STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
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Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission
Oversight Coordinator Monthly Report
Date of Report: November 17, 2022

Commission Chair
Mark Patterson

Commission Members
Hon. Ronald Ibarra (ret.)
Hon. Michael Town (ret.)
Martha Torney
Theodore Sakai

Oversight Coordinator
Christin M. Johnson

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 will publicly post 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

In-Custody Deaths

On Thursday, October 27, 2022, at 1:30am, a registered nurse (R.N.) at Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) found a person in custody, male, between 70-80 years old unresponsive in his cell within the infirmary. Medical staff called 911 Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The on-call doctor pronounced the man deceased at 2:08am.

On Thursday, November 3, at 7:30am, Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) staff responded to a medical backup call. A person in custody, male, between 50-60 years old was found unresponsive in his cell. Medical and security staff began administering aid and called 911 Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Staff performed CPR until EMS arrived to take over lifesaving procedures. EMS pronounced the man deceased at 8:02am. Official cause of death is pending determination by the Medical Examiner's Office. Honolulu Police were notified.

Actions Taken

Facility Tours

Facilities Toured:

- Hawaii Community Correctional Center (HCCC) – October 28th
- Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) – November 3rd
- Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) – November 14th
- Hawaii Community Correctional Center (HCCC) – November 15th

The Oversight Coordinator extends special thanks to all facility staff for their cooperation, expertise, and professionalism.

Commissioner Ibarra and the Oversight Coordinator were scheduled to tour all Going Home Hawaii programs in Kona and Hilo on November 9th, however the tours needed to be cancelled. The tours will be rescheduled in the near future.

Justice-Involved Homeless Intergovernmental Collaboration

Commissioner Patterson, Commissioner Sakai, and Oversight Coordinator Johnson met with Going Home Hawaii leadership on October 12th to discuss concerns regarding justice-involved homeless individuals, specifically within the jail and prison system. Since 2004, the Hawai'i Island Going Home Consortium has been leading efforts to provide innovative and culturally responsive reentry and reintegration services to justice-involved individuals, their families, and communities. The Going Home Consortium consists of more than 50 public and private entities and their representatives with a network of over 300 state and national partners. Going Home Hawai'i is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and the governing fiscal body for the Hawai'i Island Going Home Consortium.

During the November 20, 2022 Commission meeting, the Commission agreed to submit a letter of support to Hawaii County Mayor Mitch Roth. The letter requested the formation of an inter-governmental workgroup focused on justice-involved homelessness and potential steps forward to guide these efforts in a meaningful way. Mayor Roth responded and explained that while the County is willing to collaborate in a Justice-Involved Homeless Intergovernmental Collaboration Group, it is his belief that this effort should be spearheaded by a State entity as most of the changes need to happen at a State level. The Commission will decide the next steps moving forward to support efforts from various local, community, and state stakeholders in a consortium to find solutions for justice-involved homeless community.

HCCC Conditions Update

This section is following a report from September 2nd, 2022, highlighting serious issues and concerns regarding inhumane conditions at HCCC. The Coordinator has continued to make biweekly trips to HCCC.

Overcrowding

On November 15th, three buildings at HCCC (Punahele, Komohana and Waianuenue) in addition to covid-housing had a head count of 224 while the facility has a design capacity of 152. This puts the facility at a 147% occupancy rate. This occupancy rate has been decreasing since the September 2nd visit when the rate was 170%.

The Oversight Coordinator has been working diligently to speak with judges, prosecutors, and attorneys to ensure they are aware of the conditions of HCCC before sending individuals there. A massive portion of HCCC are pretrial detainees which means they have not been sentenced for a crime. Much of this population is homeless and/or have a mental health diagnosis. It is this reason that Commissioner Patterson, Commissioner Sakai, and Oversight Coordinator Johnson met with Going Home Hawaii leadership on October 12th to discuss concerns regarding justice-involved homeless individuals to find solutions outside of incarceration. This is an ongoing effort and will continue to be reported on.

Safety and Security Concerns

The facility is currently undergoing construction to completely replace each of the cell doors in Punahele to prevent the use of padlocks on the cell doors. Four units have been completed, and one unit is currently in progress. Once construction is finished, this will ease the usage of the Multipurpose Room 1. During the most recent visit on November 15th, there were sixteen men housed in the Multipurpose Room 1.

Lack of Programs and Basic Services

People in custody within Punahele have reported that they have received new uniforms in addition to soap and hygiene products. However, people in custody in Waianuenue reported that they have not received any new uniforms and their uniforms were visibly ripped and in terrible shape. Additionally, the individuals reported that they do not receive any responses when they file grievances.

Suicide/Safety Watch

The "dayroom" space behind a door in Punahele in front of four cells is still being utilized on and off for those on suicide or safety watch. During the most recent tour on November 15th, there was one individual behind the door of G Unit in Punahele. This is of serious concern due to 1) lack of access to water and toilets, 2) lack of visibility from officer desk, 3) lack of privacy from 12+ people in custody within the cells, 4) no bedframe, 5) no area to store their property, and 6) a complete lack of humane treatment and decency as a whole towards individuals with potentially self-harming ideations and/or actions.

Shipping Container/Covid-Housing

During the most recent tour on November 16th, the shipping container housed 14 individuals. Four people in the first, second, and third cells, and two people in the fourth cell. These cells have a triple bunk bed in each cell meaning one to two individuals had a mattress on the floor. The third and fourth cells did not have working lights. Due to a lack of windows and lack of natural light, the cells were completely pitch black. An officer must use their flashlight to shine in the cells and see. After asking an officer how long the lights had been out, they reported over a month. They did specify a work-order has been placed, however, no progress has been made.

It is important to note that these cells are used as isolation cells to ensure newly admitted individuals do not have covid. Once the five-day isolation period is met, individuals can be housed accordingly.

Recreation

Individuals have reported that they are being allowed outside for recreation. The facility has set a new recreation schedule to equitably allow as many individuals outside for recreation as possible. Due to overcrowding and understaffing, the facility is not meeting federal standards for daily outdoor recreation. However, individuals in custody have reported that there is improvement.

Visits

Due to the construction, the visit room is currently out of commission and the facility is not offering in-person visits. The Oversight Coordinator stopped in the visit room on November 15th and saw wooden construction in progress to create permanent non-contact visit spaces. The Coordinator is deeply concerned about this new construction given how important and impactful in-person contact visits are for rehabilitation.

The Oversight Coordinator continues to monitor the conditions of HCCC, work with community partners, the judicial branch, and the Department of Public Safety to ensure safer conditions that align with federal standards. The Coordinator will continue to report on the conditions of HCCC.

General Office Updates

The office of the HCSOC has an official mailing address, website, email, and social media. As of October 10th, all mail to and from the Commission is considered privileged mail. All facility staff have been notified.

Mailing Address:	Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission 235 S. Berentania Street, 16th floor Honolulu, HI 96813
Website:	hcsoc.hawaii.gov
Email:	hcsoc@hawaii.gov
Social Media:	Youtube LinkedIn Facebook Instagram

Hiring Processes

Clerical Assistant – The HCSOC welcomes their newest staff member, George Choe! George has immense clerical and leadership experience from his previous roles working in the Attorney General's office as the Assistant to the Special Assistant to the Attorney General, and as a District Manager for many years at Hertz. George has a newfound passion for law and will be furthering his education in the legal system while working with the Commission. His title is Special Assistant to the Oversight Coordinator and he's very excited to get started.

Reentry and Diversion Oversight Specialist – The HCSOC is looking to hire a Reentry and Diversion Oversight Specialist. This position was posted on the Commission's website on November 1st. Please check the website for the posting at https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/job-opportunities/. For further questions, please contact the Oversight Coordinator at christin.m.johnson@hawaii.gov.

Expenses for the Preceding Month

Below is a breakdown of October expenses.

	Price per Item	Quantity	Total	Note
Office Equipment and Supplies			**$7,113**	
General Office Supplies			$0	
Desktop			$0	
Laptop	$1,644	3.00	$4,932	Lenovo 21CES2F900
Laptop Bag	$14	3.00	$42	Lenovo 15.6 laptop casual top loader (GX40Q17231)
Tablet			$0	
Tablet Case			$0	
Docking Station	$179	3.00	$537	40B50090US
Keyboard + Mouse Combo	$40	3.00	$120	GX31D10707
Widescreen Monitor	$391	3.00	$1,173	61F3GAR1US
Webcam	$55	3.00	$165	GXC1D66064
Computer Speakers	$25	3.00	$75	0A36190
Staff and Commission Badges			$0	
Staff and Commission Badge Holders			$0	
Cell Phone			$0	
Cell Phone Monthly Plan	$69	1.00	$69	August & September
Inter-Island Correctional Facility Travel			**$1,563.66**	
August Big Island Airfare	$71	2.00	$141	
August Big Island Car Rental	$69	1.00	$69	
August Big Island Daily Per Diem	$20	2.00	$40	
August Lodging			$0	
August Airport Parking				
October Airfare	$662	1.00	$662	
October Car Rental	$288	1.00	$288	
October Daily Per Diem	$80	1.00	$80	
October Lodging	$235	1.00	$235	
October Ground Transportation	$48	1.00	$48	
October Airport Parking				
Mainland (AZ) Correctional Facility Travel			**$3,930**	
September Trip Airfare	$849	2.00	$1,698	Airfare (CJ and MP) $1,697.98 ($848.99 ea). Airfare also encompasses NACOLE 2022 conference.
September Trip Daily Per Diem	$145	8.00	$1,160	4 days, 2 people
September Trip Lodging	$440	2.00	$880	2 people. (3 nights @ approx. $146.60)
September Trip Car Rental	$192	1.00	$192	
Memberships + Conferences			**$8,952.02**	
National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) Annual Dues	$500	1.00	$500	
NACOLE Annual Conference	$656	2.00	$1,313	
Airfare	$849	2.00	$1,698	Airfare (CJ and MP) $1,697.98 ($848.99 ea). Airfare added into Mainland AZ visit as price encompasses both trips.
Daily Per Diem	$145	12.00	$1,740	6 days, 2 people
Lodging	$1,233	2.00	$2,466	2 people. (6 nights @ approx. $205.50)
Ground Transportation				
Mana Wahine Ekolu 2022 Conference Registration	$459	1.00	$459	11/28/2022 - 11/30/2022
Lodging+Tax	$776	1.00	$776	1 person (2 nights)

Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission Monthly Meetings

This report will be discussed at the monthly Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission meeting held on November 16, 2022. The next monthly meeting is scheduled to occur on December 15, 2022, at 9am. Meetings are held in person at the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) 830 Punchbowl Street, Room 313 Honolulu, HI 96813, or online via Zoom. More information can be found on the Commission's webpage here https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/meetings/.