



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION**  
**E HUIKALA A MA'EMA'E NŌ**  
235 S. Beretania Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
(808) 587-4160

**Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF)**  
**October 2024 Site Tour Observations**  
**Date of Report: November 21, 2024**

In accordance with the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission's (the Commission, HCSOC) mandate to oversee the State's correctional system, on Thursday, October 17, 2024, the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (the Commission, HCSOC) toured Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF) collectively as a group. The tour included three of the five Commissioners – Mark Patterson (Chair), Ronald Ibarra, and Martha Torney – in addition to the Oversight Coordinator, Reentry and Diversion Oversight Specialist and Special Assistant.

This report focuses on and encompasses notes from the Commissioners and will be discussed at a public meeting held on November 21, 2024.

Follow Up on Previous Recommendations

On November 16, 2023, the Commission toured KCF and released a public report on December 21, 2023, outlining findings from the visit and five recommendations. Below are the five recommendations that stemmed from the December 2023 report in addition to updated findings based on the October 2024 site observations.

**Recommendations:**

**1) Begin Offering In-Person Visitation and Expand Access to Phone Calls**

The Commission is pleased to report that KCF has begun offering in-person contact visitation. The following is KCF's current visitation schedule for weekends and holidays:

Visiting Hours: Weekends and Holidays  
8:00 – 9:00am  
9:00 – 10:00am  
12:00 – 1:00pm  
1:00 – 2:00pm

It should be noted that the Department is currently working on updating their website to reflect accurate visiting hours.

**2) Increase the Population at Kulani as Kulani is One of the Most Rehabilitative Facilities in Hawaii**

The DCR has not completed this recommendation, and in fact, the population numbers at KCF and WCF (both minimum custody) are worse in 2024 than they were in 2023.

Kulani is one of the most rehabilitative facilities in Hawaii and sits around 50% capacity. As of November 2023, there were around 240 people in custody at Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) and Saguaro Correctional Facility in Arizona (AZSC) with a custody status of minimum or below. In October 2024, there were around 260.

| 2023 Hawaii Male Prison Security Classifications |           |         |        |       |         |              |                  |
|--|-----------|---------|--------|-------|---------|--------------|------------------|
| Male Prison                                      | Community | Minimum | Medium | Close | Maximum | Unclassified | Total Population |
| AZSC   | --        | 53      | 455    | 369   | --      | --           | 877              |
| HCF  | 4         | 183     | 435    | 187   | 2       | 11           | 822              |
| WCF  | 27        | 154     | --     | --    | --      | --           | 181              |
| KCF  | 24        | 61      | --     | --    | --      | --           | 85               |

*Source: Hawaii Department of Public Safety Roster, Dated Nov. 13, 2023*

| 2024 Hawaii Male Prison Security Classifications |           |         |        |       |         |              |                          |
|--|-----------|---------|--------|-------|---------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Male Prison                                      | Community | Minimum | Medium | Close | Maximum | Unclassified | Total Population         |
| AZSC   | --        | 77      | 506    | 411   | --      | --           | 994                      |
| HCF  | 6         | 179     | 306    | 204   | 6       | 5            | 706                      |
| WCF  | 23        | 113     | --     | --    | --      | --           | 136 - DECREASE FROM 2023 |
| KCF  | 13        | 65      | --     | --    | --      | --           | 78 - DECREASE FROM 2023  |

*Source: Hawaii Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Roster, Dated Oct. 14, 2024*

The Commission, again, recommends that the Department transfer eligible individuals at Halawa and Saguaro, with minimum custody or below, to Kulani and Waiawa Correctional Facilities. Due to the rehabilitative and therapeutic nature of the Kulani, this facility could be better utilized at a consistent capacity close to 100% and certainly over 90%.

**3) Remove the Monetary Eligibility Requirement for Furlough Participation at all Furlough Sites**

The Commission is pleased to report that the Department has fulfilled this recommendation, and no individuals are required to have any specific amount in their account in order to participate in their respective work furlough programs.

**4) Improve System-wide Movement Through Correctional System**

The DCR has not completed this recommendation, and in fact, the population numbers at KCF and WCF (both minimum custody) and furlough sites across all jails are worse in 2024 than they were in 2023. All of the Hawaii male furlough sites are well below capacity—see the *Furlough* chart below.

The Commission understands that the furlough sites currently have different eligibility requirements regarding funds and length of time until the parole eligibility date. To improve system movement and opportunity for successful reentry, the Commission again recommends that the Department increase furlough participation. This will mean a corresponding policy shift including eliminating any type of financial requirement to participate in furlough.

| <i>Facility</i> | <i>Furlough Location</i> | <i>2023 Population</i> | <i>2024 Population</i> | <i>Rated Capacity</i> | <i>2023 Occupancy Rate</i> | <i>2024 Occupancy Rate</i> |
|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>HCCC</i>     | Onsite                   | 32                     | 21                     | 100                   | 32.00%                     | 21.00%                     |
| <i>MCCC</i>     | Onsite                   | 14                     | 12                     | 32                    | 43.75%                     | 37.5%                      |
| <i>OCCC</i>     | Onsite                   | 120                    | 102                    | 176                   | 68.18%                     | 57.95%                     |
|                 | Extended Furlough        | 15                     | 1                      | --                    | --                         | --                         |
|                 | <i>Total</i>             | 135                    | 103                    | 176                   | 76.70%                     | 58.25%                     |
| <i>KCCC</i>     | Onsite                   | 8                      | ~11                    | 0*                    | --                         | --                         |
|                 | Extended Furlough        | 9                      | 11                     | --                    | --                         | --                         |
|                 | <i>Total</i>             | 14                     | ~22                    | 0*                    | --                         | --                         |

*Source: Hawaii Department of Public Safety Roster, Dated Nov. 13, 2023*

*Hawaii Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Roster, Date Oct. 14, 2024*

**Note:** KCCC furlough housing does not have an official capacity, therefore, the occupancy rate cannot be calculated.

**5) Reinstate Transportation Shuttle for Staff**

This recommendation has not been completed.

As noted above, the Department has fulfilled two recommendations of the five submitted last year. The Commission is deeply concerned as two of the recommendations (Recommendation 2 and 4) are specific to creating a more rehabilitative and therapeutic environment, and ensuring individuals move through the system to be released in a timely manner. It is concerning that not only have the numbers not improved but have instead gotten worse. The Commission hopes the Department will take action on all recommendations and appreciate the Department’s time and commitment to improving Hawaii’s correctional system.