



Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

Monthly Oversight Coordinator Report – October 19 2023

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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 publicly posts 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

The Oversight Coordinator monthly reports are released on the third Thursday of each month to align with monthly Commission meetings where this report is publicly discussed.

Death in Custody

Late Notice: On September 5, 2023, a person in custody, male, 31 years old, was found badly assaulted in his cell at the Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF). Facility staff immediately called 911 Emergency Services and secured the cell as a crime scene. The individual was transported to a nearby hospital where he was admitted and placed on life support. Unfortunately, on September 6, 2023, the person in custody was pronounced deceased. The Honolulu Police Department (HPD), State Attorney General (AG) Investigators, State Sheriffs, and PSD's Internal Affairs Unit are all conducting their respective investigations with the AG's office taking the lead investigative role.

This is the second murder to occur in custody this year; the first occurring on July 7, 2023.

Correctional Facility Tours

Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC)

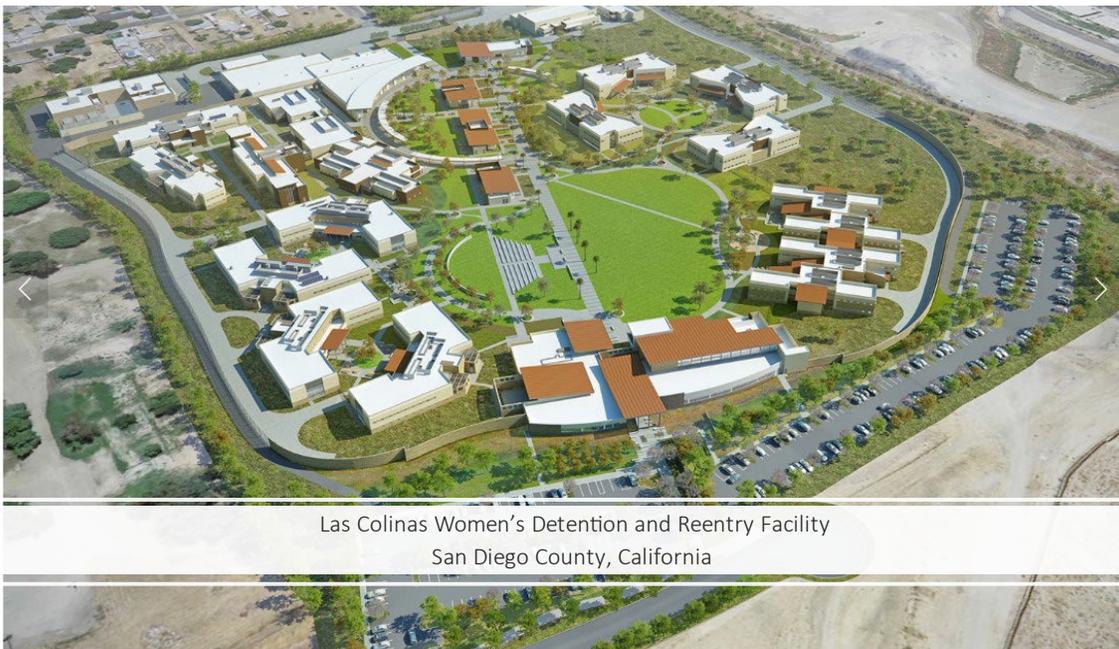
In accordance with the Commission's mandate to oversee the State's correctional system, on Thursday, September 21, 2023, directly following the HCSOC public meeting, the Commissioners, Oversight Coordinator, and Reentry and Diversion Oversight Specialist toured the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC). After the tour, the Commission compiled their notes encompassing their impressions and offered recommendations including:

- 1) Review new construction plans for Building A (secure housing) and implement as many therapeutic and rehabilitative spaces as possible.
- 2) Secure desperately needed funding for facility updates.
- 3) Ensure appropriate access to the Law Library and ease of access to defense attorney information.
- 4) As the Department of Public Safety plans new facilities or housing units, the design should be consistent with the rebuilt and reimagined Ho'okipa Cottage.
- 5) Continue and further the current trajectory of leaders at WCCC.

