

Transcript

June 26, 2025, 7:52PM

CG **Choe, George** 0:01

Thanks folks.

Good morning, everyone.

Today's Thursday, June 26, approximately 10:00 AM and here we are at a white correctional system outside Commission.

Monthly meeting where we're here on the island of Maui at the University of Hawaii, Molly's campus.

So thank you for your age, allowing us to use their facilities.

I call this meeting to order at this time.

Commissioner Ronnie Barra present.

Commissioner Mark Brown.

BM **Browning, Robert M** 0:39

Here.

CG **Choe, George** 0:40

Me.

Thank you.

Commissioner Martha Turner, present Commissioner Mike Town is excused.

Today he was on the list. Yeah.

So, Mike, are you still here?

Did you hear the question?

Mission of our batteries.

I'm here.

So we have 4 at least present right now so we can recognize Mike and be online.

That being said, we do have quorum commissioners.

Can we take a look at the minutes of May 8, 2025 and I get a motion to accept?

So moved second, it's been moved by Commissioner Corne and seconded by Commissioner Ibar, that we accept the.

A minute meetings of May 8, 2025. Any further discussion?

Hearing none, all in favor.

Say hi. Hi.

BM **Browning, Robert M** 1:47

Aye.

CG **Choe, George** 1:48

Oh, poor CC. Any abstentions? Motion passes.

Everybody, can you test your mic?

Mark, Brownie, can you hear us?

BM **Browning, Robert M** 2:07

Yeah, I can hear you guys.

CG **Choe, George** 2:09

Catch your mic, please. We're trying to.

Oh, try again responding.

BM **Browning, Robert M** 2:16

I can hear you.

CG **Choe, George** 2:17

We still can't hear you.

George is trying to work it out.

BM **Browning, Robert M** 2:24

OK.

CG **Choe, George** 2:28

Can you try again, Judge Brown?

BM **Browning, Robert M** 2:30

Yes, I'm here.

CG **Choe, George** 2:33

Because I wasn't sure if I heard it.
Affirmative for the minutes from you.

BM **Browning, Robert M** 2:39
Yeah, I.

CG **Choe, George** 2:41
OK.

BM **Browning, Robert M** 2:43
Proof.

CG **Choe, George** 2:44
Wait, thank you.
We'll move forward on the item agenda #4. We have the monthly update from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. So no, will you be given that for Director Johnson today?

MS **Munoz, Sanna** 2:57
Good morning, everybody.
I will be director Johnson is currently out of state at a conference.
I'll be providing his report for him.

CG **Choe, George** 3:08
Thank you.

MS **Munoz, Sanna** 3:08
I apologize.

CG **Choe, George** 3:09
So good morning.

MS **Munoz, Sanna** 3:10
I'm fighting a cold, so I apologize in advance if I go through coughing if it's.
Mark, I'm sorry, I might have.

I might have not heard you.

You want me to go ahead with the report now?

CG **Choe, George** 3:28

Good morning.

And the floor is yours.

MS **Munoz, Sanna** 3:35

OK.

Thank you.

So for Ultra *****, there's no changes at this time.

The department received the \$30 million request to continue the planning and design to include the RFQ and RFP process.

Dcr will receive the \$15 million on July 1st of this year and the remaining 15,000,000 on July 1st of 2026.

That's all I have for. Oh, Triple C's report.

I think that there was going to be you wanted information regarding lockdowns in our facilities.

So some of the reasons for the lockdowns in the facilities is that we'll have facilities such As for contraband. Some of these searches will also include the use of the K9 units.

There's also lockdowns after a serious incident, so a housing unit, A housing modular entire facility can be.

Be locked down temporarily to ensure that the situation is stable and safe before returning to normal operations.

Also, as you all know, we also have staffing shortages, so that can result in the temporary shut lockdowns also and some of the there's not enough staff to conduct some of the normal operations like programs, visitations, recreation.

Sorry, some of the you know you guys are aware that we have the ACL shortage even with our aggressive recruitment efforts. We still have you know issues with staff calling it sick having approved you know family medical leave act, people being on annual vacation or military le.

So when we're, we're short staffed. Obviously there's times we have to lock the facility down temporarily.

And the sick calls sometimes. I mean, you know, there's times when those sick calls

during certain times can, you know, reach 40 to 60% levels.

And just to let you guys know, Director Johnson has a meeting with Upw scheduled for July 7th to try to reach a memorandum of understanding.

That they can agree upon and execute regarding the ACL work attendance.

And we just want to.

Make sure that it's clear.

The department recognizes the majority of our staff are hard working dedicated A/C OS and they show up and they're often having to stay over. For those that do not show up.

And this is creating exhaustion for our workforce.

There's morale issues for those people who are having to work these extended shifts and during those times it places the safety of the staff and those in our custody and care at risk.

We are, as a result of our vacancies.

Undone. Sorry.

I mean.

CG **Choe, George** 6:49

So.

MS **Munoz, Sanna** 6:52

Sorry about that. As a result of our vacancies, which we are steadily reducing in the ACL call outs for the sick leave and FMLA, the overtime costs have reached unsustainable levels on.

An example is ultra procedure in the calendar year 2024, our overtime costs exceeded 7.75 million.

Which is approximately \$21,232 per day to address the ACO strategies you guys are aware?

Having we're increasing our recruit classes so last year.

Sorry, in 2023 we held four class four classes.

Last year we held six classes and this year, with the inclusion of the Big Island classes will hold.

We're expected to hold 8 total classes, which would help us with the vacancies.

That's the oh and the DCR is also discussing ACO incentive program.

With both Upward and but more discussions between them are needed.
That's the only report I have so far. Thank you.

CG **Choe, George** 8:07

Astana, this is Martha.

I do have one question.

Oh, I'm so sorry for you.

And that has to do with your. I know that I know that hiring is a very difficult process right now that you're not having people.

Apply as much you like and also I don't know about the the background check but that may also be watching how people but I know you're saying we're having a lot of classes. I want to know.

Are you having people that are going to be in those classes?

Are you getting the applicants?

MS **Munoz, Sanna** 8:39

Actually, so you know, last in 2023, right?

We hired 56 ACOs.

CG **Choe, George** 8:53

And that hardly puts that into what you need.

MS **Munoz, Sanna** 8:54

Sorry, sorry. In 2024 we hired 136.

So far, we've hired 58 for this year, and tomorrow we graduate another 12.

I don't think we we have had a lot of interest and we have had you know with the increase of classes and the number of ACO recruits. I mean we are you know slowly you know chipping away at that vacancy.

CG **Choe, George** 9:15

Yes.

OK.

That's good enough.

I don't want to stress too.

I'm sorry.

MS **Munoz, Sanna** 9:32

Thank you.
Sorry about that.

CG **Choe, George** 9:40

Which are bringing any any comments?
Are your Mike is not on?
I'm sorry. Sorry. Hold on. Or else?

BM **Browning, Robert M** 9:48

I'm. I'm so, yeah, I'm so sorry about your cold, but I have a couple questions.

CG **Choe, George** 9:55

Hold on, judge.

BM **Browning, Robert M** 9:55

The most, yeah.

CG **Choe, George** 9:58

Before, before, with the Commissioners begin discussing.
I asked for a public testimony at this time.

BM **Browning, Robert M** 10:05

OK.
Thank you.

CG **Choe, George** 10:09

And any public that wishes to read have a remark or testimony on the current report
given by VCR signal by raising their hand or digital hand or waving.
Seeing none, go ahead, Jeff Brown.

BM **Browning, Robert M** 10:29

I was wondering the most recent lockdown that occurred at O Triple C.
How long did that last?

MS **Munoz, Sanna** 10:41

I'm sorry, judge. Which? Which lockdown are you referring to?
Do you have a date?

BM **Browning, Robert M** 10:48

It was last month, I believe.
At least was reported by the media.

MS **Munoz, Sanna** 11:01

Sorry, jud.
I asked because I would have to go back and check and I'll be able to respond to you
after I check in with the facility and get that answer for you.

