

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



MARK PATTERSON
CHAIR

CHRISTIN M. JOHNSON
OVERSIGHT COORDINATOR

COMMISSIONERS
HON. R. MARK BROWNING (ret.)

HON. RONALD IBARRA (ret.)

MARTHA TORNEY

HON. MICHAEL A. TOWN (ret.)

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, April 10, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Hawai'i Community College
1175 Manono Street, Building 388
Rooms 101 & 102
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Teleconference: Microsoft Teams
Meeting ID: 262 078 474 943
Passcode: vU3UL6mG

Or Livestream on Facebook or YouTube.

Items to be Discussed:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call **(0:01:00)**
 - Present: Chair Patterson, Commissioner Ibarra, Commissioner Browning, Commissioner Torney, Commissioner Town, Oversight Coordinator Christin Johnson, Alec Jamerson, Kimmy Takata, and George Choe
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2025 **(0:01:25)**
 - Moved by Commissioner Torney
 - Seconded by Commissioner Ibarra
 - Motion pass
- IV. Monthly Update from Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Director Tommy Johnson **(0:02:10)**
 - Staff recruitment efforts

- i. ACO vacancy rate reduced from 30.4% → 24%, majority of vacancies are at Halawa Correctional Facility and Oahu Community Corrections Center (OCCC).
 - ii. Diverting as many female ACO's recruits for Oahu to the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC)
 - 1. No more female intakes at Oahu Community Correctional Center
 - 2. Looking to convert one female dorm at OCCC to a real infirmary
 - a. In process of purchasing equipment, beds and bedding, partitions and stuff associated with an infirmary.
 - 3. Want to have all females in WCCC housing units
 - iii. Hire Hawaii fair at Hawaii Convention Center
 - 1. Holding open interviews for emergency hire ACO's
 - iv. Hawaii Island recruitment class
 - 1. 14 students
 - v. Oahu recruitment class
 - 1. 12 students
 - vi. Upcoming recruitment class
 - 1. 48 applicants
 - vii. Hold job fairs, radio and tv campaign for recruitment
 - viii. Every facility has signs posted for recruitment efforts
- Department of Humans Resources and Development (DHRD) has temporarily delegated the suitability process to DCR.
 - i. 200 applicants applied for vacancies
 - ii. Applicants lost due to length of hiring process
 - 1. Application process
 - 2. Suitability process
 - iii. DHRD exploring vested years of service from 10 years → 5 years to be more attractive to obtain applicants (Tommy to report at next meeting)
 - 1. Work with EUTF
 - 2. May be long process
- DCR contracted with the vendor to upload applicant documents to expedite process for personnel to review and alert applicants if any documents are missing and deadlines.
- Transition to Corrections & Rehabilitation
 - i. Resource fairs
 - 1. Women's Community Correctional Center
 - 2. Waiawa Correctional Facility
 - 3. Neighbor islands
 - 4. Help with housing and employment
 - ii. Keiki days
 - 1. DCR works with nonprofit groups (Keiki O Ka 'Aina)
 - 2. Parent/guardian and child are allowed to visit the facility and participate in fun activities (food, games, arts & crafts) with their loved one. Person in custody must first complete a parenting class to qualify
 - a. Women's Community Correctional Center

- b. Waiawa Correctional Facility
 - c. Halawa Correctional Facility (April 12, 2025)
 - d. Kulani Correctional Facility (future prospect)
 - Update on OCCC new jail planning
 - i. CIP Budget
 1. House Draft 1 - \$30M
 2. Senate Draft 1
 - a. FY26 - \$15M
 - b. FY27 - \$15M
 3. DCR requesting a combined total be given in FY26
 4. Requested \$5M for kitchen expansion for planning and design (WCCC)
 - a. House Draft 1 - \$5M
 - b. Senate Draft 1 - \$0
 - c. DCR prepared impact statements to submit to committee chairs
 5. WCCC laundry expansion project
 6. DCR requested \$20M for security-wide perimeter fencing statewide
 - a. Senate Draft 1
 - i. FY26 - \$10M
 - ii. FY27 - \$10M
 7. DCR requested \$7M for architectural barrier to become ADA compliant and was approved.
 8. DCR requested \$23M for general lump sum CIP
 - a. Senate Draft
 - i. FY26 - \$12M
 - ii. FY27 - \$ 11M
 9. DCR requested \$5M for facility-wide deferred maintenance
 - a. Senate Draft 1
 - i. FY26 - \$5M
 10. DCR requested \$10M for the master plan
 - a. House Draft - \$10M
 - b. Seante Draft
 - i. FY26 - \$5M
 - ii. FY27 - \$5M
 - [House Concurrent Resolution 153](#)
 - i. Requesting the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to incrementally and systemically reduce the number of inmates incarcerated in private, out-of-state correctional facilities.
 - [House Concurrent Resolution 23](#)
 - i. Requesting the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, in planning and designing the new Oahu Community Correctional Center in Halawa, to include a circuit and district court facility and establish a release procedure under which detainees or inmates, upon release, are transported to a site other than residential communities or public spaces.

- V. [The Power of Words: Understanding Person-First Language](#), presented by Christin Johnson, Oversight Coordinator **(0:21:00)**
- VI. Update on Legislative Bills that are Directly Applicable to the Oversight Commission **(0:28:55)**
- [House Bill 1002 HD1 SD1](#)
 - i. Extending the Oversight Coordinator’s term
 - ii. Commission may submit one name to Governor if Commission is pleased with the incumbent instead of going through the interview process.
 - iii. Allowing staff to enter at any point into the correctional facilities regardless of whether there’s an investigation or not
 - [House Bill 300 HD1 SD1](#)
 - i. Legislature concurred and HCSOC fully funded
 1. FY26 - \$196,863
 2. FY27 - \$271,445
 3. Two new positions
 - a. Prison Oversight Specialist
 - b. Research and Policy Associate
- VII. [Overview of Oversight Coordinator Report \(0:32:10\)](#)
- Death in custody – no reports since February 5, 2025
 - Correctional facility tours
 - i. OCCC
 - ii. KCCC
 - iii. MCCC
 - iv. HCCC
 - v. HCF
 - vi. WCCC
 - vii. KCF
 - viii. WCF
 - Events attended
 - i. He Ala Hou O Ke Ola Inc.
 - ii. 16th Annual Parole Completion Celebration
 - iii. Prison and Jail Innovation Lab Peer Learning Community Convening for Prison Oversight Directors
 - iv. Pou Hana O Na Wahine: Ho’i I Ka Hale
 - [Past meetings](#)
 - i. March 13, 2025 – Commission’s monthly public meeting
- VIII. [Presentation by Les Estrella, President and Chief Executive Officer of Going Home Hawai’i \(0:35:30\)](#)
- Going Home Hawai’i Consortium
 - Direct services and housing programs
 - Front-end justice deflection and diversion

- IX. Public Comment **(0:57:40)**
 - Public comment on issues not on the agenda, for consideration for Commission's agenda at the next meeting

- X. Announcements and Scheduling of the Next Meeting **(1:12:50)**
 - Next meeting Thursday, May 8, 2025
 - i. Kauai Community College – Commission meeting
 - ii. Facility Tour: Kauai Community Correctional Center

- XI. Adjournment

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 April 7, 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

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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.