These recommendations will be discussed during the October 19, 2023, public meeting. The full WCCC Site Visit Observation report can be found on the Commission’s website at: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/facility-specific-reports/>.

Las Colinas Detention and Reentry Facility

Consistent with the Commission’s mandate to facilitate a correctional system transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model and to conduct an ongoing study and investigation of the operation and the administration of correctional system laws in effect in other states or countries, the Oversight Coordinator invited State Representative Mark Hashem, Corrections, Military & Veterans (CMV) Chair and the Department of Public Safety to tour a progressive facility in San Diego, California. The tour of Las Colinas Women’s Detention and Reentry facility took place on Thursday, September 28, and attendees included State Representative Mark Hashem, Christin Johnson, HCSOC, Cara Compani, HCSOC, Bob Merce, Correctional Reform Working Group, and Warden Ione Guillonta from the Women’s Community Correctional Center.



The tour was highly informative and successful. Las Colinas is known for its therapeutic and rehabilitative nature. The facility itself is more like a campus and less institutionalized. The term “inmate” is no longer used, and instead, staff use, “incarcerated person” or “IP.” Additionally, phone and video visits are offered at no cost to the incarcerated population. Family members and loved ones can access the video visitation from any device that has video capabilities and can also come onsite to use video visitation devices. Lower security levels have in-person visits, and the visiting room is extremely spacious, welcoming, and has separate play areas filled with various toys for mothers and their children.

The facility works with six classification levels—one through six. One through three are walking, meaning incarcerated people have free movement during designated times throughout the facility. They receive a minimum of six hours of specified time to move

throughout the facility. During this timeframe, they can attend education classes and programs, make free phone calls, have video or in-person visits, visit the library, play volleyball or kickball outside, sit on benches outside, exercise outdoors, or participate in any of the other various activities the facility has to offer.

House One, which was for the workline and considered an honor dorm, had about 25 women living in a dorm-like setting. Each sleeping bay had an individual bed, desk, chair, and space for belongings. This unit is run like employment in the community. If there is a rule violation, the consequences are extra trash and/or chores rather than a write-up or solitary time. It was clear that the staff try to work with the incarcerated population as much as possible to ensure their success and to be fair when they make mistakes. Staffing for this unit is one Deputy for 48 incarcerated people. Staff can monitor the entire house from their station through sight lines (the officer station is right inside the housing unit) and cameras.



Out of the approximately 500 incarcerated people, about 160 were security level 4, 5, or 6. The least amount of people were placed in Level 6 (administrative segregation) housing. When the tour arrived at Level 6 housing, the HCSOC staff were shocked at how quiet and peaceful the unit seemed. Typically, in administrative segregation, one can expect immense yelling, banging, and potential throwing of items. However, the space and the overall feel of the unit was completely different. The women in administrative segregation are evaluated by staff every Sunday to try and find ways to safely move the incarcerated people to less secure housing. Additionally, Deputies who do well working on the administrative segregation unit stay there to support uniformity and form relationships with the people in custody there. On most other units, staff rotate. It was very clear that everyone had a goal of removing women from administrative segregation, if they could safely do so.

Staff wellness was also a clear priority for the institution. Not only does Las Colinas have a staff wellness program run and managed by corrections professionals who understand the complexity of the work, but they also have a staff wellness room stocked with candy, a waterfall, comfortable seating, and comfortable blankets. Staff had the opportunity to give input on how to design the space, and they created a serene, relaxing space where staff can enjoy breaks.

Staff also had a nontraditional work schedule that they spoke highly of – they work 12.5 hours per day, working five days on, five days off, and then three days on, three days off. Staff mentioned that they appreciate the working schedule because it gives them a break from the facility and allows them ample time to pick up overtime shifts if they would like.

Staff told us that currently, they are required to work at least one overtime shift per month, but there is flexibility in when the shift can be.

