forecast
- Geotechnical and hazardous materials investigations
- Development plan for new Animal Quarantine Station
- OCCC development program update
- Preparation of Draft Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
- Restorative Design Report



Accomplishments

Community Outreach And Engagement:

- Phase 1 meetings with numerous Federal Agencies, elected government officials, State departments and agencies, City & County officials and departments and agencies, Neighborhood Boards 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 26, 31, 32, and 34, and other Public Interest Groups and Organizations
- 61 OCCC newsletters and multiple FAQ pages
- Monthly public outreach history calendars
- Dedicated OCCC website maintained at <https://newoahujail.hawaii.gov/>
- OCCC Team represented at all Aiea Neighborhood Board and Community Association meetings since 2019



OCCC team presenting at Aiea Neighborhood Board #20 meeting

Accomplishments and Current Activities

Phase 3 – Bridging Documents

Ongoing

- Planning – Completed
- Conceptual design - Completed
- Geotechnical/hazardous materials investigations – Completed
- Schematic design - *Underway*
- Market sounding and outreach – *Underway*
- New Animal Quarantine Station design – *Underway*
- Update OCCC development program – *Underway*
- Prepare Request for Qualifications – *Underway*
- Property entitlements – *Underway* Community outreach and engagement – *Underway*
- Community outreach and engagement – *Underway*



Current Animal Quarantine Station Site



Conceptual Rendering



Conceptual Rendering



Conceptual Rendering



Current Animal Quarantine Station Site



Exterior Material Board



New Oahu Jail in the Media



<https://www.khon2.com/working-for-hawaii-unscripted/aiea-neighborhood-board-concerns/>



<https://correctionalnews.com/2026/01/30/design-changes-outlined-in-latest-oahu-jail-plans/>



Justice Design News

COURTHOUSES, CORRECTIONS & BEYOND

<https://justicedesignnews.com/news/hawaii-refines-design-plans-for-new-oahu-jail/>



- A. O'ahu Community Correctional Center
- B. Cuyahoga County Jail
- C. Lancaster County Prison
- D. Nashville Youth Campus for Empowerment
Idaho State Women's Prison Project
- E. Federal Correctional Institution
Leavenworth and Federal Prison
Camp

<https://correctionalnews.com/2025-projects-to-watch/>

OCCC Newsletter #62

Future of the O'ahu Community Correctional Center

Vol. 62 - Hawaii Refines Design Plans for New O'ahu Jail

December 2023

Hawaii Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (HDCR) is pleased to announce that the final design for the new O'ahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) has been refined. The design includes a new 1,100-bed facility with enhanced security, modern amenities, and a focus on rehabilitation and community engagement. The project is a significant step towards creating a more humane and effective correctional system for the state of Hawaii.

The new OCCC will be a state-of-the-art facility that incorporates the latest in correctional design and technology. It will provide a safe and secure environment for inmates while also offering a variety of programs and services designed to help them succeed upon release. The facility will be a model of modern correctional architecture and a testament to the state's commitment to public safety and rehabilitation.

The project is a complex one, involving a wide range of stakeholders and a long timeline. However, the state remains committed to seeing this project through to completion. The new OCCC will be a landmark building that reflects the state's values and its commitment to a better future for all Hawaiians.

The state is excited to move forward with the construction of the new OCCC. It will be a significant investment in the state's future and a testament to the state's commitment to public safety and rehabilitation. The new OCCC will be a model of modern correctional architecture and a testament to the state's commitment to a better future for all Hawaiians.

From the Director's Desk



DCR Director Beverly Johnson

It is my honor and privilege to lead the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. We are committed to providing the best possible care and services to our inmates while also focusing on rehabilitation and community engagement. We will continue to work hard to create a more humane and effective correctional system for the state of Hawaii.

The new OCCC is a testament to the state's commitment to public safety and rehabilitation. It will be a landmark building that reflects the state's values and its commitment to a better future for all Hawaiians. We are excited to move forward with the construction of the new OCCC and to see it become a model of modern correctional architecture.