BM **Browning, Robert M** 11:11

OK. And the second question, if you could follow up for me in writing too.
Is what was the reason for the lockdown?

MS **Munoz, Sanna** 11:22

I will get that information for you, judge.

BM **Browning, Robert M** 11:26

Thank you, ma'am.
I'm so sorry about your call.

CG **Choe, George** 11:33

Did you borrow?
I have no questions.
Thank you, sana.
Come on.
Thank you, Tyler.
See if I have a comment.

MS **Munoz, Sanna** 11:46

You're welcome.

CG **Choe, George** 11:48

It's just a statement. Yeah, based on.

The as a as a.

Former correctional officer.

And it kept.

Talk about lockdowns. It's normally.

A process of process that we utilize in order to react to a situation that requires.

Statute, yeah.

So either we need staffing at a certain location because of an incident or because of a a a contraband that needs to be found because it's a threat to the safety of the environment, they will lock the facilities and pull staff to deal with the situation. Yeah, and.

Once that's done, then, then it reopens.

But it's also usually don't have staff.

Yeah, staffing is always key to our lockdown situations.

Lockdown normally means.

Stop all business.

Yeah. So detrimental to programs such as visiting and educational and etc etc treatment.

Counseling. All of that comes to us as bus stop talking about this, because when we talk about attendance and we're talking about recruitment, when we when we have conversations.

It's with UB W.

It shouldn't be separate conversations. Dependence, retention and recruitment is one conversation, not separate conversations.

Because in order for tenants to improve, there needs to be incentives.

Incentives will help with retention and retention and and and health plans etc etc. Will help with recruit.

We need to look at all of those three issues as a single issue.

To improve.

Prove the professional development of correctional officers and staff.

Yeah, that they be giving what they deserve to work in the one of the most toxic environments that they have to go through every day.

So just a just a statement that I want to say and we're feeling we're probably

following later the attendance retention and recruitment is a single conversation, yeah, and should not separate.

So thank you, Sarah, for your presence. Appreciate you.

Take care of yourself.

OK.

MS **Munoz, Sanna** 14:21

Thank you everybody.

Judge Browning, when I respond to the Commission.

Regarding your question, I'll also include the additional information on the lockdown reasons. As Mark indicated, the search for the contraband and just give a little bit more context to my report.

I'm sorry, I'm cutting it short too.

Save you guys the pain of having to listen to me.

BM **Browning, Robert M** 14:47

No, thank you very much son.

I appreciate it very much.

CG **Choe, George** 14:49

So.

BM **Browning, Robert M** 14:50

Take care of yourself.

CG **Choe, George** 14:51

You put yourself.

To make new families campaign presentation.

What was important in the work that we do in corrections is how do we unify and restore and build families back together?

So forth rises, I mean, president.

CC **Celina Chapin (Worth Rises)** 15:15

Thank you so much for having me. Can you hear me?

CG **Choe, George** 15:18
Yes.

BM **Browning, Robert M** 15:18
No.

CC **Celina Chapin (Worth Rises)** 15:19
OK, awesome. I'm gonna try to share.
This I'm gonna try to share my screen so that you can see the presentation, OK.

CG **Choe, George** 15:27
1st.
Any introduction?

CC **Celina Chapin (Worth Rises)** 15:31
Yes, I'm Selena Chapin.
I'm the chief advocacy officer at worth rises.

CG **Choe, George** 15:35
OK.
Thank you.

CC **Celina Chapin (Worth Rises)** 15:38
So worth rises for those of you who are unfamiliar, is a nonprofit organization that that is dedicated to ending the exploitation of incarcerated.
People and their families across the United States, especially folks who are disproportionately impacted, you know, those are black, brown and native communities.
And we have helped pass and implement free prison and jail communication policies in several states across the country and in some counties as well, including the Federal Bureau of Prisons.
And also we for the past two sessions we have partnered with local organizations in Hawaii and other community members who are impacted by the carceral system.
To work to make prison communication free for Hawaiian families.

Who have an incarcerated family member?

And the bill unfortunately, did not pass.

The last couple of years.

Primarily this most recent session was due to a misunderstanding, some victim advocacy groups wrongly believed that it would defund the staff in system. I'm gonna get into it in a couple of slides, but the newly passed FCC regulations actually defund this admin system and require the DOC to.

Find alternative funding for seven, so I'll get in there. I'll get there in a little bit.

But first I want to.

And talk about why free communication is so important.

Right now, \$1.3 million is spent by families in Hawaii each year just to stay connected to their incarcerated loved ones.

That ends up being really, really steep for families of incarcerated people.

A study found that one in three families with an incarcerated loved one go into debt over trying to stay connected alone.

An 87% of those impacted are women and disproportionately native families.

This has a huge, huge impact on children, in particular myself.

My mom is formerly incarcerated. I can tell you that being able to contact your family member, especially when you are a kid and you can't work and you can't make money and you're incarcerated, family member, is behind walls.

They also can't make any money and makes all of the difference in the world.

Both for that child outcome as they grow up and also for that parents to be able to stay connected and have a successful re entry.

So it has a huge, huge impact on the family.

So now I'm gonna jump into the FCC regulations because this presentation is both kind of about the campaign and why it's so important for people inside of prison to be able to call their family members outside and vice versa, but also about the FCC regulations, which we hope.

That Hawaii?

Can prioritize as implementing as soon as possible, regardless of what happens with legislation.

So under the new FCC regulations.

Correctional telecom vendors must cap prison phone rates at six cents per minute, and video rates at \$0.16 per minute.

They must eliminate all deposit and ancillary fees and they must end all Commission

arrangements so you know that encompasses all kinds of things.

But for Hawaii, it encompasses this abundant system.

So under the FCC regulations, it is illegal for Hawaii to take any Commission, including funding 7.

And also they cannot charge agencies directly for most security and surveillance services.

You know, we don't charge incarcerated people for security, for their to them, to have an in person visit. So it doesn't make a lot of sense to then do that for, you know, security for phone calls and things like that.

There was a bit of a misunderstanding. It seems like Hawaii.

Would have had to go into compliance at the end of this year.

Because of when their contract was formed and expired.

So it's kind of like a timeline thing, however.

Because Hawaii's telecom contract has a change in law provision.

Hawaii was supposed to be in compliance on January 1st of this year.

So Hawaii has been out of compliance for six months at this point?

Which, you know, we believe is detrimental to families.

There's a reason why the FCC passed these regulations.

And we understand the misunderstanding of the FCC.

Document regulations are very, very long, and this change of law provision is in a footnote, but still does require Hawaii to have been in compliance already. And as far as we know, it is not.

Why Hawaii must act now? Families in Hawaii are uniquely disconnected from their incarcerated loved ones.

I talked about why it's so important to be able to have that contact.

It's especially important in Hawaii because many incarcerated people in Hawaii are are incarcerated far away from their families. Some are either.

Some are also incarcerated in the United States.

Making it particularly difficult for people to have those in person visit.

And families are increasingly struggling to bear the burden of exorbitant communication costs. And now, like I said, Savin is operating in violation of federal regulations.

And risks legal challenge and also funding.

We certainly when we were passing this, when we're not passing when we were.

Advancing this legislation over the last couple of years, we were urging the

Department of Corrections to find alternative funding for seven because we also want seven to be funded.

The new like we said, the new FCC regulations already require.

The DCR to take on many of the costs currently embedded in prison communication services and in doing so limit the fiscal impact of making communication fully free.

So my point to this presentation is that I hope that you all will support connecting families legislation in the in the 2026 session. We do hope to reintroduce it, but also to urge the DCR to bring its telecom contract.

Into compliance with the FCC regulations.

Immediately.

Yeah, I'm happy to take any questions.

I'm gonna stop sharing my screen.

Stop sharing.

And again, I really, really appreciate your time.

CG **Choe, George** 23:09

Public testimony on the presentation.

That was just.

Taken no, I did or.

CC **Celina Chapin (Worth Rises)** 23:15

OK.

Some reason I can't hear you very well.

Will you repeat that?

