



Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

Monthly Oversight Coordinator Report – November 16 2023

Contents

Introduction..... 2
Death in Custody..... 2
Correctional Facility Tours 2
Reentry and Diversion Strategic Plan 3
Review of Women’s Court Proceedings..... 3
First Circuit Diversion 4
Housing Consortium 4
House Concurrent Resolution 23 Task Force 4
Project Updates 4
Expenses for the Preceding Month – October 7
General Office Information..... 7
Monthly Meetings..... 8

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

On Sunday, October 22, 2023, a person in custody, male, 51 years old, was found unresponsive in his cell at the Saguaro Correctional Facility (SCF) at 3:57pm. Staff immediately called a medical emergency over the radio, secured uninvolved individuals to their cells, called 911 Emergency Services, and began CPR. A medical doctor declared the individual deceased at 4:19pm. The Eloy Police Department (EPD) and PSD's Internal Affairs Unit are all conducting their respective investigations.

Correctional Facility Tours

Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) Tour

In accordance with the Commission's mandate to oversee the State's correctional system, on Thursday, October 19, 2023, directly following the HCSOC public meeting, the Commissioners, Oversight Coordinator, and Reentry and Diversion Oversight Specialist toured the Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF). After the tour, the Commission compiled their notes encompassing their impressions and offered recommendations including:

- 1) Increasing non-security staffing must be a priority for transitioning to a rehabilitative and therapeutic system.
- 2) Permanently close the Special Needs Facility.
- 3) Prioritize and expedite Capital Improvement Projects to repair electricity and the perimeter fence.
- 4) Expand the Correctional Industries worklines to include specific training in skilled trades that would lead to gainful employment after incarceration.
- 5) Increase training and support for uniformed staff.
- 6) Increase training and support for case/unit managers to better meet the population's needs upon release.
- 7) The Department should support legislative efforts toward Compassionate Release or transfer to a more appropriate medical setting for the severely ill.

These recommendations will be discussed during the November 16, 2023, public meeting. The full HCF Site Visit Observation report can be found on the Commission's website at: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/facility-specific-reports/>.

Reentry and Diversion Strategic Plan

Consistent with the Commission's mandate to oversee the reentry system and help the Department transition to a therapeutic and rehabilitative system, a Reentry and Diversion Strategic Plan was developed to guide the Commission's work. This document aims to demonstrate how the HCSOC will approach the reentry and diversion work directed by the Commission's mandate, outline the components used to create the plan, and highlight the intention and focus of the HCSOC work in both reentry and diversion.

The Commission's first agency-wide [Strategic Plan](#) was released on January 1, 2023, and set the four priority areas for the office: oversight, rehabilitation, population limits, and reentry. This Reentry and Diversion Strategic Plan is integrated into the larger HCSOC agency-wide Strategic Plan and broken down into specific priority areas, with reentry and diversion at the forefront. This plan is a living document and will likely change as the Commission learns more and moves forward with its work.

The HCSOC team looks forward to collaborating with different stakeholders and partners to actualize this plan and the mandated work of the Commission. The plan is available on the Commission's website: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/strategic-plan/>.

Review of Women's Court Proceedings

Consistent with the Commission's mandate to facilitate a correctional system transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model and establish maximum inmate population limits and formulate policies and procedures to prevent the inmate population from exceeding the capacity of each correctional facility, HCSOC staff observed Women's Court on Wednesday November 1, 2023. Women's Court was established in 2022 through Act 243 of 2022, which outlined a three-year pilot program in the First Circuit for the specialty court.

According to the legislation, this bill was enacted, and the specialty court established due to the:

Significant increase in the number of women in Hawai'i jails and prisons over the past forty years, resulting in a higher proportion of women who are incarcerated. Research reflects that for women, histories of abuse, trauma, poverty, mental illness, substance use disorders, and unhealthy relationships intersect with their entry into criminal behavior. Women offenders also face unique barriers to success after incarceration. They are more likely to be primary caregivers for young children, have lower educational attainment, lack stable work history, and experience economic or social marginalization, which prevents them from having more positive outcomes.