We are committed to providing the best possible care and services to our inmates while also focusing on rehabilitation and community engagement. We will continue to work hard to create a more humane and effective correctional system for the state of Hawaii. The new OCCC is a testament to the state's commitment to public safety and rehabilitation.

We appreciate our officers and corrections staff who are the backbone of our department. We will continue to support and invest in our staff to ensure they have the resources and training they need to succeed.

NEWS & UPDATES ACQUIRES

DCR Prioritizes Program Continuity and Operational Input

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) is prioritizing program continuity and operational input as it moves forward with the construction of the new O'ahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC). The department is committed to ensuring that all programs and services are maintained throughout the construction process.

The department is working closely with all stakeholders to ensure that the transition to the new facility is as smooth as possible. This includes providing ongoing communication and support to all staff and inmates. The goal is to ensure that the new OCCC is a better facility for everyone involved.

The department is also focused on ensuring that all programs and services are of the highest quality. This includes providing ongoing training and support to all staff and inmates. The goal is to ensure that the new OCCC is a model of modern correctional architecture and a testament to the state's commitment to a better future for all Hawaiians.

The department is committed to providing the best possible care and services to our inmates while also focusing on rehabilitation and community engagement. We will continue to work hard to create a more humane and effective correctional system for the state of Hawaii. The new OCCC is a testament to the state's commitment to public safety and rehabilitation.

NEWS & UPDATES ACQUIRES

O'ahu Jail Team Presents to Metropolitan Honolulu Rotary Club

The O'ahu Jail Team presented to the Metropolitan Honolulu Rotary Club on December 15, 2023. The team discussed the progress of the new O'ahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) and the impact it will have on the community. The presentation was a success and the team received positive feedback from the club members.

The team is grateful for the support and feedback from the club members. They will continue to work hard to ensure that the new OCCC is a model of modern correctional architecture and a testament to the state's commitment to a better future for all Hawaiians. The presentation was a significant step towards creating a more humane and effective correctional system for the state of Hawaii.

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NEWS & UPDATES OPERATIONS

WCCC Hosts 'Ohana Day for Incarcerated Women and Families

The Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) hosted an 'Ohana Day for incarcerated women and their families on December 10, 2023. The event was a success and provided a great opportunity for families to spend time with their loved ones. The event included a meal, games, and other activities.

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WCCC staff and inmates at Ohana Day

NEWS & UPDATES OPERATIONS

WCCC Hosts Mental Health Day Event

The Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) hosted a Mental Health Day event on December 12, 2023. The event was a success and provided a great opportunity for inmates to receive mental health services. The event included a meal, games, and other activities.

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NEWS & UPDATES OPERATIONS

Launaka Work Furlough Inmates Join 'Oahu Laborers' Apprenticeship Program

The O'ahu Laborers' Apprenticeship Program (OLAP) is providing a great opportunity for OCCC inmates to gain valuable work experience and training. The program is a partnership between the OCCC and the Hawaii Laborers' Apprenticeship Program. The program includes a variety of training and support services.

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OLAP participants at work furlough

NEWS & UPDATES OPERATIONS

Incarcerated Mothers Reunite with Their Kids to Celebrate Halloween

The O'ahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) hosted a Halloween event for incarcerated mothers and their children on October 31, 2023. The event was a success and provided a great opportunity for families to spend time together. The event included a meal, games, and other activities.

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NEWS & UPDATES OPERATIONS

Graduation Ceremonies for New Adult Corrections Officers

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) held graduation ceremonies for new Adult Corrections Officers (ACOs) on December 15, 2023. The ceremony was a success and provided a great opportunity for the new officers to receive their commissions. The ceremony included a meal, games, and other activities.

