



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
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Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission
Oversight Coordinator Monthly Report
Date of Report: October 20, 2022
Updated: March 30, 2023 (see page 2)

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 Death

On Monday, October 17, at 10:30 p.m., Maui Community Correctional Center (MCCC) staff responded to a medical backup call. A person in custody, female, between 40-50 years old, was found unresponsive in her cell. Medical and security staff immediately began administering aid and called 911 Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Staff performed CPR until EMS arrived to take over lifesaving procedures. EMS pronounced the woman deceased at 10:57 p.m. Official cause of death is pending determination by the Medical Examiner's Office. Maui Police were notified and an internal investigation as well as a law enforcement investigation are pending.

Actions Taken

Facility Tours

Facilities Toured:

- Hawaii Community Correctional Center (HCCC) – October 6th
- YWCA O'ahu Fernhurst Residence (PSD contracted reentry program) – October 11th
- Hawaii Community Correctional Center (HCCC) (unannounced) – October 15th
- Maui Community Correctional Center (MCCC) – October 18th

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

Criminal Law Forum

On Friday October 7, 2022, the Oversight Coordinator participated in the Criminal Law Forum hosted by the Hawaii State Bar Association. The Coordinator presented on the current state of the Hawaii jails and prisons within the Prison Reform panel. This forum was attended by 81 attorneys, 32 judges, and 11 other guests (including court administrators and law clerks). The PowerPoint presentation from the forum is attached to this report.

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.

The collaborative meeting aligns with lessening the overcrowding in HCCC by supporting 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 October 20th, three buildings at HCCC (Punahale, Komohana and Waianuenue) in addition to covid-housing had a head count of 240 while the facility has a design capacity of 126. This puts the facility at a 190%¹ occupancy rate.

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,

¹ This number reflects the correct operational capacity limit in accordance with the Corrections Population Management Commission 2001 report. Previous reports noted three buildings at Hawaii Community Correctional Center (Punahale, Komohana and Waianuenue) had a head count of 240 while the facility has a capacity of 152. Therefore, the previous report noted the facility occupancy rate being 158%. The correct design capacity is 126, putting the correct occupancy rate at 190%.

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.

Severe Safety and Security Concerns

The facility is currently undergoing construction to completely replace each of the cell doors in Punahale to prevent the use of padlocks on the cell doors. Two units have been completed, two units are currently in progress, and one unit is pending construction after the other units are complete. The construction is 5-6 weeks ahead of its original schedule. Once construction is finished, this will ease the usage of the Multipurpose Room 1. During the most recent visit on October 15th (unannounced), there were either men housed in the Multipurpose Room 1.

Lack of Programs and Basic Services

People in custody have reported that they have received new uniforms in addition to soap and hygiene products. Due to the construction, the visit room is currently out of commission. People in custody have reported that they have had more access to outdoor recreation.

Suicide/Safety Watch

Individuals have been removed from the, “dayroom” space behind a door in Punahale in front of four cells. During the most recent tour on October 15th (unannounced) the Coordinator did not find anyone living in these spaces. Additionally, the Coordinator did not see anyone on Suicide Watch in Punahale.

Shipping Container/Covid-Housing

During the most recent tour on October 15th (unannounced), the shipping container housed 18 individuals. Five people in the first and second cells, and four people in the third and fourth cells. These cells have a triple bunk bed in each cell meaning one to two individuals had a mattress on the floor. The first 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.

It is important to note that these cells are used as isolation cells to ensure newly admitted individuals do not have covid. All of the individuals mentioned they had been in the cells for less than five days. 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 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
Honolulu, HI 96813

Website: hcsoc.hawaii.gov

Email: hcsoc@hawaii.gov

Social Media: [Youtube](#)
[LinkedIn](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)

Case Management System

The HCSOC has secured a partnership with Thoughtworks who is designing and creating the Case Management System for the office. This is a pro-bono project and the Case Management System is projected to be completed by October 2023, if not sooner. This system will allow staff to effectively store all information regarding investigations and monitoring processes.

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 will be posted within the next couple weeks and will be posted on the Commission’s website. Please check the website for the

posting. For further questions, please contact the Oversight Coordinator at christin.m.johnson@hawaii.gov.

Expenses for the Preceding Month

Below is a breakdown of August and September expenses. Most September and all October expenses have not been applied to the HCSOC’s appropriation yet but will include numerous inter-island correctional facility trips.

	Price per Item	Quantity	Total	
Office Equipment and Supplies			\$7,113	
General Office Supplies			\$0	
Desktop			\$0	
Laptop	\$1,644	3.00	\$4,932	Lenov
Laptop Bag	\$14	3.00	\$42	Lenov
Tablet			\$0	
Tablet Case			\$0	
Docking Station	\$179	3.00	\$537	40B5C
Keyboard + Mouse Combo	\$40	3.00	\$120	GX31I
Widescreen Monitor	\$391	3.00	\$1,173	61F3C
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				
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	Airfar Mainl
Daily Per Diem	\$145	12.00	\$1,740	6 day:

Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission Monthly Meetings

This report will be discussed at the monthly Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission meeting held on October 20, 2022. The next monthly meeting is scheduled to occur on November 17, 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 Microsoft Teams. More information can be found on the Commission’s webpage here <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/>.