Judge Trish Morikawa presides over the Women's Court every Wednesday, understands the needs of women in the justice system, is familiar with each woman individually, and

has a great demeanor to preside over this Court. The experience is pleasant and humanizing as all stakeholders and partners are aligned to support the women and their success. There is an understanding built into this process and intention that criminal activity, for these women, is associated with their histories of poverty, trauma, substance use, domestic violence, and more. The Women's Court implemented trauma-informed practices and connects the women with services and service providers, including housing and clean and sober living, substance abuse treatment, therapy, education, medical services, and mentoring. At the end of each appearance, Judge Morikawa shares a Hawaiian proverb or teaching she draws from the Umeke Bowl. The humanizing aspect of the Women's Court is vital to the Court's success.

Currently, about 13 women are participating. The Commission hopes the three-year pilot will become a permanent court and expand to serve many more women.

First Circuit Diversion

HCSOC staff began attending First Circuit Jail Diversion Program meetings with First Circuit stakeholders to further post-booking jail diversion efforts in District and Circuit Court. The HCSOC is grateful for the opportunity to participate in these meetings and work with partners in this space.

Housing Consortium

Consistent with the Commission's mandate to work with the Department of Public Safety in monitoring and reviewing the comprehensive offender reentry program, on Tuesday, October 24, Commission staff attended the Community Housing Consortium at Kalihi Union Church put on by Transforming Lives founder and Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) Chaplain Barbara Gatewood.

The intention of the Consortium is *to bring together community housing providers with Hawaii Paroling Authority and Public Safety Department Heads.*

This October Consortium meeting focused on *discovering ways in which the programs and services of our community housing organizations can interact with, and become a part of, the support network for incarcerated men and women in our state facilities; and together, discover ways to help in the transitioning process from facilities to communities.*

Corey Reincke, Acting Administrator of Hawaii Paroling Authority, was the keynote speaker, and Cristy Yokoyama of the Department of Public Safety Reentry Coordination Office and members of the Intake Service Team were also guest speakers. Community services and housing providers—including Fernhurst, First LAP, Salvation Army, Habilitat, Rent to Work, and many more—attended, asked questions, and engaged with the presenters and other participants. This was a helpful venue to connect service providers with Department of Public Safety leadership and offer the opportunity for discussion on problems and solutions.

Through this Consortium, Chaplain Barbara Gatewood is collecting available bed space information from different housing providers to link people in custody with open beds

before release. The HCSOC staff would like to thank Chaplain Gatewood for the invitation to this Consortium and also for all her reentry efforts at OCCC, Halawa, Waiawa, and PSD system-wide.

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.

Upcoming Meetings 2024

- January 11 9am-12pm
- March 15 9am-12pm
- June 6 9am-12pm
- September 12 9am-12pm

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.

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 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. 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 five states 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.

To further project goals, the Commission met with facility wardens and chiefs of security from most PSD prisons and jails in October to share and discuss the survey, answer questions, and discuss the logistics of distribution and next steps. The Commission will begin distributing surveys to staff in December.

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

Expenses for the Preceding Month – October

	Price/Item	Qty	Total	Notes
Office Equipment and Supplies			\$651	
Office Furniture			\$0	
General Office Supplies	\$396	1.00	\$396	
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	\$65	1.00	\$65	
Elastic Cloud Monthly Plan - Complaint Management	\$18	1.00	\$18	
Inter-Island Correctional Facility Travel			\$306.11	
Airfare	\$282	1.00	\$282	11/16 commission mtg
Car Rental			\$0	
Daily Per Diem			\$0	
Lodging+Tax			\$0	
Ground Transportation			\$0	
Airport Parking	\$24	1.00	\$24	
Mainland Correctional Facility Travel			\$959.00	
Airfare	\$959	1.00	\$959	11/11
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			\$1,916	

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 November 16, 2023. The next monthly meeting is scheduled to occur on December 21, 2023, at the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), 830 Punchbowl Street Room 310, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 and online via Zoom. More information can be found on the Commission's webpage here: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/information/>.