



Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

Monthly Oversight Coordinator Report – March 21 2024

Contents

Introduction.....	3
Passing of Founding Commissioner, Ted Sakai	3
New Appointee to the Commission: Honorable R. Mark Browning.....	4
Death in Custody.....	4
Legislative Updates.....	4
Justice Innovations Summit	8
Reckoning with Restorative Justice	9
Breaking Cycles Symposium Update	9
Halawa Resource Fair	10
Corrections Staff Survey and Report	10
House Concurrent Resolution 23 Task Force	11
Expenses for the Preceding Month – February.....	12
General Office Information.....	12
Monthly Meetings.....	13

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.

Passing of Founding Commissioner, Ted Sakai

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.

New Appointee to the Commission: Honorable R. Mark Browning

The Commission is thrilled to welcome our newest Commissioner, the Honorable R. Mark Browning. Commissioner Browning became a First Circuit Court judge on May 6, 2010. He had been a district family court judge since 1997 and was the presiding juvenile drug court judge from 2002 to 2010. Prior to his appointment to the Family Court, Commissioner Browning was a partner with the law firm Shim Tam Kirimitsu Kitamura & Chang. He also served as a deputy prosecuting attorney for the City and County of Honolulu.

Commissioner Browning has served and is serving on a number of professional and community boards and committees, including the Project Visitation Advisory Committee; Friends of Foster Kids Board; Judicial Education Committee; Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative Steering Committee; Hawaii Supreme Court Committee on Divorce Proceedings and Procedures; Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition, American Judicature Society; and the Volunteer Settlement Master Advisory Committee. He is a graduate of Northwestern School of Law at Lewis & Clark College.

The Commission is thrilled to have Commissioner Browning's skills, expertise, and compassion added to our team. Commissioner Browning was appointed by Governor Green on February 27, 2024, and sworn onto the Commission on March 20, 2024.

Death in Custody

There have been no deaths in custody since January 4, 2024 as reported in the January Oversight Coordinator report.

Legislative Updates

Budget Hearings

The Commission submitted written testimony to the House Committee on Finance (FIN) and to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM) supporting House Bill 1800 Relating to the State Budget as it encompasses an appropriation for the Attorney General's Office to include the Oversight Commission in the base budget.

On March 6, 2024, House Bill 1800 Relating to the State Budget was heard by FIN. FIN received 61 pages of testimonies in support of the HCSOC from 12 local and national organizations, and 25 concerned citizens totaling 37 testimonials. The Commission is pleased to report that the FIN **supported** the Commission's budget request of \$462,134.

On March 20, 2024, House Bill 1800 Relating to the State Budget was heard by WAM. WAM received 40 pages of testimonies in support of the HCSOC from 10 local and national organizations, 8 concerned citizens totaling 18 testimonials. The Commission is incredibly grateful for the ongoing support while the office continues to grow and build on this important work.

Currently, there is a hearing scheduled on March 27, 2024 at 10am for decision-making by WAM. No testimony will be accepted.

Below is the Commission's testimony in support of HB1800 Relating to the State Budget:

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
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MARK PATTERSON
CHAIR

CHRISTIN M. JOHNSON
OVERSIGHT COORDINATOR

COMMISSIONERS
HON. RONALD IBARRA (ret.)

HON. MICHAEL A. TOWN (ret.)

MARTHA TORNEY

TO: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Mark Patterson, Chair
Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

SUBJECT: House Bill 1800, Relating to the State Budget
Hearing: Wednesday, March 6; 10:00am
State Capitol, Room 308

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC, the Commission) supports House Bill 1800, Relating to the State Budget, as it encompasses an appropriation for the Attorney General's Office to include the Oversight Commission in the base budget.

In 2019, the Hawaii legislature found that, "independent oversight of the State's correctional system ensures transparency, supports safe conditions for employees, inmates, and detainees, and provides positive reform towards a rehabilitative and therapeutic correctional system." Therefore, Act 179 of 2019 was passed and Chapter 353L of the Hawaii Revised Statute was created. However, despite these legislative efforts, the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission has faced numerous challenges in securing and maintaining adequate funding.