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New ACO graduates at ceremony

NEWS & UPDATES OPERATIONS

Department of Correction and Rehabilitation

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O'ahu Jail Update: Insights on PBS Hawai'i

- *John Schells, Warden, O'ahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC)*
- *Keke Walker, The Reimagining Public Safety Coalition of Hawai'i*
- *Della Au Belatti (D), Chair, Public Safety Committee*
- *Christin Johnson, Oversight Coordinator, Hawai'i Correctional Systems Oversight Commission*
- *Yunji de Nies, Moderator*



American Correctional Association



Cost Implications of Project Delay

- Costly to extend lifespan, security, and usability of obsolete OCCC mechanical, electrical, plumbing, structural and security systems continue to age and require upgrading or replacement
- Taxpayers to fund operation of deteriorating facility with increasing capital expenditures each year to function
- OCCC work environment not conducive to attracting and retaining workforce, placing additional burden on PSD and taxpayers
- Economic and humanitarian cost of doing nothing: OCCC continues to deteriorate, with negative impacts on occupants, staff, and community
- Estimated construction cost: \$525 million rough order of magnitude in 2018; costs continue to escalate as each month passes \$937 million.
- Property in Kalihi has significant economic development value; redeveloping property will result in significant benefits in jobs, tax revenues and other indirect and secondary economic activities

P3 Procurement Presentation

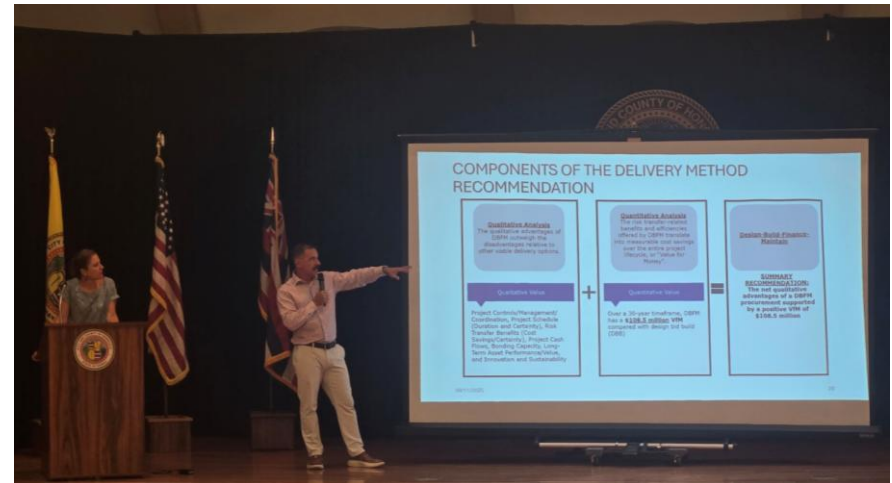
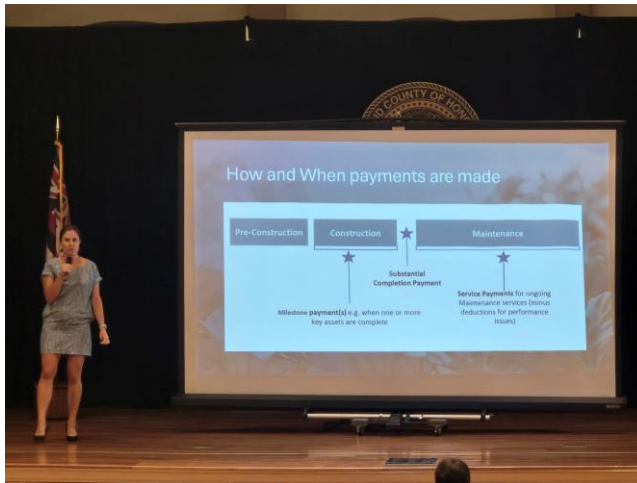
The OCCC design team presented to the legislature and various departments and committees about the P3 process and how it can be implemented to the OCCC project.



