

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, May 8, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Kaua'i Community College
3-1901 Kaumualii Highway, Room: OCET 106
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

Recording: [YouTube](https://youtu.be/JAkj8I2BZaI?si=MsP0eBC6neRcvhzS)
<https://youtu.be/JAkj8I2BZaI?si=MsP0eBC6neRcvhzS>

Items to be Discussed:

I. Call to Order (0:01:45)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Patterson at 9:03 a.m. on Thursday, May 8, 2025. The meeting was conducted in accordance with Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 92.

II. Roll Call (0:01:55)

The following members were present in-person or virtually:

- **Chair Mark Patterson**
- **Commissioner R. Mark Browning**
- **Commissioner Ronald Ibarra**
- **Commissioner Martha Torney**
- **Commissioner Mike Town** (entered his appearance approximately 9:09 a.m. via Microsoft Teams)

Quorum was established with four members present. Oversight Coordinator Christin Johnson, Special Assistant George Choe, Reentry Specialist Kimmy Takata, and Jail Oversight Specialist Alec Jamerson were present at the physical meeting location, at the Kaua'i Community College, 3-1901 Kaumualii Highway, Room OCET 106, Lihue, Hawaii 96766. Also present via Microsoft Teams was Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Candace Park.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2025 (0:02:30)

- Review of minutes by members. Motion by Chair Patterson to approve April 10, 2025, Open Session Meeting Minutes.
- Motion moved by Commissioner Torney and seconded by Commissioner Browning.
- Vote: Unanimous approval, motion passed, minutes approved.

IV. Monthly Update from Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR),
Deputy Director of Administration Melanie Martin (Dep-A), designee for Director Tommy Johnson **(0:03:05)**

The week of April 7, 2025, National Correctional Officers and Employees week and DCR's leadership team have been going to all the facilities and sharing the governor's proclamation.

- Discussion of past and upcoming reentry events
 - i. April 5, 2025, was Kid's Day at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC).
 - ii. April 12, 2025, Keiki Day at Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) in over a decade.
 - iii. May 2, 2025, Inside Out Dad and Seven Habits from inside graduation at Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF)
 - iv. May 3, 2025, Keiki Day at WCCC
 - v. May 11, 2025, nine individuals in custody will be graduating with their Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Chaminade University at HCF.
 - vi. May 15, 2025, Reentry Resource Fair at Hale Nani on Hawaii Island
- Update on intensive recruitment efforts
 - i. April 12, 2025, DCR's Human Resources attended the Career Fair at the Hawaii Convention Center with presentations from the correctional institutions division and healthcare division highlighting available careers within DCR.
 - ii. April 30, 2025, participated at the Career Expo at the Neil Blaisdell Exhibition Hall
 - iii. May 20, 2025, Career Fair at Keehi Lagoon sponsored by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)
- Update on academy classes
 - i. Multiple BCRC (Basic Corrections Recruitment Class)
 - a. 25-03 Class
 - i. May 5, 2025 (Oahu)
 - ii. May 19, 2025 (Hawaii Island)
 - b. 25-02 Class
 - i. May 23, 2025 (Hawaii Island) graduation
 - ii. May 16, 2025 (Oahu) graduation

- Update on trauma-informed care training
 - i. Program at Windward Community College
 - ii. Legislature approved \$112k to fund DCR's expansion on their mental health technician program to non-uniform staff who can attend this asynchronous online training program in trauma-informed care.

Public Testimony

- Oral Testimony: None
- Written Testimony: No previously submitted written testimony was received.
- Commission:
 - i. Chair Patterson asked the question regarding any participants from Maui or Kauai for the BCRC academy. Dep-A responded that no participants from Kauai and one from Maui to attend the BCRC 2503 on Oahu.
 - ii. Chair Patterson also asked Dep-A if she could provide total number for all four classes.
 - a. 25-03 (20 total recruits)
 - i. 8 – Hawaii Island
 - ii. 12 – Oahu
 - b. 25-02 (26 recruits) graduating
 - i. 14 – Hawaii Island
 - ii. 12 – Oahu
 - c. Classes 25-04 and 25-05 forthcoming
 - iii. Commissioner Torney asked the question if the hiring process through the Department of Human Resources and Development (DHRD) has changed to shorten the recruitment? DCR is working to shorten that process and purchased a platform to assist with background investigation documents housed all in one place. Also, executing a contract with a recruitment campaign contractor so they can streamline that process. Although they are still beholden to obtain lists of applicants from DHRD and are required to hold psychological, written, and oral exams. DCR is looking into streamlining the written exam to a pool of applicants and administered online.

V. Update on Legislative Bills that are Directly Applicable to the Oversight Commission (0:13:30)

- [House Bill 1002 HD1 SD1](#),
Beginning July 1, 2025, extends the term of the Oversight Coordinator for the Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission. Authorizes the Hawai'i Correctional System Commission to review the Coordinator's performance and make a recommendation to the Governor as to whether the Coordinator should be retained. Clarifies that the Oversight Coordinator has the general authority to inspect agencies and correctional facilities without notice.
 - i. The bill has been sent to the Governor pending his signature for approval
 - ii. The bill would extend the Oversight Coordinator's term to three years instead of two currently.

