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## **PASSING OF FOUNDING COMMISSIONER TED SAKAI HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 18, 2024

It is with profound sadness and heavy hearts that the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission share the news of the passing of founding Commissioner, Ted Sakai. Ted, a beloved colleague, and friend, departed from us in the late morning of March 18, 2024.

Ted was a pillar of the Oversight Commission, contributing immensely to the Commission's work as a collegial, compassionate, and knowledgeable Commissioner. Ted dedicated his life to fostering a more humane corrections system, and his compassion for those in need was immeasurable. During his tenure as Commissioner, Ted actively participated in the Oversight Commission's public meetings, conducted thorough facility tours in collaboration with the Oversight Coordinator, and consistently emphasized the imperative for enhancements within the state's reentry system.

Ted will be remembered for his leadership, dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to the people of Hawaii, and for the warmth he extended to everyone around him. Ted's absence leaves a void that cannot be filled, and he will be deeply missed by the Oversight Commission, and by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

During this difficult time, the Oversight Commission extends our heartfelt condolences to Ted's family and loved ones. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they navigate through this profound loss.