



# Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

Monthly Oversight Coordinator Report – May 16 2024

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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.

## Deaths in Custody

On April 28, 2024, at the Maui Community Correctional Center (MCCC), a person in custody, male, 52 years old, was unwell with abdominal pain. He was relocated to Holding for observation and assessment. While there, staff initiated CPR on the individual and called 911. The Maui Fire Department arrived to provide medical assistance and the Maui Police Department was also onsite. Unfortunately, emergency medical technicians (EMTs) pronounced the person in custody deceased at 12:05 am on April 29, 2024. This individual had an undisclosed pre-existing medical condition.

On May 5, 2024, at Saguaro Correctional Facility (AZSC), a person in custody, male, 46 years old, was found unresponsive and not breathing in his cell. Staff began administering CPR and utilized an AED. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel arrived at the facility and assumed CPR and life-saving measures. The individual was then transported to a nearby hospital. AZSC received notification that the individual was pronounced deceased at the hospital at 6:53 pm. This death appears to be a homicide. The Eloy Police Department is the lead investigating agency, and Hawaii has also dispatched criminal investigators to the facility.

## Oversight Coordinator: Family Leave & Temporary Assignment

Christin Johnson, the Oversight Coordinator of the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (The Commission, HCSOC), will be on temporary family leave until around the beginning of August. During Christin's absence, Cara Compani, the HCSOC Reentry and Diversion Oversight Specialist, will serve as the interim Oversight Coordinator.

## Legislative Updates – Budget Hearings

The Commission is pleased to share that the House Committee on Finance (FIN) and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM) concurred on the Commission's budget

request of \$462,134 in House Bill 1800, relating to the State Budget. This allocation includes funding for the Attorney General's Office to include the Oversight Commission in the base budget. As a result, the Commission's budget request bypassed Conference Committee discussions, and the Commission's line item is expected to be embedded into the State's budget. Confirmation will follow upon the release of the 2024 Budget Worksheets.

## Tour of Hawaii Community Correctional Center (HCCC)

In accordance with the Commission's mandate to oversee the State's correctional system, on Friday, May 10, 2024, the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission toured the Hawaii Community Correctional Center (HCCC). The tour included Commission Chair, Mark Patterson, and the Interim Oversight Coordinator/Reentry and Diversion Oversight Specialist, Cara Compani.

This tour was only several days before the May Commission meeting. Therefore, the report and recommendations to be considered by the Department of Public Safety, which stem from the HCCC tour, will be released during the June Commission meeting scheduled for June 20, 2024.

## Designed for Dignity: Transforming Prison Cultures

Consistent with the Commission's mandate to facilitate a correctional system transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model of corrections, on May 1, 2024, HCSOC staff participated in a [Vera Institute](#) webinar, which presented and discussed a new initiative and opportunity, *Designed for Dignity*. Information from the Vera Institute on the Initiative is below:

Corrections agencies are grappling with how to create safe and humane environments for people who work, visit, and are incarcerated in prison; to recruit and retain staff; and to sustain efforts that promote incarcerated people's successful transition out of prison.

Vera, with funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), will partner with state corrections agencies to participate in training and technical assistance focused on developing, implementing, and enhancing strategies to foster safer, more humane prison cultures, climates, and spaces for both correctional staff and those who are incarcerated.

Designed for Dignity is an evolution of Restoring Promise, building on Vera's groundbreaking work with corrections agencies and evidence that the Restoring Promise approach to young adult housing units can make facilities safer for both staff and people who are incarcerated. Using Vera's Dignity Principles for conditions of confinement as a guide, Vera will partner with corrections agencies to implement strategies to better align with a focus on human dignity and to achieve their mission-critical goals.



HCSOC staff are excited about this opportunity because the project's goals and outcomes align closely with Hawaii's intention and commitment to transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model of corrections. More information is available here: [Designed for Dignity: Creating Safer and More Humane Prisons | Vera Institute](#).

## Corrections Staff Survey and Report

Consistent with the Commission's mandate to investigate complaints at correctional facilities, HCSOC staff are focusing on an all-encompassing staff survey and report 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. This survey, which has been distributed in facilities throughout five states, was developed using participatory research methods, elevating the voices and perspectives of correctional staff.