Las Colinas has partnerships with other government agencies to bring in experts to assist people in custody with learning trades. For example, the sewing instructor was an employee of the local school district and is contracted to work at the jail. The sewing instructor was proud of her job, and shared with us how the women can (and are encouraged to) sew handmade teddy bears, dresses, and other clothing for their children they get to take home with them upon release. They can also choose to sell what they have created during a monthly public farmer's market in San Diego. Not only does this bring pride to the women, but it also humanizes those who are incarcerated.

Las Colinas has a unique "Open Booking" process where individuals dropped off by the police can take a seat and wait for their turn to be called for the various steps in the booking processes, instead of being held in a holding cell. Staff told us that it is more humane for those coming into the facility and more efficient for staff. It functioned and looked like a medical office waiting room and a DMV. Those who are not safe to have in an open setting (due to potential drug use, detox, mental health crisis, or other factors) are held in holding cells as needed.



Other notable factors to Las Colinas:

- Feminine products are readily available on the unit (no one had to ask for them and there were no limits).
- Telephone calls and video visits are completely free.
- Cable TV, DVDs, vending machines, and video games were available to lower-security level units.
- The National Association of Women Judges offers a monthly book club at the facility.
- The programming, education, and group treatment space resembles a college classroom and campus—lots of natural light and nice furniture.
- Certification programs work with community partners to get people jobs upon release—e.g., culinary and hospitals. Culinary certification programs have women in custody run a coffee shop on campus and the staff (mostly made-to-order) cafeteria.
- Trauma-informed care training is mandatory for all staff.

- Staff practice “Direct Supervision” where their desk is directly in the unit, and they are encouraged to interact with the incarcerated women.



Programming and enrichment activities that were available:

- College Classes
- Hydroponics
- Culinary Program
- Industrial Sewing
- Job Fairs (held at facility)
- Shakespeare Program
- Outdoor Movies
- Yoga Classes

Overall, the facility was an extremely impressive example of how a jail can be therapeutic and rehabilitative. The women there were humanized and met with empathy, compassion, and caring while the facility was simultaneously meeting the goals of community safety and rehabilitation. The overall feel of the facility was relaxed and almost playful at times. Women in custody enjoyed chatting with us during the tour, and so did the staff. On behalf of the Hawaii group that toured, we send a warm mahalo to the Las Colinas Detention and Reentry Facility staff for welcoming us and allowing us to learn from them.



Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC)

Consistent with the Commission’s mandate to facilitate a correctional system transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model and to conduct an ongoing study and investigation of the operation and the administration of correctional system laws in effect in other states or countries, on Monday, October 9, 2023, the Oversight Coordinator toured the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) to familiarize the [Amend UCSF](#) team with the facility conditions. Amend at UCSF is a public health and human rights program that works

in prisons to reduce their debilitating health effects on residents and staff, while also joining policy makers and community leaders to advance decarceration strategies and a better, new system of accountability and healing in the US. Amend focuses on health-focused culture-change initiatives, staff training, public education, advocacy, and policy-oriented research. The tour also included Cara Compagni, HCSOC, and Dr. Michael Champion and Annie Valentin who focus on mental health and justice system initiatives in the Governor’s office.

The Amend team, including Kelsey Engstrom, *Amend Program Manager*, Sergeant Jeff Herrmann, *Washington State Department of Corrections and Amend Ambassador*, and Tom Eberhardt, *Senior Adviser for the Norwegian Correctional Service (KDI) and Amend Norwegian Program Manager*, came to Hawaii to work directly with the Department of Public Safety to host various workshops specific to corrections culture and health-focused culture-change initiative. The Commission is incredibly grateful for the Amend team, and would like to acknowledge Tommy Johnson, Director of Public Safety, Warden Schell of OCCC, and the entire corrections staff for giving them such a warm welcome and aloha.