Presently, the Oversight Commission operates without a permanent allocation in the State's base budget. In fiscal year 2022, the Commission submitted its full budget request in the amount of \$534,388, however the House and Senate did not concur, and the Commission therefore was not funded. Instead, Governor Green funded the Oversight Commission for one year, and those funds lapse on June 30, 2024.

Out of respect for Maui and the State's duty to support Lahaina, the Commission has pursued a modest request of \$452,134 for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25), which will be channeled through the Office of the Attorney General. These funds will support four full-time positions and the vital travel and other activities necessary for the Commission to effectively fulfill its mandated duties, ensuring the continuity of office operations and staff.

In accordance with Hawaii Revised Statute 353L, the Commission is tasked with overseeing the correctional system, investigating complaints, establishing inmate population limits, and ensuring the proper functioning of the comprehensive offender reentry system. Since the Commission's

House Bill 1800, Relating to the State Budget
House Committee on Finance
March 6, 2024, 10:00am

establishment in 2020, the Commission has made significant strides, particularly with the hiring of dedicated staff and the initiation of vital oversight activities.

In 2023 alone, the Commission conducted 35 facility investigative visits, issued 23 public reports, and held 16 public meetings. These efforts have resulted in over 50 recommendations to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, contributing to tangible improvements in our correctional system. Examples of these recommendations include:

- Ensuring basic federal standards and requirements are understood and followed, including proper access to court, bedframes/bunkbeds in cells, access to clothing and bedding, access to outdoor recreation, and access to menstrual pads.
- Painting and reconfiguring cells for those on suicide-watch for a more therapeutic environment.
- Restoring contact visits to ensure stronger family ties and better success in reentry.
- Ensuring that vehicles are not parked in the sally port unless in active use, and that the sally port gates are secured unless a vehicle is entering or leaving to prevent a potential escape of detainees.

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) has been a supportive and imperative partner in ensuring a more rehabilitative and therapeutic corrections system for their staff and incarcerated population. In addition to working closely with the DCR, the Oversight Commission and its staff have diligently cultivated relationships to enhance their understanding of community and governmental needs pertaining to public safety and the need for effective reentry. Commission staff have forged partnerships with a range of stakeholders, including community organizations, State agencies, City and County agencies, and community members at large. This is evident in the public endorsements from over 50 impacted community members and local agencies including:

- United Public Workers (UPW)
- Hawai'i Paroling Authority
- Hawai'i Criminal Justice Research Institute
- State of Hawai'i Judiciary
- State of Hawai'i Office of the Public Defender
- Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Kaua'i
- Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Hawai'i
- Hawai'i Innocence Project
- Women's Prison Project
- Community Alliance on Prisons
- Pu'a Foundation
- Tahirih Association
- 'Ekolu Mea Nui
- Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice
- Ohana E' Ho'opakele
- Maui Economic Opportunity
- Going Home Hawai'i
- Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center
- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Hawai'i

House Bill 1800, Relating to the State Budget
House Committee on Finance
March 6, 2024, 10:00am

It is crucial to recognize that without funding and adequate resources, the Commission's ability to fulfill its mandate in ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations is severely compromised. This could jeopardize the State's ability to maintain accountability within its correctional system and increase the risk of state lawsuits and costly federal interventions. Additionally, the ramifications extend beyond budgetary concerns as oversight is imperative to safeguarding the rights and well-being of incarcerated individuals, staff members who work in the correctional facilities, and the broader community.

Therefore, when evaluating the state of corrections and the allocation of funds towards correctional, reentry, and rehabilitative initiatives in Hawaii, the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission stands as a pivotal investment for driving systemic transformation.

