



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
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Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF)
November 2024 Site Tour Observations
Date of Report: December 19, 2024

On Thursday, November 21, 2024, the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (the Commission, HCSOC) toured the Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF) collectively as a group. The tour included two Commissioners, Ron Ibarra and Martha Torney, in addition to Commission staff.

This report encompasses notes from the Commissioners and will be discussed at a public meeting held on December 19, 2024.

Follow Up on Previous Recommendations

On December 21, 2023, the Commission toured WCF and released a detailed public report on January 18, 2024, outlining findings from the visit. Below are the recommendations that stemmed from the January 2024 report, in addition to updated findings based on the November 21, 2024, site observations.

Recommendations:

1) Increase the Population at Waiawa as Waiawa is One of the Most Rehabilitative Facilities in Hawaii

The DCR has not fulfilled this recommendation, and in fact, the population at KCF and WCF (both minimum custody) are worse in 2024 than they were in 2023. The same chart below was utilized in the Commission's November 2024 report regarding the Kulani Correctional Facility tour, but it seems worth repeating for the purpose of highlighting the lack of rehabilitative beds utilized in both KCF and WCF.

Waiawa 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

2) Expand the Opportunity to be Housed at a Minimum-Security Facility to Those who are Medically Frail

In general, those with medical conditions that impact their ability to work should not be deprived of living in less restrictive environments and stepping down in preparation for release. However, this recommendation has not been fulfilled.

3) Identify a Vessel to Donate Excess Produce to the Community

One factor limiting farm production at WCF is the facility's inability to donate excess produce, therefore the Commission recommended that DCR leadership work with WCF to find an avenue for produce donation in a timely manner (like Correctional Industries, for example). This recommendation has not been fulfilled.