Presenters:

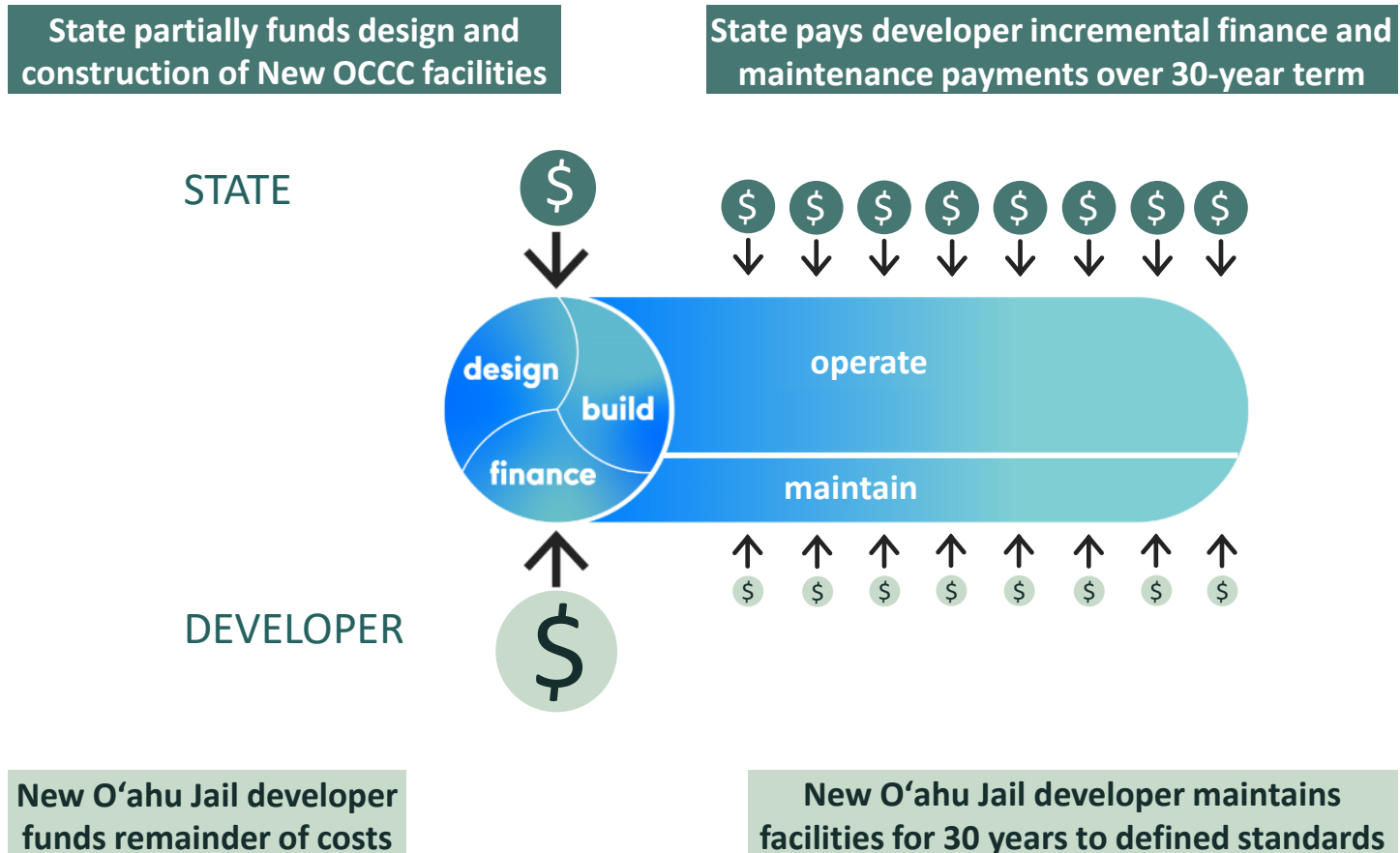
Mark Polston Senior Vice President,
Transactions and Delivery Strategy –
WSP

