

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION**  
**E HUIKALA A MA'EMA'E NŌ**  
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**HON. R. MARK BROWNING (ret.)**

**HON. RONALD IBARRA (ret.)**

**MARTHA TORNEY**

**HON. MICHAEL A. TOWN (ret.)**

January 13, 2025

The Honorable Josh Green, MD  
Governor, State of Hawaii  
Executive Chambers  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii. 96813

RE: Director of DCR Engagement and Participation with the Commission

Dear Governor Green:

The Correctional System Oversight Commission writes to respectfully request your assistance in ensuring that Director Tommy Johnson of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) attends future meetings of the Commission. The Director's presence at the full monthly meetings is critical to fostering the collaboration and communication necessary to address the pressing challenges within Hawaii's correctional system.

The relationship between the DCR and the Commission is pivotal to addressing shared challenges. Without open dialogue and collaboration, we risk adverse impacts on our communities, including weakened public trust and diminished capacity to enact meaningful reforms. Additionally, the absence of the Director, or an appointed designee, at Commission meetings creates a barrier to progress by limiting access to accurate, up-to-date information and impeding the exchange of ideas. We cannot achieve lasting reform without the Director's active and committed involvement.

We believe that by working together, we can address common concerns and develop solutions that benefit all stakeholders. It should be noted that the Commission has worked with three DCR administrations, and the previous DCR administrations always had the Director or their designees in attendance for the entirety of the Commission meetings.

Additionally, the Commission is concerned about recent comments made by Director Johnson during legislative briefings, which characterized the Commission as lacking the qualifications or expertise to provide informed recommendations. These remarks not only misrepresent the Commission's capabilities but also undermine public and legislative confidence in our work and strain our relationship with the DCR. We believe these statements do not reflect the shared mission

*The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Governor*  
*RE: Director of DCR Engagement and Participation with the Commission*  
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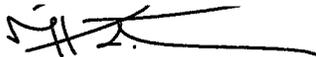
of improving the correctional system and fostering a collaborative approach to reform. Therefore, we urge the Director to refrain from further divisive rhetoric and to instead join us in building trust and mutual respect as we work toward our shared goal of improving Hawaii's correctional system.

Governor Green, we respectfully seek your support in encouraging Director Johnson to actively engage with the Commission. His presence, or that of his designee, at our meetings would bridge gaps, resolve misunderstandings, and strengthen our collective efforts. The Commission remains committed to a constructive partnership with the DCR and Director Johnson, and we are confident that by working together, we can develop solutions that benefit all stakeholders and create a more effective, equitable, and humane correctional system for our state.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response and to continuing our collaboration in pursuit of these shared objectives. Commissioners are more than happy to meet with you regarding the above concerns.

Sincerely,

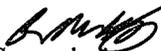
All Members of the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission



Chair Mark Patterson



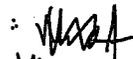
Commissioner Hon. Ronald Ibarra (ret.)



Commissioner Hon. R. Mark Browning  
(ret.)



Commissioner Martha Torney



Commissioner Hon. Michael A. Town (ret.)

cc: Tommy Johnson, DCR Director  
Brooke Wilson, Chief of Staff