CG **Choe, George** 23:23

You have a question you want to say it, Christine, related to this, yes.

CC **Celina Chapin (Worth Rises)** 23:28

Sure.

TF **Toni Floerke** 23:30

If this is already an FCC passed regulation, why are we not in compliance?

There's a lot of lawyers and judges in the room. Thank you.

Maybe is there?

Do we have to wait for a legislative session to act on this?

No, right?

CG **Choe, George** 23:51

Thank you. Included in the contract, a change in law would require us to require providers to change.

We don't have the answer to that question right now, Tony. We'll find out.

TF **Toni Floerke** 24:05

OK.

Thank you.

MS **Munoz, Sanna** 24:13

I just wanted to do a brief comment.

CG **Choe, George** 24:13

Sorry.

MS **Munoz, Sanna** 24:20

Sorry.

CG **Choe, George** 24:20

Go ahead, Sir.

MS **Munoz, Sanna** 24:23

Hi, Celina.

We met with Selena before the legislative session.

CC **Celina Chapin (Worth Rises)** 24:24

Hi, it's good to see you again.

MS **Munoz, Sanna** 24:26

It's nice to see you.

CC **Celina Chapin (Worth Rises)** 24:28

I'm so sorry that you're sick.

MS **Munoz, Sanna** 24:31

Thank you.

So just to let you know, we have a meeting with the VIP at company August 5th, at which time we'll be reviewing or discussing our contract. That like Selina indicated ends at the end of this year.

We've discussed it with our Attorney General's office and according to our Attorney General's office, we do have till.

December 31st of this year to bring ourselves into compliance.

We are in.

We are already in compliance.

With the telephone calls.

The federal.

Federally, it's required that you can't charge more than 6 minutes.

We charge under that.

So it's, I think 5.054 cents per minute.

Our video.

Calls are the ones that we have to move change from \$0.25 to \$0.16 to meet federal regulations and.

I do want to let everybody know that inmates, every inmate does get 5 free minutes of phone calls.

Every week.

That they're allowed to use. Thank you.

CG **Choe, George** 25:54

How many minutes do they get per week? I'm sorry.

MS **Munoz, Sanna** 26:03

Sorry Kristen, I didn't hear you.

CG **Choe, George** 26:06

How? How many free minutes do people in custody get per week?
5 minutes per day.

MS **Munoz, Sanna** 26:17
5.

CG **Choe, George** 26:18
5 minutes, OK.
Thank you.

CC **Celina Chapin (Worth Rises)** 26:25
Thank you so much for that comment as well.
I will.
Kind of need to be in touch with you.
Offline.
Like I said before, the previous understanding was that Hawaii had until December to the end of the year, but we've been in many, many conversations with the FCC working.
Regulations over 100 times.
And they have confirmed that due to that footnote and the change of law provision, Hawaii is not.
Is no longer as previously thought.
Eligible for the extension until December, but I will connect again with the DCR and become like kind of like you know sort that out.

CG **Choe, George** 27:14
Peanut pepper.

MS **Munoz, Sanna** 27:15
We also circle back to our ads office.

CG **Choe, George** 27:21
Gary, I'm new comment carrier.

CS **Carrie Ann Shirota** 27:26

Yes, hello everyone.

Carrie Ann Chiroso from ACLU Hawaii.

Thank you so much Celina for your presentation.

This is a really important legislation and so I have some comments and maybe some questions that the question is maybe for clarification for all of the Community.

I understand that the Department of Corrections that they're charging a rate that's less than what FCC is mandating under rules, but is it the point of this?

Legislation to make the phone calls free.

Because rather than even if it's under the amount, the goal of this legislation is to make it free, as you mentioned. If people are visiting in person, but some people cannot make it to the facility, sometimes they can't afford the cost of a plane ticket from Maui to.

Visit their loved one in Honolulu at Halawa or women's, or when they're transferred out of state to swirl. So if you could please clarify that point and then.

I guess the second point is I'm asking the Commission if the Commission is willing to take.

A position in support of this legislation before the next session, and then we also have, I think, one or more lawmakers here with us.

What can lawmakers do to help advance this legislation in the next session?

So thank you, Selena.

CC **Celina Chapin (Worth Rises)** 28:44

Yes, the legislation does make phone calls free. Like I said before, even a few cents makes a huge difference when you are inside and you can't work or when you are outside and you've, for one thing, lost.

Someone who could potentially be making money for your family or you're a kid and you cannot make any money.

And children really shouldn't have to ration out in minutes.

Or how much they can talk to their family.

Sometimes you need to be able to call your parents.

So yes, thank you so much for that question and clarification. Carry on.

CG **Choe, George** 29:30

Mm hmm.

Anybody else OK.

We'll move on to the Commissioner discussion, Commissioner Browning, any comments?

You're muted.

Yeah. Wait, Mark, you're muted.

BM **Browning, Robert M** 29:53
No.

TF **Toni Floerke** 29:53
Cat had a comment.

BM **Browning, Robert M** 29:54
I'm sorry, I think.
That.

CG **Choe, George** 29:58
We have follow one test in morning.
We call upon you.
You gave one already. Tony was moving on.

TF **Toni Floerke** 30:04
Right, Cat's Cat's trying to flag you guys down.
She's not able to speak yet.

CG **Choe, George** 30:12
Oh, OK. OK, hold on.
Sorry I didn't see you on the screen yet.
Hold on. George is getting to you.
Can you unmute your mic there?
I skip a bit.
OK, we can see you now.
Let's see if we can hear your cat.
No, we can't hear you yet.
Hold on, it says me your muted.
Yeah.

You have to unmute unmute yourself here.
Yeah, but he also mute her.
What?
Oh yes, that is yourself.
Oh, you have to do it.
You have to unmute yourself, Kat, according to George.
No, you can't get.
Very frustrating person.
On the corner.
Can I see if he's trying hard, but we're not?
He's not successful.
I'm very sorry.
Oh, skip.
Yeah. Do you have an icon that that shows that your microphone's not on?
It's supposed to be.
Oh, that's not fair. That's true.



Kat Brady 31:58

OK.
I'm there.
All right.
Thank you, Celina.
I really appreciate the work. The work rises presentation and working with us for several years to actually bring justice to people inside.
I can't overestimate how important it is to be able to connect.
You know when somebody is incarcerated, it is not one person, it is their whole family and it is we need to.
Especially in Hawaii where family centric, we need to actually facilitate this as much as possible.
I know so many adults whose parents were in prison when they were kids, and it has lifelong impacts because they missed so much with their parent and I just wanna.
Under score and beg the Commission to support this.
It is so important.
Thank you so much.

CG **Choe, George** 33:08
Good, good to hear your voice catch.

KB **Kat Brady** 33:13
OK.

CG **Choe, George** 33:14
OK.

KB **Kat Brady** 33:14
So.

CG **Choe, George** 33:15
We'll go ahead and move on back to you, Commissioner Brown.
Make sure we can hear him.

BM **Browning, Robert M** 33:25
I think there's.

CG **Choe, George** 33:25
Alright, we can.

BM **Browning, Robert M** 33:28
I think it's eminently.
Important and reasonable and compassionate and sensible for all the reasons stated
to support this bill, and I would urge all the Commissioners to lend their support.

CG **Choe, George** 33:50
I just want to remind my Commissioners that for the past two years we've supported
this bill.
Submitted written testimony, and I think we've also touched upon it in person in
supporting this bill.
Yeah, I I join Commissioner Browning.
Boyfriend that we support.

Hopefully someday it'll pass soon.

And again, we have supported this in the past.

I've been the best of fire at times.

We all we understand the Commission very much the importance of that, those family connections.

OK.

So pitcher of.

Personal phone calls in the direction of city based off of my experiences.

Two in the afternoon to 10:00 at night.

Shift is mostly when all the phone calls are made.

People are working and the kids are in school.

You can have a 2:00 to 10:00 time period when you try to make your phone call the old days.

Two to 10 was a very unpopular shift, because that's all the A/C OS did for personal phone call.

