



Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

Monthly Oversight Coordinator Report – October 17 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. Please note that this report is being released one week later as the monthly Commission meeting was rescheduled for September 26, 2024.

Death in Custody

On Monday, October 14, 2024, a person in custody, male, 59 years old, was found in his cell bleeding at the Halawa Correctional Facility. Staff immediately removed the individual's cellmate, called 911 Emergency Services, and performed CPR until EMS arrived. At approximately 1:40am, the individual was pronounced deceased by City and County EMS. This incident appears to be a murder.

Current Projects

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 scheduled and completed

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 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 (DCR), 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, DCR, facility leadership, and staff on solutions.

Commission staff are currently working on the written report outlining findings and recommendations. The report is due to be released by the end of this month.

Reentry Report

Consistent with the Commission's mandate to work with the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation (DCR) in monitoring and reviewing the comprehensive offender reentry program, HCSOC staff are currently working on a reentry report in accordance with the reentry portion 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 people in custody 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)

HCSOC staff submitted a data and information request to the DCR, specifically pertaining to HRS §353H Comprehensive Offender Reentry System and the DCR's reentry program for this report. The DCR leadership and the DCR Reentry Office have been responding to this request, and Commission staff have been reviewing the responses. The Commission will review all the data received and compile the HCSOC's first reentry report, outlining findings, highlighting best practices, and offering recommendations.

The report is due to be published in November 2024.

House Concurrent Resolution 23 Task Force

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.

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.

The task force recently concluded its last meeting on September 12 after having research findings presented from the CSG and the Criminal Justice Research Institute (CJRI). A report on findings from the task force meetings and potential recommendations is due to be released next month.

Expenses for the Preceding Month – September

	Cost	Qty	Total	Notes
Office Equipment and Supplies			\$1,609	
Office Furniture	\$1,300.27	1.00	\$1,300.27	Meeting Owl
General Office Supplies	\$51.81	1.00	\$51.81	
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	\$19.09	1.00	\$19.09	
Other Current Expenditures			\$0.00	
Inter-Island Correctional Facility Travel			\$106.78	
Airfare	\$106.78	1.00	\$106.78	08/22-RI
Car Rental			\$0.00	
Daily Per Diem			\$0.00	
Lodging+Tax			\$0.00	
Ground Transportation			\$0.00	
Airport Parking			\$0.00	
Per Diem - Misc			\$0.00	
Mainland Correctional Facility Travel			\$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	
Memberships + Conferences			\$1,636.40	
NACOLE (National Assoc. for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement)	\$755.00	1.00	\$755.00	NACOLE Conference
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	\$881.40	1.00	\$881.40	MKP
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			\$3,352.22	

* 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 October 17, 2024. The next monthly meeting is scheduled to occur on November 21, 2024, at the Leiopapa A. Kamehameha Building, 235 S Beretania St., Room 204, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 and online via Zoom. More information can be found on the Commission's webpage here: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/information/>.