



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

Meeting Minutes

The monthly Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission meeting is offered as a hybrid meeting where Commissioners and members of the public can participate in person, or via teleconference. Details for both options are noted below.

Time: Thursday, February 13, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Leiopapa A. Kamehameha Building
235 S Beretania Street, Room 204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Teleconference: Zoom Meeting ID: 964 1109 6050

Click to join online:
<https://zoom.us/j/96411096050>

One tap mobile:
+12532158782,,96411096050# US

Or Livestream on Facebook or YouTube.

Items to be Discussed:

- I. Call to Order **(0:01:19)**
- II. Roll Call **(0:01:25)**
 - Present: Chair Patterson, Commissioner Browning, Commissioner Ibarra, Commissioner Torney, Commissioner Town, Oversight Coordinator Christin Johnson, Alec Jamerson, Kimmy Takata, and George Choe
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2025 **(0:01:50)**
 - Moved by Commissioner Town
 - Seconded by Commissioner Browning
 - Motion passed

- IV. Welcoming New Staff **(0:02:20)**
 - Alec Jamerson, Jail Oversight Specialist
 - Kimmy Takata, Reentry Oversight Specialist

- V. Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation – Director Tommy Johnson Monthly Updates **(0:05:20)**
 - Transition to Corrections & Rehabilitation
 - i. \$4M budget request
 - 1. Originally asked for \$1.92M to start an apprenticeship program with several tradecraft unions. DCR would pay the salary for the offenders and purchase their initial safety equipment for them. The understanding they completed the programs, and the Unions would hire or certify them. DCR did not receive this.
 - 2. Re-entry services to provide mentoring, temporary housing in the community for 3-6 months for those transitioning out. Also provide navigator services.
 - 3. Will use \$500,000 to start a small pilot project with unions and then request for more funding after showing proof of concept and merit and getting more unions involved.
 - 4. Effective January 1, 2025 – began pilot project where inmates would be returned from the mainland who qualify 60 months instead of 48 months out.
 - a. Plan to see how program works and track from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2026.
 - b. Track recidivism rates to see if there's a reduction by bringing them back earlier and getting them through the programs to work furlough and extended furlough to parole.
 - c. Classification system is time driven so they think they are keeping people at higher classification level longer than they should.
 - i. DCR would like to look at them every 6-months and if they've been compliant, move them down the classification. This would allow them to fill beds at Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF) and Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF).
 - ii. DCR wants to make the classification system more even driven than time driven. Will allow DCR to move people down faster.
 - ii. Previously ordered no nonviolent class-c offenders be sent to the mainland. As a result of that, numbers decreased for mainland facility, but number changed from 700 inmates to 937 inmates due to:
 - 1. Two dormitories closed at Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) due to major electrical repair work.
 - 2. Inmates will return once all electrical repair work is completed in all modules.
 - 3. Pilot program will aid in reducing mainland population and currently review
 - a. Must be program compliant
 - b. No recent misconduct

4. Should see a decrease in number of inmates on the mainland in summer or fall as they do first and second transport back.
- Update on OCCC New Jail Planning
 - i. Legislative bill to seek \$30M to continue the planning and design, request for quote (RFQ) and request for proposal (RFP) process
 1. Bill is moving forward with amendments
 - ii. Will use University of Hawai'i Community Design Center (UHCDC) final report as a baseline for recommendations to possibly incorporate in any new build.
 - Inmate telephone system and GTL tablets
 - i. GTL tablets allow inmates to do video phone visits
 - ii. Some tablet games
 - iii. Trying to see if tablets can have access/download programs for those in segregation, admin, protective custody, or in discretionary segregation can continue if choose to with programs in the assessment process.
 - iv. Tried this process four years ago, tablets had access to internet which allowed access to pornography sites and other issues/concerns so had to disconnect.
 - Inmate ID card bill – Relating to Identification
 - i. [SB 224](#)
 - ii. [HB 677](#)
 - iii. Already provide replacement birth certificates if from another state
 - iv. MOU signed to provide replacement social security cards for American born citizen.
 - v. Instead of purchasing ID card machine, DCR wants to provide kiosks and working with City & County which would be more readily accessible to offenders. Provide update in summer regarding Hawaii driver license system.
 - DCR recruitment efforts
 - i. Current class of 13 ACO recruits
 - ii. Committed to holding 5 classes per year, 6 classes per year if they can.
 - iii. Completed cost benefit analysis if 6 or more qualified candidates on neighbor islands, DCR will hold an academy there instead of coming to Oahu.

VI. Legislative Update (0:26:45)

- Update on any legislative bills that are directly applicable to the Oversight Commission
 - i. [HB 1002/SB 1321](#) – Relating to the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission
 1. Change Oversight Coordinator's term from 2 years to 4 years
 2. Ensure Commission and Oversight Coordinator have unfettered access.
 - ii. [HB 1002](#)
 1. Moved through PBS (House Committee on Public Safety)
 - a. Amended bill from 4 years to 3 years
 - b. Amended process of hiring Oversight Coordinator
 2. Moved forward to JHA (House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs)

- a. Kept amendments and now moved to FIN (House Committee on Finance)

- iii. [SB 1321](#)

1. Moved through PSM (Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs)
 - a. Amended bill from 4 years to 3 years
2. Moved to JDC (Senate Committee on Judiciary)

VII. [Overview of Oversight Coordinator Report \(0:31:00\)](#)

- Death in Custody
- Published Reports
- Communications from Commissions
- Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs Informational Briefing
- Commission Meeting on Legislative Priorities
- Current Projects

VIII. [Presentation on the Correctional Staff Survey, Findings, and Recommendations Report \(0:47:25\)](#)

IX. Public Comment (1:10:25)

- Public comment on issues not on the agenda, for consideration for Commission's agenda at the next meeting
 - i. Crossover bill requested on for next meeting

X. Announcements and Scheduling of the Next Meeting

- Next meeting Thursday, March 13, 2025
 - i. Facility Tour: None scheduled

XI. Adjournment (1:20:45)

Members of the public may submit written testimony on any item on this agenda before the meeting via e-mail or mail to the Oversight Coordinator, Christin Johnson. Testimony received after February 10, 2025, will be accepted but the Commissioners may not have time to read them before the meeting. Members of the public may also submit testimony at the meeting without submitting it to the Commission beforehand.

Email: hcsoc@hawaii.gov

Mail: Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission
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If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, contact Special Assistant George Choe (george.choe@hawaii.gov) as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled. Upon request, this notice is available in alternate/accessible formats.