Breaking Cycles: Re-Envisioning A Health, Housing, And Corrections Continuum

Consistent with the Commission’s mandate to facilitate a correctional system transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model, the Commission, the Correctional Reform Working Group, the University of Hawaii Manoa School of Architecture, and the Department of Public Safety collectively planned a symposium to bring local, national, and worldwide experts to Hawaii to examine the current correctional system, and share knowledge and explore new approaches to corrections, diversion, and reentry.

The symposium took place on Tuesday, October 10, and Wednesday, October 11, with the goals to:



1. Share new models, approaches, and proven practices for corrections, diversion, and reentry.
2. Facilitate collaboration between health, housing, and justice agencies and community organizations.
3. Build on recent justice-related discussions to develop a plan for legislative, departmental, and individual action.
4. Increase public and political awareness.

The symposium covered various topics and focused on barriers and solutions to change, viewing correctional culture as a public health approach, designing for health and rehabilitation, changing the system as a whole, diversion – alternatives to jail, reentry, and closed with a whole-system workshop. During the workshop, attendees were asked to contribute to table group discussions focused on diversion and prevention, correctional culture, reentry, and jail design. These discussions solicited additional ideas and solutions

from participants aimed at the prioritization of departmental and legislative actions for the upcoming year. Action items were shared at the end of the workshop, and all feedback will be synthesized as part of UHCDC's report to the community and in a final report submitted to PSD.



Additionally, pictures and videos from the symposium will be uploaded to the symposium's website for those who had to miss the event, or who would like to revisit what was covered. More information can be found here: <https://www.breaking-cycles-symposium.org/>.

This event could not have occurred without the support of Director Tommy Johnson and the Department of Public Safety, Noriko Namiki and the YWCA O'ahu, and Amend at UCSF, or organized this discussion without our planning team partners Cathi Ho Schar from the University of Hawai'i Community Design Center/UHM School of Architecture, Bob Merce and Mike Livingston from the Correctional Reform Working Group, Dr. Michael Champion and Annie Valentin from the Governor's Office. The Commission also recognizes Warden John Schell and the OCCC team for participating fully in the symposium and the surrounding workshop sessions.

Also, a special thanks to all our incredible speakers! In order of appearance: Governor Josh Green, Director Tommy Johnson, Cathi Ho Schar, Christin Johnson, Michael Livingston, Judge Ron Ibarra, Corey Reincke, Kelsey Engstrom, Tom Eberhardt, Jeff Herrmann, Puni Jackson, Bob Merce, Heather Lusk, Aviam Soifer, Representative Sonny Ganaden, Judge Mark R. Browning, Jonathan Osorio, Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald, Michael Champion, Shoshanna Scholar, Troy Vaughn, Ashley Shearer, Rebecca Like, Major Mike Lambert, Laura Thielen, Tia Harstock, Jamee Miller, Les Estrella, James Koshiba, Monica Lortz, and Governor Linda Lingle, and to our facilitators: Terry Visperas, Leolinda Iokepa, Kat Brady, Cara Compani, Annie Valentin, Michael Wilson. Oli and song performed by Jonathan Kamakawiwo'ole Osorio.

Supported by: [The Department of Public Safety \(PSD\)](#), [Hawai‘i Correctional System Oversight Commission](#), Correctional Reform Working Group, [YWCA O‘ahu](#), [UH Mānoa School of Architecture/UH Community Design Center \(UHCDC\)](#), [Hawai‘inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge](#), [Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health](#), [Department of Urban & Regional Planning](#), [Matsunaga Peace Institute](#), [William S. Richardson School of Law](#), and [Amend at the University of California San Francisco](#).

House Concurrent Resolution 23 Task Force

Overview

House Concurrent Resolution No. 23 ([HCR23 HD1 SD1](#)) requests the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission to convene a task force to examine and make recommendations regarding existing procedures of the Hawaii Paroling Authority setting the minimum terms of imprisonment. Mark Patterson, HCSOC Chair, is chairing this task force.