For all the reasons stated above, the Oversight Commission supports HB1800 as it will secure funding for the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission within the State's base budget, enabling the Commission to sustain its crucial efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Informational Briefing

On Monday, March 18, 2024, at 10am, the Commission presented to the House Committees on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs (JHA) and on Corrections, Military, and Veterans (CMV) during a House Informational Briefing. The Commission was honored to have the opportunity to share its important work and mission with the House, and the PowerPoint used during the presentation is attached to this report. Additionally, the summary, agenda, and link to the video from the briefing are below.

Summary

The Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) was established by the Hawaii State Legislature in 2019 to ensure transparency, support safe conditions for employees, inmates, and detainees, and provide positive reform toward a rehabilitative and therapeutic correctional system. This briefing will focus on the value of correctional oversight and the HCSOC's journey, work, and impact since it was established in 2019 and gained staff in 2022. The HCSOC will also highlight collaboration with justice system stakeholders and current and future projects which further our path towards a correctional system transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model.

Presenters

- Christin Johnson, Oversight Coordinator, Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission
- Mark Patterson, Chair, Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission
- Cara Comani, Reentry and Diversion Oversight Specialist
- Martha Torney, Commissioner

Agenda

- Overview of Oversight
- History of the Commission
- Powers and Duties of the Commission
- Vision, Mission, Values
- Commissioners & Team
- Overview of Accomplishments
- Impact
- Investment
- Questions

PowerPoint Presentation:

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/CommitteeFiles/HOUSE/JHA/JHAfiles/HCSOC_2024.pdf (also attached below)

Justice Innovations Summit

On February 16 through 19, Commission Chair Mark Patterson, Commissioner Martha Torney, Commissioner Mike Town, and Reentry and Diversion Oversight Specialist Cara Comani, along with a diverse cohort of 300 participants along with 100 presenters from

around the globe, attended the Justice Innovation Summit hosted by the Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Over three days, attendees engaged in workshops and discussions led by international experts and innovative justice practitioners.

Topics explored during the Summit included restorative justice, transformative justice, transitional justice, therapeutic jurisprudence, victimology, and indigenous peacemaking, each applied to various disciplines such as environmental protection and justice, education, corrections, child and family services, domestic violence, gender violence, and fostering peaceful communities.

Commission Chair Mark Patterson presented and contributed to several summit discussions and workshops, including: *sharing and transferring innovations in justice across different sectors*; *Exploring Community-Powered Solutions in youth systems focusing on Healing, Love, and Justice*; *Developing Programming that Accepts Referrals from Justice System Officials to foster Bridges and Trust*; and moderating a roundtable discussion with currently and formerly incarcerated individuals. Additionally, Commissioner Mike Town, alongside judges from across the globe, facilitated the workshop *Healing instead of Punishing*.

Reckoning with Restorative Justice

The Oversight Coordinator and Reentry and Diversion Oversight Specialist traveled to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo on February 29 for an engaging discussion with Professor Leanne Trapedo Sims about her book, *Reckoning with Restorative Justice: Hawai'i Women's Prison Writing*. The book delves into the experiences of women incarcerated at the Women's Community Correctional Center and their writings.

Ohana Ho'opakele and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Research Office sponsored this event. The Commission Staff extends sincere appreciation to Ohana Ho'opakele for hosting this discussion and for their continued support of the Commission.

Breaking Cycles Symposium Update

Chair Patterson, the Oversight Coordinator, and the Reentry and Diversion Oversight Specialist attended the Breaking Cycles Symposium Update on March 6 at the Hawai'i State Capitol, which served as a follow-up to the original Breaking Cycles Symposium: Re-envisioning a Health, Housing, and Corrections Continuum held on October 10 & 11, 2023.

The Breaking Cycles Symposium Update aimed to share outcomes from recent University of Hawai'i Community Design Center workshops and provide updates from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Judiciary, Governor's Office, and community partners. The Commission appreciates the efforts presented during the Breaking Cycles Symposium Update and looks forward to collaborating with partners and stakeholders to implement additional recommendations from the original Breaking Cycles Symposium.