You would get the list with the individual. Read the phone number, make the call you make the contact, and then you transfer it to the phone for the app.

Then you OK.

Then you have to time it.

And they try to get him off after 10 minutes and then do the next one, right.

Because in in a housing setting you know, you try and be fair.

So everybody has uses of the phone and one guy doesn't monopolize the phone for an hour or one group.

Don't monopolize the phone.

So it it was a tedious task. You know in in halal you on a single ship you can do between 40 or 50 phone calls and they don't. Period.

A block of 120, you have 4 folds of it, yeah.

And so that's just share the logistics of making a phone call when they buy in the new system.

All we all the office dealers control power.

So you would call the individual up to make the phone call turn on the power he he picked it up, the operator came on and charges.

So it was way easier than what we were having to do it ourselves.

But that being said, just giving you a picture of how phone calls are doing.

'Cause, you still have to manage the phone to make it fair and accessible to

everyone, and normally a a block of 100. Not everybody's gonna make the phone call on a Monday, so you're gonna separate it into groups. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, only phone calls.

Another weekend.

So that's a system that was in place, you know, 2530 years ago.

With that being said, that's just processes and procedures that can be worked out and improved by the individual facilities based on their housing.

I'm just sharing you a picture.

It's not just as easy as someone to go over there, pick up a phone and make a phone.

There's a lot of things to consider in regards to the security and the usage of the phone, but that being said, I still support it strongly that the communication should be free. I do believe in everything that.

Arthrisers you can have the negative and the positive of phone calls in regards to coded talk and and chatting of narcotics.

All kinds of crazy stuff, but I think the good outweighs the bad at this particular point in regards to our long term rehabilitated goals, terms of United family and providing free entry opportunities for. That's why I'm stay on it.

I just wanna make one other comment is I wanna see that expanded to the video calls.

Especially parents with their children really wanna be able to see them for free.

Be able to have these video calls so they can see their children.

And their children can see that.

Thank you very much.

Elena for being here appreciative.

I know you'll be available if we have any more further questions.

Thank you for the work that you're doing.

 **Celina Chapin (Worth Rises)** 38:15

Thank you so much.

Thank you for having me.

Thank you for the work that you do. And yes, please reach out if you have any questions at all.

 **Choe, George** 38:23

Thank you.

Our next agenda, item number six, discussion on seven, Bill 104.

This is on our agenda because it has to do with restrictive housing.

A cat has a lot to say about this.

We have a lot to say.

We have a lot to say about this too, but it's only agenda because there is a a public announcement of the governor's intent to veto this bill.

So at this time, we'll take some public testimony on the subject before the Commissioners begin their discussion.

KB **Kat Brady** 39:02
Whoops.

CG **Choe, George** 39:02
Go ahead.

KB **Kat Brady** 39:04
Yes, I have a lot to say.

CG **Choe, George** 39:04
We can hear you.

KB **Kat Brady** 39:05
I have a lot to say about this.
There have been so many deaths in solitary segregation, and the department has testified that, you know, Hawaii has this unique thing. We put somebody in disciplinary segregation. They're in there for 30 days, which should be 15, and they come out for a day.

BM **Browning, Robert M** 39:18
OK.

KB **Kat Brady** 39:32
And then they're in admin segregation and they go back and forth. And this session, actually the department testified.
We don't do that.

And yet I got a call from Saguaro where a man I've been speaking to for about 20 years said, you know, I just saw my friend and he was out of segregation.

So the next day I went to.

Find him. And he wasn't there.

And he apparently went back to another form of segregation.

So we need truth.

We need honesty.

It is very difficult for the Community to say things and then hear the department say, oh, we don't do that anymore.

I'm talking to people who are incarcerated, who are telling me this is happening.

So I don't know how to get the truth from the department, but it's really impacting how people view the government, that there's no trust there.

BM **Browning, Robert M** 40:36

Yeah.

KB **Kat Brady** 40:42

And I beg you, too many people have died.

And under this current administration.

And yet they're very slow to.

Actually release the reasons and under a former Ag who said, well, that's part of HIPAA and we're not allowed to.

I'm like, HIPAA is about healthcare. These people are dead.

And their families and their friends have a right to know what happened.

So I don't know how we can do this, but we need truth.

Thank you.

CG **Choe, George** 41:26

Anybody else?

We can't see everybody on the screen, so we don't know who's raising their hand.

CS **Carrie Ann Shirota** 41:29

Yes.

CG **Choe, George** 41:32

I see.

Carrie Ann wants to speak.

CS **Carrie Ann Shirota** 41:35

OK.

Thank you so much, Martha.

So just to reiterate, ACLU of Hawaii strongly supports SP104. We have reached out to the governor and have strongly encouraged him not to veto this measure.

We would like to point out, in addition to the Commission cap, ACLU, there are a number of Community organizations that support this measure, including the Office of Hawaiian Affairs unlock the box, which is a national organization, and many of you may see that there were two medical PROV.

Experts who weighed in with an op-ed piece urging Governor Greene to not veto this measure.

The fact that it's on there is quite baffling. I think. What was more even troubling is that part of the rationale seems to be pointing fingers to suggest as if the oversight Commission is not supporting the bill, which is factually erroneous.

You supported this bill throughout the session and I think that record needs to be made clear and I think this is almost like a line in the sand for ACLU governor has announced that we are.

Comma informed care state and to not have guardrails and restrictions and solitary confinement. And to not have these rules apply both in our jails and prisons and out of state private prisons is unconscionable and would be trauma inducing.

And so we just continue to sort of reach out to our community here. If anyone has not had the chance to reach out to the governor, now is the time to do so.

He has until July 9th.

And we thank you again Commission for strongly standing in support of these.

Much overdue needed statute and regulations.

To prevent deaths and all sorts of harm. Thank you.

CG **Choe, George** 43:20

Can you see any other hands up?

TF **Toni Floerke** 43:24

Would love to hear any comments from Republicans.

CG **Choe, George** 43:28

No, but we're not going to call people out in the meeting who attended this meeting.

This is a safe space for all participants, so we're not going to call their people out. Thank you.

TF **Toni Floerke** 43:40

I'm not meaning it in a negative way at all. I know her.

CG **Choe, George** 43:49

No more public testimony at this time.

I'll switch off Mr. Farhad.

Oh yeah, we got a lot.

You know the first person that brought the attention of how dangerous isolation was, the corrections to the attention of people of government in the United States with Trump Dickens in 1842.

And we all know it can be very harmful to people to be in isolation for a long time. It is so harmful, but it's so hidden.

Then more than 20 states have already passed legislation to control this to ensure that this hidden practice comes out in the open and it is.

It is the legislature and law that is controlling how long people can go in. One thing I noticed, we visit the correctional facilities and before.

Warden Shell arrived at O Triple C, The holding unit there has 36 cells in it.

It was built in 1936 and 36 cells.

And the first time that we visited, they were only the 1st 14 years and they were single celled. The second time we visited after the warden arrived, the place was full and some of the cells were even double cell. We were told the reason that happened was because.

Of gang activity.

I don't know what it is, but that change was.

Black and white.

It totally changed it.

I'm very concerned about the people sending their cells.

But it's not only the people that are in special holding.

It's not only the disciplinary and the management itself, it is people who are living in their regular selves. I know triple C when we were visiting one time in the corner South of one of the modules I believe was module 11, which is a little bit larger than. Other cells.

I think it's about 120 square feet.

They were five inmates living in that module in that cell and they said they were out of their cell for not more than 4 hours a day.

They came out to eat their meals and they came out one hour in the morning and one hour later in the day. So that means 20 hours a day. Five people are locked in 120 square feet and we wonder why we have problems with mental health.

Or, exacerbating exacerbating mental health problems and an increase in suicides. And I'm very disturbed that the governor is considering legalizing spell.

I'm off my my soapbox.

Mission brawl.

BM **Browning, Robert M** 46:24

I agree with.

Commissioner, 20, you know I I think all of us have been deeply troubled by the number of times we have walked into facilities and gone through them and.