The survey, available electronically or on paper, was anonymous and confidential. After all surveys were completed and collected, the Commission completed talk stories with each facility to put together 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 were conducted as follows:

- Tuesday, March 19 – HCF
- Friday, March 22 – KCF

- Monday, March 25 – KCCC
- Wednesday, March 27 – OCCC
- Wednesday, April 3 – HCCC
- Thursday, April 4– MCCC
- Tuesday, April 9 – WCCC
- Wednesday, April 10 – WCF

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.

## Reentry Report

Consistent with the Commission’s mandate to work with the Department of Public Safety in monitoring and reviewing the comprehensive offender reentry program, HCSOC staff are currently working on an all-encompassing reentry report in accordance with the reentry segment of the Commission’s mandate:

- 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. HRS §353L-3(b)(3)
- 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. HRS §353L-3(b)(4)

Commission staff submitted a data and information request to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR), specifically pertaining to HRS §353H and the Comprehensive Offender Reentry Program for this report. DCR leadership and the Reentry Office have been responding to this request, and Commission staff have been reviewing the responses as they are received. Once all the requested data and information is received, the Commission will compile the HCSOC’s first reentry report, outlining findings, highlighting best practices, and offering recommendations.

## 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 the Hawaii Paroling Authority's existing procedures for setting the minimum terms of imprisonment. Mark Patterson, HCSOC Chair, is chairing this Task Force.

The HCR 23 Task Force is required to do the following:

- Study whether parole system models used by other states might be suited for Hawaii.
- 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.

The [Council of State Governments](#) (CSG) has been supporting the HCR 23 Task Force. 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.

#### *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 – April

	Cost	Qty	Total	Notes
<b>Office Equipment and Supplies</b>			<b>\$402</b>	
Office Furniture			\$0.00	
General Office Supplies			\$0.00	
Staff and Commission Badges			\$0.00	
Staff and Commission Badge Holders			\$0.00	
Cell Phone			\$0.00	
Cell Phone Monthly Plan	\$172.93	1.00	\$172.93	
Wifi Hotspot			\$0.00	
Heroku Monthly Plan - Complaint Management	\$65.00	1.00	\$65.00	
Elastic Cloud Monthly Plan - Complaint Management	\$17.07	1.00	\$17.07	
Other Current Expenditures	\$146.58	1.00	\$146.58	YouTube Premium Subscription
<b>Inter-Island Correctional Facility Travel</b>			<b>\$1,281.55</b>	
Airfare	\$836.29	1.00	\$836.29	Travel for 02/29 and 03/21
Car Rental	\$77.50	1.00	\$77.50	Car rental for 02/29
Daily Per Diem	\$20.00	4.00	\$80.00	Per Diem for 01/12, 01/25, and 02/29
Lodging+Tax			\$0.00	
Ground Transportation			\$0.00	
Airport Parking	\$44.00	1.00	\$44.00	Parking for 01/25 and 02/29
Per Diem - Misc	\$243.76	1.00	\$243.76	Supplies for 01/25
<b>Mainland Correctional Facility Travel</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>	
Airfare			\$0.00	
Car Rental			\$0.00	
Daily Per Diem			\$0.00	
Lodging+Tax			\$0.00	
Ground Transportation			\$0.00	
Airport Parking			\$0.00	
<b>Memberships + Conferences</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>	
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	
Hawaii Friends of Restorative Justice			\$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	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$1,683.13</b>	

\* All expenses reflect posted transactions

## General Office Information

Mailing Address: Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission  
 235 S Beretania Street, 16<sup>th</sup> floor  
 Honolulu, HI 96813

Website: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov>

Submit Testimony: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/submit-testimony/>

Email: [hcsoc@hawaii.gov](mailto: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 May 16, 2024. The next monthly meeting is scheduled to occur on June 20, 2024, at the Leiopapa A. Kamehameha Building, 235 S Beretania Street, Room 204, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 and online via Zoom. More information can be found on the Commission's webpage here: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/information/>.