Halawa Resource Fair

The Reentry and Diversion Oversight Specialist attended the inaugural Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) Resource Fair on March 14, 2024. This event was specifically designed to assist men who have been paroled or are maxing out of HCF within the next year. Between 300 and 400 individuals in custody participated in this event.

The resource fair encompassed almost 40 service providers. These included job readiness programs, housing options and shelters, substance abuse treatment, sobriety support, health and behavioral health care, education, and other support services. Community service providers were grateful for the opportunity to engage with individuals in custody at HCF, allowing them to provide detailed information about their programs. People in custody at HCF appreciated the chance to connect with potential service providers before leaving the facility.

Key leadership from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, including the Director, deputy directors, and staff from the reentry office, were in attendance and delivered remarks commending the event's significance and the collective efforts that made it a reality. The success of this event was achieved through the collaborative efforts of HCF leadership, the education department, and Transforming Lives Prison Ministry. The Commission acknowledges and appreciates their dedication to organizing this impactful and inspiring event and hopes it serves as a model for similar initiatives in the future.

Corrections Staff Survey and Report

Consistent with the Commission's mandate to investigate complaints at correctional facilities, the HCSOC staff are 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 being 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.

The survey, available electronically or on paper, is anonymous and confidential. Now that all surveys have been completed and collected, the Commission is scheduling talk stories with each facility to create recommendations for improving health, safety, the work environment, and concerns most important to staff. For the paper surveys, Commission staff successfully distributed and collected paper surveys on the following dates:

- Wednesday, January 3 – OCCC
- Thursday, January 4 – WCF
- Friday, January 5 – OCCC & WCF
- Monday, January 8 – KCF

- Tuesday, January 9 – WCCC
- Wednesday, January 10 – MCCC
- Friday, January 12 – KCCC
- Tuesday, January 16 – HCF
- Tuesday, January 23 – OCCC
- Thursday, January 25 – HCCC
- Thursday, January 25 – HCCC & KCF
- Friday, January 26 – HCCC
- Monday, January 29 – WCCC
- Tuesday, January 30 – KCCC
- Wednesday, January 31 – MCCC
- Thursday, February 1 – HCF
- Friday, February 1 – HCF

The staff talk-stories are scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, March 19 – HCF
- Friday, March 22 – KCF
- Monday, March 25 – KCCC
- Wednesday, March 27 – OCCC
- Tuesday, April 2 – WCF
- Wednesday, April 3 – HCCC
- Thursday, April 4 – MCCC
- Tuesday, April 9 – WCCC

The Commission is fortunate to have support for this project from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the United Public Workers (UPW) Hawaii, the Hawaii Government Employees Association (HGEA), 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, HGEA, the Department of Public Safety, facility leadership, and staff on solutions.

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

- 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.

Expenses for the Preceding Month – February

	Cost	Qty	Total	Notes
Office Equipment and Supplies			\$560	
Office Furniture			\$0.00	
General Office Supplies	\$236.90	1.00	\$236.90	
Staff and Commission Badges			\$0.00	
Staff and Commission Badge Holders			\$0.00	
Cell Phone			\$0.00	
Cell Phone Monthly Plan	\$172.87	1.00	\$172.87	
Wifi Hotspot			\$0.00	
Heroku Monthly Plan - Complaint Management	\$65.00	1.00	\$65.00	
Elastic Cloud Monthly Plan - Complaint Management	\$18.23	1.00	\$18.23	
Other Current Expenditures	\$66.92	1.00	\$66.92	
Inter-Island Correctional Facility Travel			\$571.41	
Airfare		1.00	\$0.00	
Car Rental	\$77.00	1.00	\$77.00	
Daily Per Diem	\$259.50	1.00	\$259.50	
Lodging+Tax	\$138.91	1.00	\$138.91	
Ground Transportation	\$0.00	1.00	\$0.00	
Airport Parking	\$24.00	4.00	\$96.00	
Mainland Correctional Facility Travel			\$4,891.97	
Airfare	\$1,004.09	1.00	\$1,004.09	
Car Rental	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Daily Per Diem	\$1,933.25	1.00	\$1,933.25	
Lodging+Tax	\$1,461.02	1.00	\$1,461.02	
Ground Transportation	\$493.61	1.00	\$493.61	
Airport Parking	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Memberships + Conferences			\$0.00	
NACOLE (National Assoc. for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement)			\$0.00	
National Association of Sentencing Commissions			\$0.00	
NACOLE Virtual Training			\$0.00	
Going Home Hawaii Reentry Summit			\$0.00	
Airfare			\$0.00	
Car Rental			\$0.00	
Daily Per Diem			\$0.00	
Lodging+Tax			\$0.00	
Ground Transportation			\$0.00	
Airport Parking			\$0.00	
Baggage Fee			\$0.00	
TOTAL			\$6,023.30	

* All expenses reflect posted transactions

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 March 21, 2024. The next monthly meeting is scheduled to occur on April 18, 2024, at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, 200 W Kawili Street, Room TBD, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 and online via Zoom. More information can be found on the Commission's webpage here: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/information/>.



Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

House Informational Briefing
March 18, 2024



Agenda

- Overview of Oversight
- History of the Commission
- Powers and Duties of the Commission
- Vision, Mission, Values
- Commissioners & Team
- Overview of Accomplishments
- Impact
- Investment
- Questions

WHAT IS CORRECTIONAL OVERSIGHT?

An independent, external mechanism designed, at a minimum, to ensure the collection, dissemination, and use of unbiased, accurate, and first-hand information about correctional conditions of confinement and the treatment of incarcerated individuals, primarily through on-site access to the facilities.

– National Resource Center for Correctional Oversight

GOALS OF CORRECTIONAL OVERSIGHT:

Improve transparency of our nation's prisons and jails.

Increase accountability of agencies for ensuring the safe and humane treatment of people in custody.

Change lives of those most impacted for the better.

13 PRINCIPLES OF CORRECTIONAL OVERSIGHT

Independence

Clearly Defined and Adequate Jurisdiction and Authority

Unfettered Access to Records and Facilities

Access to Corrections Executives and Internal Affairs Staff

Full Cooperation of all Officers and Department Staff

Sustained Stakeholder Support

Adequate Funding and Operational Resources

Public Reporting and Transparency

Analysis of Policy and Patterns in Practice

Community Outreach

Community Involvement

Confidentiality, Anonymity, and Protection from Retaliation

Procedural Justice and Legitimacy

BENEFITS OF CORRECTIONAL OVERSIGHT

Benefits to Incarcerated People and Staff

Regular monitoring of correctional facilities benefits incarcerated people and staff by enabling the early detection of problems, and offering opportunities to fix issues before the state becomes liable.

Benefits to Correctional Administrators

Correctional administrators benefit by being able to discuss their institution's capabilities and needs publicly, and by being offered new ideas by an outside independent agency.

Benefits to Judges, Prosecutors, Defense Lawyers, & Policymakers

Judges, prosecutors, defense lawyers, and policymakers benefit from having accurate information and data about programming outcomes, living conditions, and rehabilitative and reentry efforts.

Benefits to the Media and the General Public

The media and general public benefit from external oversight that promotes transparency, accountability, and democratic values.

HISTORY OF THE COMMISSION

Norway Trip

2015

Justice Michael Wilson, Robert Merce, Rep. Gregg Takayama (then chair of the House Committee on Corrections, Military & Veterans), Bert Matsumoto (then chair of the Hawaii Paroling Authority), and James Hirano (then Warden of MCCC) visited Norwegian correctional facilities and met with correctional experts from Norway, Sweden, Ireland, and England

Legislative Task Force

2015

After the trip to Norway, the group created a task force. The task force found that Hawaii's correctional system is not producing acceptable, cost-effective, or sustainable outcomes and needs immediate and profound change.

HCR85 Task Force Report

2018

Creating a Correctional Oversight Commission was one of the key recommendations of the HCR 85 Task Force's final report to the 2019 Legislature.

Act 179

2019

HB 1552 (2019) incorporated the Task Force's oversight recommendations and was passed into law as Act 179, 2019. HRS 353L

Commission Convenes

2020

The Commissioners Mark Patterson (Chair), Ted Sakai, Martha Torney, Judge Ronald Ibarra, and Judge Michael Town began meeting monthly and continued to meet virtually throughout the pandemic.

First Oversight Coordinator Hired

2022

In July 2022, the first staff for the Commission was hired (Oversight Coordinator).

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION

Hawaii Revised Statute 353L-3



Investigate

Oversee the State's correctional system and have jurisdiction over investigating complaints at correctional facilities.



Facilitate Transition

Facilitate a correctional system transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model.



Set Population Limits

Establish maximum inmate population limits for each correctional facility and **formulate policies and procedures to prevent the inmate population from exceeding the capacity** of each correctional facility.



Oversee Reentry

Work with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in monitoring and reviewing the Comprehensive Offender Reentry Program, including facility educational and treatment programs, rehabilitative services, work furloughs, and the Hawaii Paroling Authority's oversight of parolees.



Monitor Compliance

Ensure that the Comprehensive Offender Reentry System under Chapter 353H is working properly to provide programs and services that result in the timely release of inmates on parole when the maximum terms have been served instead of delaying the release for lack of programs and services.

VISION

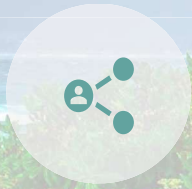
The HCSOC will be the leader in corrections oversight and will set the standard for best practices nationwide.

MISSION

Through targeted change, accountability, transparency, and engagement, the HCSOC will produce progressive and sustainable outcomes to better public safety in the State of Hawaii and facilitate a correctional system transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model.



HCSOC VALUES



'Alohilohi
(Transparency)
Being upfront and honest about our work.



Kuleana
(Accountability)
Always following through and following up to accomplish what we said we would do.



Pono
(Integrity)
Being honest and having strong moral principles.



Aloha
(Compassion)
Being genuinely concerned about other people and people's needs.



Ha'aha'a
(Humility)
Intentionally looking for ways to lift others to higher levels of confidence and experiences.

COMMISSIONERS & STAFF

Mark Patterson

Chair - OHA Designee

Hon. Ron Ibarra

Commissioner - Chief Justice Designee

Martha Torney

Commissioner - House Speaker Designee

Hon. Mike Town

Commissioner - Senate President Designee

Hon. Mark Browning

Commissioner - Governor Designee

Christin Johnson

Oversight Coordinator

George Choe

Special Assistant

Cara Compani

Reentry and Diversion Oversight Specialist



OVERSIGHT & PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

Public Meetings

- 63 public meetings
 - Monthly Meetings
 - Facility-Specific Meetings
 - Community Talk Stories

Public Reporting

- 23 Deaths in Custody (*Reporting since Oct, 2022*)
- 36 Public Reports
 - 19 Monthly Reports
 - 10 Facility-Specific Reports
 - 4 Annual Reports
 - 2 Strategic Plans
 - 1 Year-In-Review

In the Media

- 97 Media Articles
- 1 Press Release

65+ Facility Visits

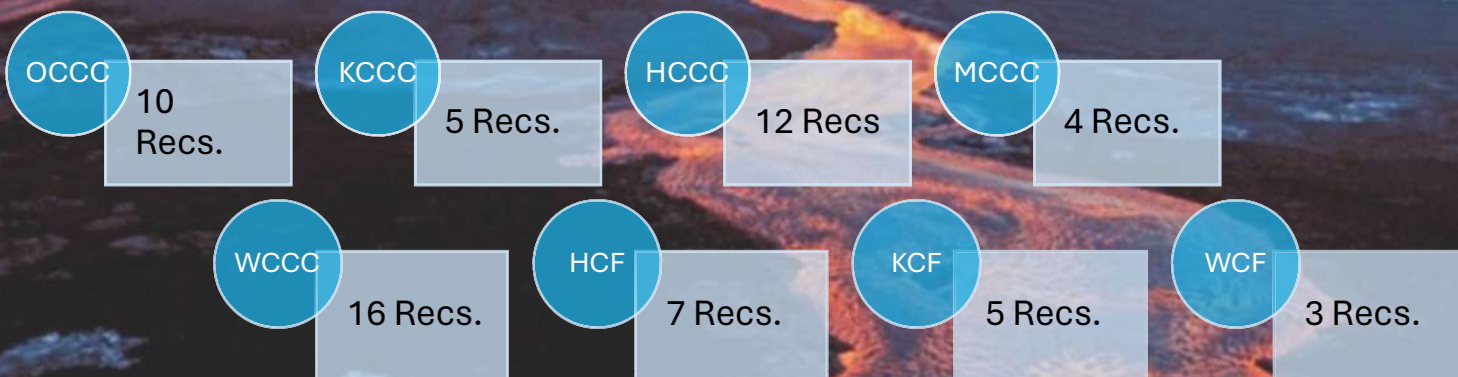
Notable Facility Tours

- OCCC Tour with Supreme Court Justices
- HCCC Tour with Hawaii Country Prosecutor's Office
- Halawa and OCCC Tour with Senate
- HCCC Tour with House Members
- Saguaro Tour with Senate
- OCCC Tour with Amend
- Las Colinas Detention and Reentry Facility Tour

CORRECTIONAL FACILITY TOURS

FACILITY-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOCUSED ON REHABILITATION

62 recs from facility-specific repots, 4 recs from letters to DCR.



A NEW FOCUS ON REENTRY AND DIVERSION

Oversight

- Monitor and report facility-specific reentry efforts
- Report on the status, success, and implementation of reentry-specific legislative efforts

Reentry

- Monitor, review, and report on the Comprehensive Offender Reentry Program (HRS 353H)
- Ensure Comprehensive Offender Reentry Program results in timely release of people in custody

Rehabilitation

- Identify system-wide and individual needs of people in custody
- Utilize needs assessment to determine and recommend programs and treatment that achieve rehabilitation

Population Limits

- Offer recommendations, strategies, and collaboration on diversion and deflection efforts to decrease the Hawaii jail populations.
- Identify opportunities for movement throughout the correctional system

PROCESS AND PROJECTS



COMMISSION'S IMPACT 159 PUBLIC TESTIMONIES

Based on my many years of experience and observations with PSD (now DCR), it is essential for inmates and staff to have an independent voice without fear of being retaliated against or silenced.
– Lois T., 38 year employee of PSD/DCR

The Coordinator has been instrumental in helping our Office navigate connections between State agencies and community based organizations to reduce recidivism for individuals being released from incarceration.
– Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Kaua'i

We have had talks about us feeling like we need the feds to come back. That's how bad it is. No one's listening to us.
We finally have a voice and ear listening to us.
– Sgt. Kyles, OCCC

Working closely with the Oversight Commission, the Oversight Coordinator has shone a bright light into a dark system that has been ignored for decades.
– Community Member

Without the critical leadership of the Oversight Coordinator, and the cooperation and commitment of the Director of DCR to implement systemic changes, Hawaii will likely face a pattern and practice of investigation by the Department of Justice, and costly federal intervention.
– ACLU of Hawai'i

The Correctional Oversight Commission has advanced in making public and offering solutions to serious problems with Hawaii's jails and prisons.
– Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice



INVESTMENT

The Commission is requesting
\$462,134 for FY2025
which includes:

Budget Sheet
Sequence
No. 102-001
ATG100/EC

- 4 Full Time Positions
 - Oversight Coordinator
 - Special Assistant to Oversight Coordinator
 - Reentry and Diversion Oversight Specialist
 - Jail Oversight Specialist (*new position*)
- Inter-Island Travel
- Out-State-Travel (Saguaro)
- Memberships & Conferences
- General Office Supplies + Equipment



CONTACT US

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