Come upon a situation where.

As our last visit on the Big Island, as I recall, there were about four inmates who.

Were not informal segregation, not in any kind of formal status.

But they were had kept in themselves for 23 hours.

And allowed to come out.

To watch not to go outside.

But to watch whatever was on the television set, that was up above, near the ceiling.

You know, and I I want to say I appreciate all the the the problems that the Department of Corrections has.

We we understand that and but, but that doesn't mean that we sacrifice our humanity and our values and what we consider important, particularly in with a legacy of Hawaii and Hawaiian culture that we have.

And so I I.

Talked to those young men and other commissioners.

Talk to those young men and and I have to say that, you know, I was deeply, deeply affected.

Somewhat. I mean, I'm just gonna use the word traumatized. Bothered by, by that experience. I don't know how anybody stays sane in that situation.

I don't know how anybody's gonna say.

I don't know how you come out of that particular situation and find any way towards a path of rehabilitation.

I don't know how any of that helps our community.

You know.

I believe we have a wonderful community.

I really do.

I think we have great values, but I don't think that we live them.

If.

We turn a blind eye to these types of situations.

So thank you for the opportunity.

I'm sorry I went on too long.

CG **Choe, George** 49:11

What?

Well, yeah, I I I agree with supporting this bill previously and a position still remain the same and certainly I understand corrections they have to deal with the certain situation which warrant restricted call.

But let's bring it all out.

You know, be transparent about it.

You need to administer the population and things like that, so I'm not saying that.

Absolutely no restrictive policy or saying it's let's bring it out. Let's set some guidelines and the public and everyone participate in the stakeholders to address the problem. If Martha brought out.

That brownie brought out expired. Too much restrictive housing.

So I think it can be a balanced, balanced way to address public safety's concern as well as treating the inmates.

Compassion and not forgetting that we're all human beings.

They're gonna come out someday and basically we have to focus on the rehabilitation and recognizing what public safety field correction has to do with us.

So I think it can be resolved to a balanced approach that's addressed through transparency.

That allowed you to have something you want to speak.

R

Rep. Della Au Belatti, HD26 50:46

Thank you, chair Patterson.

Thank you, commissioners.

This is my first attendance at this oversight Commission meeting and I apologize that I'm not familiar with the rules.

As a public member, I don't take any offense to any questions being asked of me, and if it's appropriate, I will comment on the agenda item, which I believe is Senate Bill 104.

I am supportive of the passage of this bill.

You know, I've been speaking about it with my colleagues.

And I think in good faith there was a lot of effort put into this.

BM

Browning, Robert M 51:19

OK.

R

Rep. Della Au Belatti, HD26 51:20

I was especially I am especially excited about the working group that is embedded in this bill.

So until the July 9th deadline, you can be rest assured that I am supportive of this and I think we need to move forward.

With the work that needs to be done and that we need some of the basic guardrails in this bill, I will say one thing about this bill that we did purposefully was.

That the provisions in this bill are not do not need to be implemented actually until July 2026. And the reason for that, the reason why I put that in there in that manner was because.

If there's anything in the legislation that would cause any implementation problems, we could address that within the legislative session.

So that the department would not be unnecessarily.

Curtailed. We're, we're we're in a situation where lockdowns and segregation and solitary confinement is used.

So what I want to make sure is that we have some guardrails in place that we do allow the time for the department to implement what needs to happen. And so I I think there's enough.

Flexibility in the bill to both implement some guard rails that we that we in the

Community has long advocated for.

As well as create a space where we can talk about more provisions.

Around the treatment of those with serious mental illness, and so for those reasons, I'm very supportive of this bill passing and that's what I can share.

So I take no offense to the question being asked, but I do want to respect the.

Protocols. The sunshine rules around Commission hearing, which I frankly am not familiar with. So thank you, chair for this opportunity to comment on this agenda item.

CG **Choe, George** 53:20

Thank you.

George has one more.

Karen, hi.

Karen, you have a comment?

And you still look muted, Caroline.

CE **Carolyn Eaton** 53:33

I I do have a comment.

Can you hear me?

CG **Choe, George** 53:36

Yes, yes.

CE **Carolyn Eaton** 53:39

I hope the the governor will change his mind and sign it. If he's listening to the the one testifier.

The department.

Rehabilitate corrections and rehabilitation, the one testifier.

Who testified against this?

I I guess there was somebody from Waikiki who may have testified against it.

I was there in the room at one of the hearings, and I agree with.

Commissioner Browning, that to live by our values.

It has to change now, now.

Not in 26.

This this director of Corrections needs to be.

Replaced, frankly.

Thank you for the time.

CG **Choe, George** 54:41

Thank you, Carolyn, for the comments.

Today's meeting is joined a lot of memories for me, so I'm sorry if I keep on bringing it up.

I spent 12 years as an ACL3.

In eight of those years were in segregated units.

And so in your second grade units?

There are all the two of classifications being how's the 23 hour lockdown?

BM **Browning, Robert M** 55:08

Thank you.

CG **Choe, George** 55:14

And you're talking about?

Normally, unmanageable situations or individuals that were trying to figure out the facilities trying to figure out how to manage.

So you will have the most volatile mental health. Yeah. So you put them in a in a in a secured setting because you have you have safety issues or his safety. And for the safety of the general population.

You'll have issues with behavior component.

Yeah, disciplinary.

Or gang related.

Yeah, administrative segregation. You can have individuals requesting requesting protection, yeah. Or we call protective custody and then.

Of course I mentioned you'll have specification issues which is maximum close custody because of their points, their houses, that type of setting. So.

I want to agree.

A lock with what Judge Barr said there is there is need for this type of restrictive housing and from my perspective it's really to have a place in space to manage a situation that has done out of control that we could place somebody's. We figure out how.

We're going to manage.

The problem is we think it's the end solution and they get left there.

Yeah, we have to understand that they have to be managed once we put them into that situation.

And there needs to be oversight. Correctional officers do not put individuals into restrictive housing. Those are administrative decisions.

That will, captain and above the ward. Yeah. And so there needs to be intentional focus on administration if you're going to put a body into restrictive housing, what are you doing to manage it?

Yeah. What are the safeguards?

What are the protocols to ensure that at the specific time?

Craves what's being done, and sometimes cat and I agree with you.

It is a simple solution to take EM off of discipline area after 15 days.

Put them on.

Say so.

You break the 50, you meet the 15 day mark and they put EM back on another 15 after that.

That's practice.

That I've seen in the past we're talking about now. So with that being said.

There needs to be oversight, unrestricted housing and a better process to understand.

And that it is a temporary solution to.

While we work on potential solution and I've seen guys in restricted housing for years.

Literally years.

So that's my comment.

We want to continue to encourage the governor.

Do we have a date on when this is supposed to happen?

The 15th.

July in July? Yeah, July 9th.

Yeah, July 9th.

Have we already gave any kind of response to the governor on the part of be affirming our position?

So.

Yeah.

Standard practice of the governor's office, when availed, is to reach out to the

different agencies who.

Shared any view on it.

And so we were invited to speak with the governor's policy team and Commissioner Tommy and I did that together.

And so we did reiterate the importance of this bill and a few concerns that we had actually specifically with the VL language, one of the areas that was noted in the bill language was that the department's current restrictive restrictive housing policy is an alignment with federal stand.

We found that that's not, that's not accurate, that's not accurate.

Statement there's. There's still many things that should be updated and added to make it in a line of federal standards, including ACA standards. And then obviously it also talked about how, you know, the department is willing to work with the Commission, you know, to to, to update those.

Policies to make the process better.

And although I appreciate that sentiment, one thing we make clear, so we've been reporting on this for years.

We've been reporting consistently on our concern of individuals being locked down and and again, not just individuals in actual restricted housing, but individuals in general population being locked in for 22 hours a day, 23 hours a day, etcetera. And so we made it very clear that.

We appreciate the fence when we want to work with the department.

There's no doubt about that.

But I guess this request for a partnership is a little unclear.

But for me, because we have been reporting out on this since the lien, we haven't seen change within that time frame of individuals being let out of their cells more than what we're seeing now. And a friend of a reminder to everybody watching, we go into the FAC.

Consistently.

This is not a once a year thing for us.

We're in the facilities collectively as staff and commissioners every month, and then staff goes in facilities more.

So.

So do you answer your question?

Yes, we did speak to the governor's office about all of this and all of our concerns.

And you know, it's our hope that the ability passed.

Is and we can report.

Thank you, Kristen. Appreciate all of that.

Great discussion.

We'll move on to item number 7.

Overview of oversight board.

Please. Thank you.

Hello everyone. My name is Kristen Johnson.

I'm the oversight coordinator. For those of you who may be unfamiliar with the meeting on this is a report that we're required by law to put out every month, and it just covers all the actions that the Commission and the office have taken in the previous month.

To be sure that we're keeping the public updated, one thing that we always report on is that the custody and so I do want to note to the Commissioners, I have a late notice here from an April depth that occurs the department.

The notify us on time. I actually missed it in the last report cycle.

Apologize for that.

But on April 12, 2025, at approximately 1:03 AM, a 24 year old Hawaiian male passen, unresponsive at the Halal Correctional Facility 911 was called, and Acosta immediately administer CPR. At approximately 2:01 AM, EMS arrived and continued to administer C.

Until approximately 2:28 AM, then the individual was unfortunately pronounced dead.

This incident does appear to be a suicide, which is the first appearance inside of this year. The Maple Examiner will determine the official cause of death following an autopsy which doesn't include toxicology testing.

And then we have two deaths in custody in May on May 17th, 2025, and approximately 6:50 AM. The 29 year old recognition male and was found unresponsive with a lot of Correctional Facility.

Responding Ato immediately.

Admitted DPR.

And 911 services were called at approximately 7:17 AM. EMS personnel arrived at the facility, but unfortunately at 7:54 AM, the individual was pronounced deceased and this appears to be the second parent suicide this year.

Again, an autopsy report will be conducted. Then third, on May 29, 2025, at approximately 10:12 AM, DCR was notified.

That a 37 year old Hawaiian male custody was pronounced deceased.

If you've got hard drive Polyamy hospital in the ICU.

This individual was from Halawa Correctional Facility and was hospitalized after staff found him in his cell under the influence of an unknown substance.

DPR was conducted until EMS arrived to transport the individuals at the hospital and again for the Sunday medical exam.

We'll determine the official cause of death.

So we're sad to hear about all of those that you have seen and hope to see you report any additional coming out.

For tours that we've completed so staff attended staff, the Hope Center ministries in Kainua.

This is a faith-based residential recovery program that offers a structured 12 month model including 24/7 peerless support.

It was a fantastic visit staff also attended.

The White State hospital resource fair. This was a great opportunity for vendors and community members to come together.

There was music playing by patients and activities like sand art and plant medicine education.

This was an event that was really focused on healing and integrating folks coming out of state hospital back into the community.

For events attended, staff attended the Law department facility graduation ceremony, which occurred on May 8.

9 individuals who are incarcerated.

Received their associate of arts degrees in business from Shaman University, and so we congratulate those individuals and also really appreciate DC Rs effort to partner with Shanda. That's that's a really incredible program and also the DCR allows family members to come to that graduation.

It's a really special event and so we appreciate their efforts with that. Staff also attended the Holly Nani Resource group.

This was the first resource fair Jamestown on the Big Island.

For each trip C folks.

So fantastic event. It's really well and it sounds like there's going to be more coming soon.

Staff also attended the Quarterly Forum for Jail and Prison Oversight.

That forum was really focused on the prison Rape Elimination Act, the current federal

administration, as most people are aware, has been taking down some really important.

Document. Yeah, I have information.

Everything right.

Yeah. And so this forum was for oversight practitioners to come together and basically figure out how can we collect all these documents?

Before they're removed so that you still have them to reference.

And so luckily, that was a successful effort.

And even if it's removed from federal site, we still have it still.

And then lastly, Commissioner Patterson, I conducted a presentation.

The annual public offering seminar that was a really great event.

We really just gave an idea of what our offices and what we see and and the general. Concerns that we have about the facilities and the importance of what the public defenders do and then we got to hear a lot of questions that they had. And so it was really great event and we're excited to continue to build our relationship with the public defender's.

Office.

I'm in for projects, really just the case management. We're excited for July.

Wonderful, because the volume of the budget bill is signed.

We will be getting new payment system and I am wildly eager to start that process.

We have our vendor lined up and so you know we just need the funding will move forward on that and that's really really going to help with our investigative process and for public reports. Last month, we did publish our report on the Hawaii Community Correctional Center site.

The observation and again.

You know, after these missionaries and theft collectively go to the facilities and after those particular visits, we put out a report of finding kind of covering what we saw, what our concerns are. You know, the things that may have occurred etcetera.

And then most importantly, we post recommendations and so this report included. Four recommendations that was included from previous reports and then also two. New recommendations and so again, that that report, along with all of our other reports, can be found on our website.

And other than that, that is it for the monthly overshoot report. Thank you.

OK. Just going to go and continue with Christian and item number 8 overview of the Quiet Community Correctional Center Tour report that we did last month. OK.

Is there any public testimony on the annual for the Oversight Matters Report Coordinators monthly report.

Really. Thank you.

I I'm gonna take your assignments as our oversight coordinators are doing a good job and putting everything in the report that you don't have any questions.

So thank you.

And it it is good.

It's great reading great transcripts.

Now we'll move on to the overview of the Kauai Community Correctional Center Tour.

Thank you, chair.

So last month the Commission had toured the Kauai Community Correctional Facilities K Triple C.

And there are some pretty interesting finding from this tour. One of the interesting things was that the population was lowered from this tour and last year's tour the population was.

By 26%.

It's a huge impact for the facility and and how they're able to manage the population.

So we were really excited to see that drop.

I do want to contribute at least some of that drop to the prosecutor.

I think she does really fantastic work.

She started diversion program last year.

I don't know if all of us have contributed to that, but I think diversion is important.

I want to give her a shout out.

I also have some re entry staff position.

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

And the prosecutor's office. Yeah, that's true.

For ongoing construction projects, as you know, there have been a few going on in the last couple years. The Commission had visited, but this time the construction on the sewer main and the water main was completed, which means that's no longer preventing the kitchen from being repaired or.

Replaced and also the holding unit that previously were not able to be used.

Are able to use.

It's great the shipping container housing is no longer being used for housing.

We were thrilled to see that and again that's because of that population drop. You know, they didn't feel that they have to use that space.

In module A we did have some folks report spending 22 hours per day in their cell. They claimed that this was due to staff shortages.

And again, the Commission does find this unacceptable.

That's that's just too long.

That's too long to be in a cell spectrum general population.

In the holding cells I want to read this part because this was really concerning to some Commissioners, so within the holding cells, the Commission observed a woman upholding self reported had serious mental health needs.

The Commission is concerned that if the woman in custody is exhibiting mental health conditions, the conditions of the holding unit could potentially.

Deteriorate from the health condition further helping women in men's facilities severely limits the facility's abilities to ensure that women are in environment that is more conducive and active, so their rehabilitation.

The Commission is also concerned that this particular woman is not getting the out of cell time that she needs as people with mental health conditions often require more supervision than those who do not have mental health conditions.

The Commission is concerned that extended periods of confinement and holding cell could be detrimental to anyone for 40 mental health conditions, but of course, particularly to women being in immense ability.

And so I just, I wanted to read that.

Sorry if I was feeling important.

It might've be again.

We talk to individuals and they're claiming that they are confined to their cells for 22 hours per day.

The population in that in that space is improved since last visit and that their housing, two people per staff more, but it's still concerning that the amount of out of cell time has not changed.

Sign.

Sorry, yes, I put six books.

Thank you so much, will see which was a really large dorm setting, ended up being closed. One in particular, low population, but two, actually due to low staffing, I did bring up to the staff, but I was a little bit concerned.

That the the dorm setting, right?

Like one of the more rehabilitative spaces was the one that was closed, but they explained that the people who are eligible to be in that space maybe 9 to 13, it just didn't.

It makes sense to have another officer posted there when they were so short and staff in general, which honestly did make sense to me.

We actually did not receive any complaints from the cabin and we didn't know any concerns. And again with the kitchen, the kitchen is in dire need of replacements. We've talked about this.

I think this was made the 4th time at this point that that we brought this up and so I do want to.

You know, we brought this up from the March 2023 tour.

And also the 2024 visit.

And now 2025.

Now we have been told that there is a a module system that was ordered and it should be arriving to the facility soon. If it hasn't arrived already. The staff there did have concerns on how it's going to make it there.

You can explain that part a little better. When we were there.

At the Michael Kitchen was already was located in Los Angeles, getting ready.

We're making the Long Beach, getting ready to be loaded onto a barge, and the vehicle that was pulling it, the axles broke not once but twice, and they had to keep on getting larger vehicles for. We believe that a fireman came onto the barge that was moved to.

Hawaii, but the staff was concerned once it got to Hawaii.

It has the chain barges.

Probably going to young brothers.

She gets to know Willy, Willy and once I got to the Willy. Willy, it's the equipment on Kauai. Adequate enough to be able to haul this up these pieces out to the facility. So the staff was very concerned whether this was actually going to arrive at their facility.

I'm not sure what the status is right now.

I believe that it probably has arrived in Hawaii in the state.

I don't know whether it's arrived in Kauai yet.

Yeah. So still still very concerned about that situation for staffing shortages.

This this has been another issue that we've been bringing up consistently and one of the reasons why is when we did our very large staffing report where we surveyed

almost 1000 correction staff members went to every facility to talk to staff K Triple C was the most.

Devastating.

I've staff were so burned out.

Someone just didn't even want to talk to us. They didn't.

They had at that time been working with the 24 hour shift. I think now, especially with the lower population, they're working 16 to 724, but.

It's just very clear that they are so exhausted, so exhausted. And so one thing that the staff have brought up really consistently, our 12 hour shifts. And so we have recommended that to the department in the past.

We're recommending it again because again, this is something coming directly from the staff and the administration at the facility where they think that it's really going to make a difference for them and really help.

And the bottom line for the Commission is that what they're doing right now isn't working.

And so for me at least, I don't see the harm.

And even during the pilot program for a month or three months, just to see if it helps, you know, get these staff to work, but also give them a break.

During the interrupt, I just wanted to add to that as we go from facility to facility is that the Kauai facility that you can see the best relationship between the staff and the imparar Sir population so?

They're able to maintain that even though they are so very, very stressed.

Yeah. So we would do whatever we could to help improve their conditions.

We appreciate how those you care about what happens to those incarcerated.

Their stranger and rapture we have reported about this previously, but today I'm happy to report that there's no longer a straight share at a triple C at all.

So we really appreciate the department taking that concern seriously for the Rapture.

We did note that we didn't see a log that's maintained for when an individual.

Is put into the rapture.

There should be a lot of specifics that what we were told instead by staff is that they utilize kind of the priority to the priority system of reporting. The concern with that is that it can very easily get lost.

It's not easy to track if that's the way it's being reported, and so you know, if you want to make sure the department keeps that in mind and make sure they utilize a specific law for when that share is used.

And the importance of a log is logged on pre numbered pages, so you know that things are happening in this particular order and policy requires that certain people visit the unit at different times. If you do not have a log, you don't know that they were there at.

Those times anybody can take a sheet of paper and submit it later and say, Oh yeah, I was there.

So I do wish they they kept a lot.

You also need other documentation, but the log was very important.

So for previous recommendations to be considered by the Department of.

So again, these are recommendations we have put in our previous reports, but we continue to post them until we've received acknowledgement that either the department's not going to do it at all or they're working on it or accept wherever they are in that process. So #1.

Is immediately prioritize the construction and replacement of cage with the kitchen as it closes the dangerous threats individuals and staff being hurt due to its desperate condition in the intramuscular care and maintain the current flooring.

We do appreciate the apartment.

And replacing the kitchen completely.

I'm still concerned that the maintenance side of things does not occur in this entire time.

Yes.

Maintenance is very, very important for the safety of both staff and the persons that are incarcerated at these facilities, and the response time we talked about this last time we got from the department was that because of putting in a new kitchen.

Their dad's is responsible for the kitchen now, and the department has no control over it and can't do any maintenance. That is not true.

That is not true at all, and that floor must be repaired so that people cannot fall through now. Maybe by the time next week we talk about this, the new module kitchen will be down.

But I want to make it very clear, maintaining a facility at least enough that you can maintain safety is very, very important.

Second recommendation that was previously posted is to ensure individuals in the facility are receiving the most out of self time possible and alignment with rehabilitative and therapeutic environment.

So again, consistently for years folks have been reporting 22 hour a day lockdown.

And and it's not just coming from the people in custody.

I've confirmed this with staff with officers who are working in those units. They made it clear that 22 hours is the norm.

And when staff are available, or if there's enough staff, they might get an additional hour out, which means.

If on the best day they're spending 21 hours in themselves, which again is just is very, very concerning, additional recommendations to be considered by the Department of Corrections Rehabilitation is 1 to implement 12 hour shift. Again, this has also been posted in our staffings our staffing report.

That we did earlier this year, but we really wanted to put it back in this report to reiterate the importance for K Triple C specifically.

I just want to say one more time that they had surveyed their own staff and found that their staff is very, very interested in trying out the schedule and I think it would really help with their morale if the department would allow them to give a shot.

And next to enable all facilities to initiate and process emergency fires on site.

If our understanding that the hiring process is all done.

Through downtown or D her it's all, but it's all one side.

Not at the facilities and that has caused issues, particularly for neighbors. And so that was a recommendation that we added in to hopefully help out these facilities and hopefully help out with their staffing shortages.

So we'd like to thank K, triple C, the staff and the board, and for their time and their professionalism, their expertise during the tour. They're always very, very welcoming and we really appreciate their time.

I have one more comment about this. When we met with the warden and the Chief of Security and others, we learned that the department is now sending all warrants to wardens to an Nic training.

And that is very, very encouraging.

The the warden at KCC really felt he gained a lot by going to this training, but one of the things it said, Huntsville. I presume it's Huntsville, TX that they're going to.

And this is where you make connections with other people, other wardens in other states, other jurisdictions.

And with those contacts you can start improving what's happening at your facility.

So it's very, very encouraging that Director Johnson has been able to facilitate this and it's important to him to, I believe the Chief of Security will also be going.

After.

Any public comments on the report on the tour and inspection of the island of Hawaii last month?

Any further comments from the Commissioners?

We'll move forward to item number 9 on the agenda.

Thank you folks for being with us today.

I'm gonna open it up now for public comment.

The issues that we have that are attached to you right now or consideration for Commission agenda at the next meeting or something that you wanna share with us.

Again, we have George over here monitoring hands and digital, digital and voices, so. I'll just throw it out there.

Iran has.

Ronald.

RF **Ronald Fujiyoshi** 1:23:20

Mahalo greetings.

I'm Ronald Fujiyoshi, the treasurer of Ohana Hobakale, and I want to add my.

Comments to the call for Sanam Munoz, the deputy director, I had a bad cold and it took a long time for me to shake it off.

And so I can really empathize with her trying to give a report when she's in a coughing split.

Spit. I want to come really appreciate the Commissioners and the excellent staff for the work you're doing.

I wanted to go back to.

The some things that I've been talking about in the past about lifers and about how to get.

Longtime prisoners who are elderly, out of prison, and I refer back to the photo that I saw twice.

In a monthly report and in your annual report where you had Mark Patterson, the Chair and the coordinator, Christine Johnson, in front of a poster that said prison should not be a death sentence.

And so I wanted to.

Appeal to all of you to work together with us and let's see what can be done.

I sent Al, misunderstood the date of the the Reassignment Commission hearing.

So I send in e-mail with a bill that is before the New York State Senate and it's.

S454.

It's.

An act in relation to parole eligibility for certain incarcerated persons aged 55 or older.

And this came out from a organization that was organized by mainly people of ex people who had been previously incarcerated. The leadership, one of whom I know personally, who I visited in Dublin in Pleasanton prison, and that name, that organization is called Rap Rapp.

Release aging people in prison.

And they were the ones that submitted.

This bill to the New York State Senate, and I sent it as an example of what is happening.

You know, in other places where people are concerned about elderly people.

So I wanted to really focus on.

What we call lifers, but I've been told that we there's a distinction between different kind of lifers.

So I wanted to focus again, especially on those with child life without.

Parole. Now we understand that.

There are certain limitations to programs for people of life without parole, and so they cannot even qualify for programs that help you know. Give them incentive to try to get out.

And so now that you've had the task force 85 completed, you know I know at least one of your Commissioners.

KB

Kat Brady 1:26:42

Check.

RF

Ronald Fujiyoshi 1:26:46

Served on the parole authority and I think you have ideas and we can all think together about how to allow.

You know, life is without parole, whether there's a possibility of getting them out. Like I think some of you in the Commission know that there's a model prisoner in Saguaro.

His name is Norman Chicos.

CG **Choe, George** 1:27:14
Santiago.

RF **Ronald Fujiyoshi** 1:27:15
Santiago that among all of the other prisoners, he's very much respected and honored, and he's been there a long time and now he's getting health issues. And so people like him should be allowed to get out.
There's also other people like Michael Hughes, who wrote that in the appendix of your Hui Amal.

KB **Kat Brady** 1:27:35
Yes.

RF **Ronald Fujiyoshi** 1:27:40
A program about the lifers up in Saguaro, and so one of the ways we were thinking of.
For if people like him would like to bring Potter that lifers program back to kulani, where you have empty beds, you know we need to try and get some of these elderly long term model prisoners out so that you don't have the argument that we need a new.
Prison. So I think we need to take steps now and ohano pakili would ask that it be on the agenda so we can hear.
Comments from other people on their ideas.
And their experiences, so that maybe we can work on a bill together or a number series of bills that make it easier for.
Lifers, those without parole and even those on parole to have access to getting out like they're all kinds of questions about whether the parole authority, after certain number of years, makes a decision on people of life, with life, with parole.
Without the presence of that the incarcerated person or or his or her lawyer, and so, you know, those decisions are being made without their knowledge and or their participation. It puts really limitations on what what can happen. So I think.
We lean upon the expertise of people in the Commission, the staff and the public, and provide even an opportunity for the Department of Corrections.
And rehabilitation and even the attorney General's office to add their comments so

that we can help of, you know, work on some bills that will make it easier for people to get out.

So thank you very much for this opportunity to to testify. Mahalo.

CG **Choe, George** 1:29:35

And Ron Chico Santiago was housed at Kulani before he was sent to the mainland.

So we know we have had Rikers without parole at Guantanamo.

Thank you, Ron.

That's a good subject that you'll probably discuss as a stat and see how we can bring something presenting.

I know there's a lot of larger states across the country that have done some remarkable legislation that have released.

Or have resolved some of the issues around life well role and I I know of some examples from California where.

Teenagers were were given life without parole.

KB **Kat Brady** 1:30:17

Yes.

CG **Choe, George** 1:30:17

And California with the mall.

Gonna crumble?

Maybe maybe 20 years or 25 years.

But anyway, we'll look into that and see how we can do a presentation and help in the thought process and move forward on how we build with those issues that you.

Also, I haven't looked at the log for a long time, but we have been in the law that anybody sentenced to life without parole, that the department was supposed to submit their name to the to the parole board after 20 years for consideration.

KB **Kat Brady** 1:30:54

Right.

CG **Choe, George** 1:30:55

Is that boss still on the books?

I just haven't looked at it, so I presume it's, you know, so there's some incentive in

our law ready to be looking at these people, but unfortunately, rarely are they given a reduction to life with parole.

KB **Kat Brady** 1:31:00

Thanks Yvonne.
Yes.

CG **Choe, George** 1:31:13

Thank you for all.
Of space.

KB **Kat Brady** 1:31:17

Aloha. I've been getting numerous calls and letters about Hawaii's contract monitor. In in Saguaro, she's paid \$77,000 a year in our money and her job is to make sure that Saguaro is actually complying with our contract.

She apparently cannot stay in her lane, and she has been impacting and making decisions on operations, which is not herculana.

So she I've been hearing from our people in Saguaro that she has interfered with mail and some of the staff reported to some of our guys that she's been seen in the mailroom and leaving.

With mail, so if the Commission is not getting mail from Sagaro, that's why she also has been impacting the grievance process, which she has no business in and she's been signing grievances and denying them so.

Some of our guys have talked to the staff there who have real problems with her because she refuses. She believes that.

She told them that when the warden is not there, she is the warden.

It's like, no, she is not the warden.

So this is really difficult for our people there because they're getting all sorts of conflicting information and that has been really, really problematic for them because they have grievances.

They have medical.

They file a thing.

To go to the medical unit and all of a sudden. Oh, it's gone.

They don't know where that went.

They lose it and the guy said we know where it went.

She takes it and she doesn't follow through.
And give it to the the appropriate person who's in, who works in operations.
Another thing is that Saguaro has P&P's policies and procedures.
Just like Hawaii that we put on the website, some are confidential, but a lot are open to the public to read.
They're not public and DCR told me that they don't have them either.
I'm like what?
These are our people.
The community is paying for this.
And yet we have no access to that.
So that is a real problem.
Many of the guys who are in Saguaro said they've never seen her.
They don't know who she is.
If she's trying to see if the contract is if they're complying with the contract, she needs to actually walk through the facility so people see her and know who she is.
But this is their feeling is that she is Cca's mole.
And that she hides information so that they're protected. And this is not good for our people.
So I'm asking that she comes here apparently once a year to have a meeting with DCR, and we're requesting that the next time she comes that the Commission holds.
An asks senator Elefante to hold a an information.
That would be open to the public even if we can't talk.
We would like to see who she is and how she describes her role as the Hawaii contract monitor, so I hope that the Commission will do that because our guys are kind of at her mercy. Thank you.

CG **Choe, George** 1:35:36

Thank you, Ken.

I do want to note that we are still getting mail from sorrow.

KB **Kat Brady** 1:35:41

OK, good.

I told them that I know you've been, you know, on boarding staff, so it's been difficult to respond to every letter.

CG Choe, George 1:35:52

But it's coming. We're we're doing it.
Yeah, that's not very good.

KB Kat Brady 1:35:56

I know, and I I appreciate that. But I feel for the families and the guys who are stuck there.

CG Choe, George 1:36:04

Thank you Kat for being their voice.

IC Ivana C Cortez 1:36:06

Good.

CG Choe, George 1:36:07

Is anyone else there?

Verbal or digital hand have a public testimony.

If not, we are gonna be leaving after this meeting to visit and tour all the Community Correctional Center.

Our next meeting will be on Oahu, July 10th, 9:00 AM and we will be touring well.

That will be at the yeah, the building on Bear Canyon, folks.

Now, where our office is and we will be visiting all Community Correctional Center after that.

Me. So I appreciate y'all being here.

Real quick, one announcement for those of you who may be interested tonight, there will be ATV special from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM live.

The department will be there, I believe.

O triple C's, Warren John Shell myself will be there, and then actually representative bellandi will be there.

And so we'll be discussing the new jail and different issues.

And so if you're able to tune in, I just wanted to let you all know, tonight at 7:30 PM On Insights Show on insight.

Hey. Well, Sona, if I was able to send your G1, I would give you time off right now. I'm sorry.

I can't do that for you, representative.

Thank you for being here at yourself.

Appreciate you folks.

Appreciate all the community has been supportive of us and the comments that you've had and Commission, of course.

Thank you for your time.

We'll see you guys all next month.

Bye bye.

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