- iii. Amend the bill to allow the Commission to submit the incumbent to the Governor initially should they wish to hold the current Oversight Coordinator pending his approval. Otherwise, the Commission must go through the hiring process and submit three names to the Governor for approval.
 - iv. Amend the verbiage to ensure that the Commission has unfettered access to correctional facilities at any time.
- [House Bill 300 HD1](#)
Appropriates funds for the operating and capital improvement budget of the Executive Branch for fiscal years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027.
 - i. Legislature concurred HCSOC's full budget request which included two additional staff:
 - a. Prison Oversight Specialist
 - b. Research and Policy Associate

Public Testimony

- Oral Testimony: None
- Written Testimony: No previously submitted written testimony was received.
- Commission:

VI. [Overview of Oversight Coordinator Report \(0:16:05\)](#)

- Death in custody
 - i. No reported deaths in custody since February 5, 2025.
- Tours
 - i. Staff toured the Hawaii State Hospital and received a better understanding of the population that is held at the facility. A surprising factor noted by the Commission was the number of pre-trial misdemeanors occupying the population.
 - ii. Commission staff attended the He Ala Hou O Ke Ola (HAHOKO) Impact Center
- Events attended
 - i. April 6, 2025 – WCF hosted their Easter Keiki Day event in collaboration with Keiki O Ka 'Āina (KOKA) Family Learning Centers Projects.
 - ii. April 24, 2025 – Commission staff attended the Quarterly Community Relations Board meeting hosted by the Dismas Charities in Honolulu.
- Projects
 - i. Complaint management system update and staff have logged all complaints received.
 - ii. Case management system funding was approved in HCSOC's budget
- Past meetings
 - i. April 10, 2025 – Commission hosted their monthly public meeting at the Hawai'i Community College.

Public Testimony

- Oral Testimony: None

- Written Testimony: No previously submitted written testimony was received.
- Commission: None

VII. Overview of the Hawaii Community Correctional Center Tour & Report

(0:20:40)

- Oversight Coordinator Christin Johnson provides information on the Commission's tour to the Hawaii Community Correctional Center (HCCC) on April 10, 2025.

Public Testimony

- Oral Testimony: None
- Written Testimony: No previously submitted written testimony was received.
- Commission:
 - i. Commissioner Town asks the question to Oversight Coordinator that Hale Nani has space, but HCCC is overcrowded? Oversight Coordinator confirms that the question asked is correct and Hale Nani should not be included with HCCC's population count because of the different populations housed (sentenced and furlough) individuals on opposite sides of the facility. Also asks Public Defender Henry Ting if he has any thoughts on Hale Nani and responds he doesn't have "anything to add right now."
 - ii. Commissioner Torney states that Hale Nani also housing majority of women except for those that are being held in the dry cell at HCCC. Also states that she did not ask the question why those women were not Hale Nani, but it may be that they were a higher security level. She also added that it would be "great if all women could be at Hale Nani and none at the main."
 - iii. Chair Patterson speaks on the reason why the Commission goes and visits the facilities on a monthly basis is to check in and see what is happening and have come up with recommendations for DCR.
 - iv. Commissioner Browning adds the appreciation that we are moving forward to reviewing, categorizing, collecting, and evaluating the recommendations that have been made.
 - v. Commissioner Town asks DCR what is being done, and Dep-A responds that they are working on programs to help reduce the population and looking at a jail on the west side of Hawaii Island.
 - vi. Oversight Coordinator Christin Johnson comments regarding State oversight with enforcement. The Commission does "not have the power to force the Department to do anything. We do not have that type of authority in our mandate".

VIII. Evaluation of Oversight Coordinator position (0:55:15)

- The Commission anticipates convening an executive meeting to evaluate the performance of the Oversight Coordinator pursuant to Haw. Rev. Stat. §§92-4 and 92-5(a)(2)

- Motion by Chair Patterson to hold an executive meeting to discuss the evaluation of the Oversight Coordinator's performance.
- Motion moved by Commissioner Torney and seconded by Commissioner Browning.
- Vote: Unanimous approval, motion passed, executive session approved.
- The Commission convenes an executive meeting at 9:57 a.m. All non-members are removed from the meeting and into the waiting room.
- The Commission reconvenes holding their public meeting at 10:08 a.m. and all non-members are readmitted into the meeting.
 - i. Commissioner Torney summarizes the discussion of the executive meeting, which determined the method of evaluating the Oversight Coordinator and each member will participate in submitting comments under that method.

Public Testimony

- Oral Testimony:
 - i. Community member Ronald Fujiyoshi expresses appreciation of having the Oversight Coordinator from Ohana Ho'opakele
- Written Testimony: No previously submitted written testimony was received.
- Commission: None

IX. Public Comment (1:10:45)

- Public comment on issues not on the agenda, for consideration for Commission's agenda at the next meeting
 - i. Kay Brady speaks about receiving calls from Saguaro about the contract monitor. Commissioner Torney requests more information regarding the contract monitor.
 - ii. Chair Patterson asks Dep-A if the contract monitor is accountable to the mainland branch administration. Dep-A confirms that the mainland branch hires the contract monitor and oversees that monitor.

X. Announcements and Scheduling of the Next Meeting (1:16:00)

- Next meeting Thursday, June 12, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
 - i. Maui Community College – Commission meeting
 - ii. Facility Tour: MauiCommunity Correctional Center

XI. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
 George Choe, Special Assistant to Oversight Coordinator
 Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission