

Mark Patterson
Commission Chair



Hon. Ronald Ibarra (ret.)
Commissioner

Hon. Michael Town (ret.)
Commissioner

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STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

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Martha Torney
Commissioner

Theodore Sakai
Commissioner

November 29, 2022

Mr. Max N. Otani
Director
Department of Public Safety
Keoni Ana Building
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Saguaro Correctional Center Limited Legal Call Schedule

Dear Director Otani:

On November 22nd, the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (the Commission) received a written complaint from the Hawai'i Innocence Project regarding a limited legal call schedule at the Saguaro Correctional Center. According to the Hawai'i Innocence Project, the current schedule only permits legal calls Tuesday-Thursday from approximately 7:30am-12:00pm Hawaii Standard Time which does not allow for regular and timely communication with their clients.

Additionally, the Hawai'i Innocence Project requested a legal call for Friday December 2nd, after an important meeting specific to their client's case. However, their request was denied because the Saguaro Correctional Center are only permitted to allow legal calls Tuesday-Thursday.

Given the distance between Saguaro Correctional Center and the state of Hawai'i, legal calls have a particular importance as visiting in person is not practical. Additionally, legal attorneys have a duty to communicate regularly with their clients to relay important and timely information and the Department of Public Safety has a duty to ensure legal access.

Therefore, with the information provided to the Commission, the Commission is requesting that the Department of Public Safety commit to the following:

- 1) Provide an accommodation for the Hawai'i Innocence Project to have a legal call with their client on Friday, December 2nd and,
- 2) Change the Saguaro policy to allow for legal calls during normal Hawaii Standard Time business hours and, if needed, after hours and weekends.

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Director
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The Commission appreciates the Department of Public Safety's attention to this matter and looks forward to your response.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MP', is positioned above the printed name.

Mark Patterson
Chair