The Commission has dedicated a page on its website to the HCR23 Task Force: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/hcr23-task-force/>. This webpage has information on the expectations of the task force, members, expected outcomes, partnerships, and meeting information. Meetings will be live streamed and can be viewed on the Commission’s [Facebook](#) page or [YouTube](#) channel.

Partnerships

The [Council of State Governments](#) (CSG) agreed to work in partnership with the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission on House Concurrent Resolution 23. The CSG’s Justice Center is a national, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that represents state officials in all three branches of government. Their mission is to provide research driven strategies to increase public safety and strengthen communities.

The HCR 23 task force is required to do the following:

- Study whether parole system models used by other states might be suited for Hawai‘i.
- Examine and compare the minimum sentences issued by the HPA and, in certain instances by the courts, to determine whether there are significant differences.
- Recommend whether the administration of justice may be better served by removing the responsibility of setting minimum sentences from the HPA.

How the CSG Justice Center Will Assist:

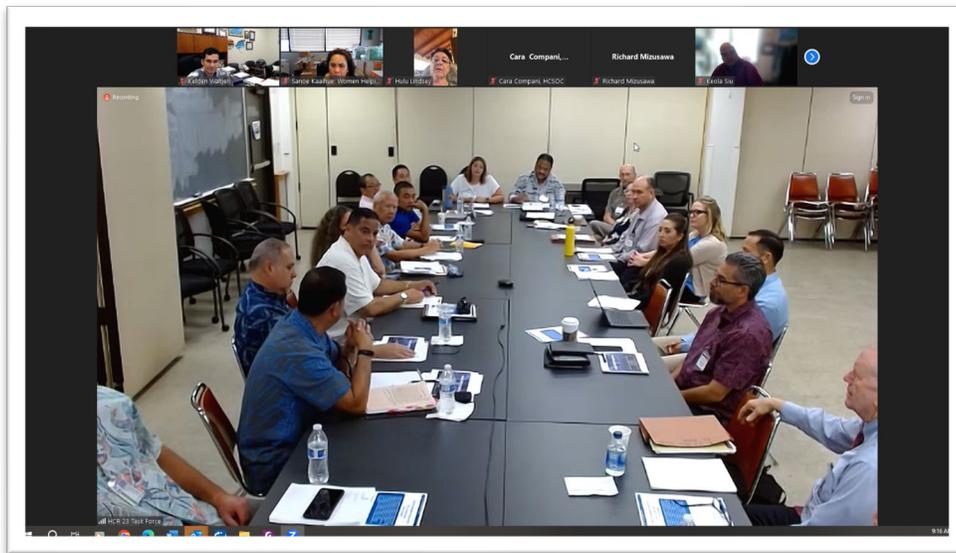
1. Provide context about parole systems across the United States.
2. Conduct a comprehensive analysis of Hawai‘i’s criminal justice data.
3. Review existing corrections, court, and other criminal justice policies and procedures.
4. Engage and collect input from a broad range of state and local stakeholders in the criminal justice system.
5. Present findings from the analyses to the task force and begin developing policy options.

6. Produce a report summarizing the analyses and policy options and present the report as requested.

Meetings

The Commission hosted a community outreach event on September 11, 2023, to create an opportunity for the community to share their thoughts with the Chair before the first task force meeting. Community members can submit testimony specific to the task force by emailing a copy to hcsoc@hawaii.gov. Additionally, community members can direct testimony to Mark Patterson, Chair, during the monthly Commission meetings.

The first task force meeting took place on September 12, 2023. Recordings from both the community and task force meetings are available on the HCR23 website, and the Commission's YouTube Channel. More information regarding this task force can be found here: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/hcr23-task-force/>.



HCR23 Task Force Meeting, courtesy of Prosecutor Kelden Waltjen

Project Updates

Data Webpage

Consistent with the Commission's strategic plan to increase engagement and transparency related to public safety and corrections, the HCSOC team has been working diligently with [Thoughtworks](#) to custom design a data webpage that highlights public data, issues, myths and facts, and more. The HCSOC is extremely proud of this work that could not be completed without the no-cost assistance of Thoughtworks. Thoughtworks is a leading technology consultancy of more than 11,500 staff across 51 offices in 18 countries. Their cross-functional teams of strategists, developers, data engineers and designers bring over two decades of global experience to every partnership.