Bridey Best, Senior Vice President
for WT Partnership America

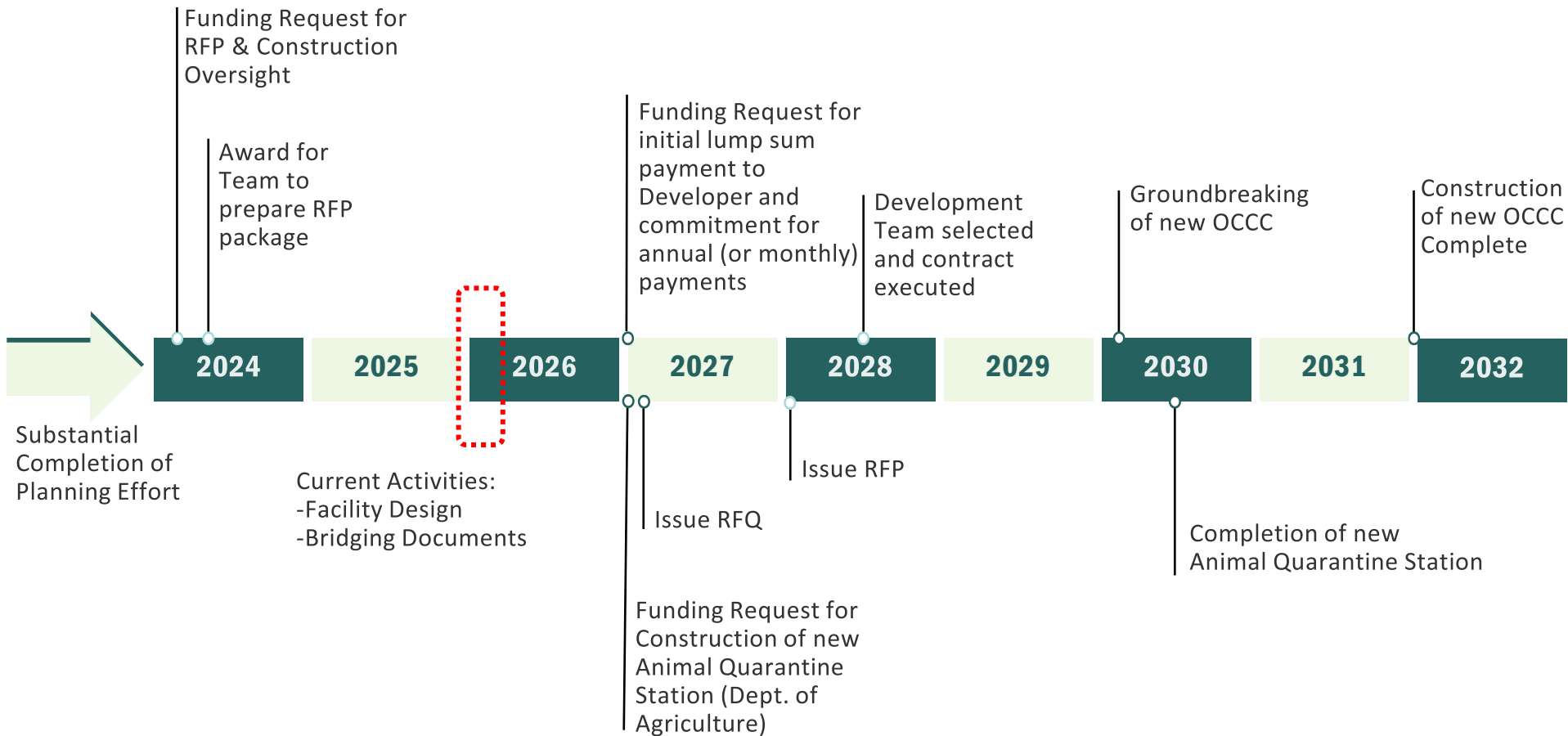


P3 Procurement

The DBFM method delegates and contracts a private sector partner to design, build, finance, and maintain the Project on the State's behalf. Operation of the functional services of the jail will remain with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR).



Project Schedule



Mālama ia Hawai'i
caring for and protecting our island community

THE NEW O'AHU JAIL

newoahujail.hawaii.gov

Mahalo



<https://newoahujail.hawaii.gov/>