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HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
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December 8, 2023

TO: Mr. Tommy Johnson, Director
                Department of Public Safety
                1177 Alakea Street
                Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

FROM: Mark Patterson, Chair
                Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

Re: Letter of Support for the Waiawa Correctional Facility Plan Review Use and Special Use Permits

Dear Director Johnson:

The Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC, the Commission) supports the Department of Public Safety in obtaining a Plan Review Use (PRU) and Special Use Permit (SUP) for the Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF). The HCSOC recognizes that obtaining the PRU and SUP is essential for the Department of Public Safety's continued operation of WCF.

The Department of Public Safety operates four state jails and four state prisons, and WCF is an integral part of the state correctional system as a whole. WCF is a 334-bed, minimum-security prison for sentenced males. WCF provides an environment that helps individuals successfully re-enter the community from prison as everyone must participate in education or substance abuse treatment programming. WCF is essential to the corrections system as it is one of two minimum-security facilities which allows individuals to flow through the correctional system as they prepare for release. WCF ensures that individuals have the opportunity to be thoroughly re-entered into society to lessen recidivism.

Without WCF, the Department of Public Safety would be severely limited in correctional spaces they can utilize for a more rehabilitative and therapeutic environment. For these reasons, the Commission supports the Department of Public Safety in obtaining a Plan Review Use and Special Use Permit for the Waiawa Correctional Facility.

Respectfully,

Mark Patterson
Chair