The webpage is scheduled to be released on the date of this report and can be viewed at: <https://hcsoc-data.hawaii.gov/public-data>.

Case Management System

Consistent with the Commission's mandate to investigate complaints at correctional facilities, the Coordinator has been working diligently with [Thoughtworks](#) to custom design a case management system to intake, organize, and respond to complaints received by the Commission.

The case management system will not only allow staff to organize complaints received, but it also autogenerates demographic information from those in custody. It will support the Coordinator and staff in prioritizing projects based on specific complaint types at each facility. Additionally, the system enables staff to identify the complaint types and send a response letter with information related to the specific complaint type. The system is being finalized and will launch by the end of the year. Thoughtworks will provide an overview of the system during the November 2023 Commission meeting. The Commission is so grateful for all of the time and work the Thoughtworks team has put into this project.

Staff-Focused Survey and Report

Consistent with the Commission's mandate to investigate complaints at correctional facilities, the HCSOC will be focusing on an all-encompassing staff survey to better understand the corrections environment; enhance data collection capacities to promote transparency and accountability; and recommend evidence-based programs and policies to improve conditions for those working in our jails and prisons.

The survey that will be utilized was created under the Urban Institute's Prison Research and Innovation Initiative (PRII), supported by Arnold Ventures. The survey has been distributed in facilities throughout Vermont, Delaware, Iowa, Missouri, and Colorado and was developed using participatory research methods, elevating the voices and perspectives of correctional staff. Vermont had a particularly successful survey launch with a response rate of 70% at the Southern State Correctional Facility. It is the Commission's goal to gather as much, if not more, participation.

The Commission is fortunate to have support for this project from the Department of Public Safety and from the United Public Workers (UPW) Hawaii. Although this will be an independent project to distribute and gain perspectives from staff, the HCSOC looks forward to working closely with the Department of Public Safety and UPW on solutions.

Expenses for the Preceding Month – September

	Price/Item	Qty	Total	Notes
Office Equipment and Supplies			\$191	
Office Furniture			\$0	
General Office Supplies			\$0	
Staff and Commission Badges			\$0	
Staff and Commission Badge Holders			\$0	
Cell Phone			\$0	
Cell Phone Monthly Plan	\$173	1.00	\$173	
Wifi Hotspot			\$0	
Heroku Monthly Plan - Complaint Management			\$0	
Elastic Cloud Monthly Plan - Complaint Management	\$18	1.00	\$18	
Inter-Island Correctional Facility Travel			\$788.47	
Airfare	\$744	1.00	\$744	
Car Rental			\$0	
Daily Per Diem	\$20	1.00	\$20	
Lodging+Tax			\$0	
Ground Transportation			\$0	
Airport Parking	\$24	1.00	\$24	
Mainland Correctional Facility Travel			\$0.00	
Airfare			\$0	
Car Rental			\$0	
Daily Per Diem			\$0	
Lodging+Tax			\$0	
Ground Transportation			\$0	
Airport Parking			\$0	
Memberships + Conferences			\$0.00	
NACOLE (National Assoc. for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement)			\$0	
National Association of Sentencing Commissions			\$0	
Going Home Hawaii Reentry Summit			\$0	
Airfare			\$0	
Car Rental			\$0	
Daily Per Diem			\$0	
Lodging+Tax			\$0	
Ground Transportation			\$0	
Airport Parking			\$0	
TOTAL			\$979	

General Office Information

Mailing Address: Hawaii 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 Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission meeting held on October 19, 2023. The next monthly meeting is scheduled to occur on November 16, 2023, at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, 200 W Kawili Street Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 and online via Zoom. More information can be found on the Commission's webpage here: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/information/>.