



Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission

Monthly Oversight Coordinator Report – June 2025

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Introduction

In accordance with Chapter §353L-6, the Oversight Coordinator shall submit a monthly report to the Commission, the Governor, and the Legislature. The monthly report shall include actions taken by the Commission and expenses for the preceding month. In addition to the mandated parties this report must be shared with, the Oversight Coordinator publicly posts the monthly report to increase transparency and accountability. This report will also be shared with each individual who has the responsibility of appointing members of the Commission. This includes:

- 1) Governor of Hawaii
- 2) President of the Hawaii Senate
- 3) Speaker of the Hawaii House of Representatives
- 4) Hawaii Supreme Court Chief Justice
- 5) Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

The Oversight Coordinator monthly reports are released on the first Thursday of each month, covering the previous month, and will be discussed on the second Thursday of each month at the monthly Commission meetings.

Deaths in Custody

No deaths occurring in June 2025 have been reported.

Tours

OCCC Tour with DC Information Council

On, June 10, 2025, HCSOC hosted District of Columbia Corrections Information Council's Senior Program Analyst, [Patricia Marks](#). The DC Corrections Information Council (CIC) is an independent monitoring body mandated by the US Congress and the DC Council to inspect, monitor, and report on the conditions of confinement at facilities where DC residents are incarcerated including facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP), the DC Department of Corrections (DOC), and private contractors.

Patricia Marks toured Oahu Community Correctional Center with HCSOC staff which allowed the Commission and DCR staff to hear her insights and experience. Warden John Schell and his staff were very accommodating. The visit was informative and supportive of better understanding the operation and the administration of correctional systems in other jurisdictions.

Events Attended

Reentry Simulation: Addressing Barriers to Life After Incarceration

On June 13, 2025, the Commission participated in the *Reimagined Reentry Simulation Project*, an experiential event designed to highlight the systemic barriers faced by individuals transitioning from incarceration to community life. Held in collaboration with the Penn State Restorative Justice Initiative and supported by the American Institute for Research Technical Assistance Grant, the simulation brought together policymakers, practitioners, educators, and community advocates. The event featured a panel moderated

by the Oversight Coordinator, with various speakers including Kimmy Takata, the Commission's Reentry Oversight Specialist, who shared insights from her lived experience. This hands-on learning opportunity offered powerful reflections on the gaps in reentry services and the need for collaborative, person-centered strategies across Hawai'i.

Nothing About Us Without Us

On June 20, 2025, the Commission attended the Peer Support Summit at Windward Community College—a powerful and collaborative event focused on improving reentry and mental health support systems across the state. The summit gathered peer support workers, mental health advocates, service providers, and justice-impacted individuals to engage in meaningful discussions, share resources, and build action plans. Kimmy Takata, the Commission's Reentry Oversight Specialist, opened the event with remarks on the importance of lived experience and the role of peer support in creating sustainable change. Highlights included a keynote by Justin Volpe from NASMHPD, presentations by the Office of Wellness and Resilience, and breakout sessions on housing, employment, mental health, and Sequential Intercept Mapping. The event provided valuable insights and resources that will support our ongoing work toward a more supportive and healing reentry system in Hawai'i.

Pathways to Meaningful Work Symposium: Expanding Education-to-Employment Opportunities for Justice-Impacted Individuals

On June 25, 2025, the Commission participated in the *Pathways to Meaningful Employment* event held at Chaminade University, which also offers college classes inside the Halawa Correctional Facility. Funded by a Mellon Grant, the event focused on expanding access to education and employment for justice-impacted individuals. The event emphasized the importance of breaking stigma, supporting second chances, and building inclusive systems—key goals aligned with HCSOC's ongoing reentry work across Hawai'i.

Projects

Complaint Management

Commission staff built a tracking system to track and monitor more than 200 backlogged letters received from people in custody, DCR staff, and various stakeholders. The tracking system has been optimized for resolving the backlog of letters and helping HCSOC reach operational capacity as quickly as possible. This will ensure people in custody, DCR staff, and stakeholders concerns are met with timely responses. The tracking system has also been designed to be easily integrated with a case management system, which the Commission received funding for fiscal year 2026. This will greatly improve HCSOC's ability to track, monitor, investigate, and respond to incoming complaints.

Published Reports

Kauai Community Correctional Center (KCCC) Site Visit Observations

On June 12, 2025, the Commission released its Site Visit Observation Report on the May 8, 2025 tour of the Kauai Community Correctional Center (KCCC). The tour included Chair Mark Patterson, Commissioner Martha Torney, Commissioner Ron Ibarra, Commissioner Mark Browning, and Commission staff.

Below are recommendations to be considered by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation which stemmed from the KCCC tour. The full report can be read at: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/facility-specific-reports/>

Previous Recommendations to be considered by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation:

- 1) Immediately prioritize the construction and replacement of the KCCC kitchen as it poses a dangerous threat to individuals or staff being hurt due to its desperate condition. In the interim, must repair and maintain current flooring.**

The floors in the kitchen and mess hall were worn through to bare wood in some areas and completely gone in other areas. Plywood had been temporarily laid down to cover missing floorboards, but they were flimsy and extremely dangerous to walk on. The dangerous condition of the floor in the kitchen and mess hall could easily result in serious injury to staff and people in custody. A new floor must be laid as soon as possible.

Pending the installation of the modular kitchen, the Commission urges DCR to repair and maintain the floor. The Commission has received complaints from people in custody and staff, and the safety of staff and people in custody is one of the highest responsibilities of the department.

- 2) Ensure individuals in the facility are receiving the most out-of-cell time possible in alignment with a rehabilitative and therapeutic environment.**

In 2024, individuals in Module B claimed to be locked in their cells for 22 hours per day. On May 8, 2025, individuals in Module A and B made the same claim. This, by definition, is considered restrictive housing, also sometimes referred to as solitary confinement.

The Commission understands there are staffing issues that contribute to this issue, and applauds the Department's efforts to fill vacancies. However, if the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is serious about the transition to a therapeutic and rehabilitative system, it is imperative to ensure individuals are not locked down within their cells for such extended periods of time.

Therefore, daily schedules should be posted in all housing units for transparency and accountability regarding programming and out of cell time. This allows individuals in custody to anticipate what is to come, and to hold the staff

accountable and ensure programming and out of cell time is completed in a consistent manner.

Additional recommendations to be considered by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation:

1) Implement 12-Hour Shifts

The Commission highly recommends implementing 12-hour shifts. This has been requested by the facility after surveying staff and measuring interest. This was also highlighted as an evident solution for KCCC in the [Correctional Staff Survey, Findings, and Recommendations Report](#). In order to eliminate the need for exhausting 24-hour shifts that cause burnout and an increase in leave requests, the Department must try something different than what it is doing now. Having additional staff at the facility can ensure that posts are not understaffed and increase out-of-cell time and safety for people in custody.

2) Enable all Facilities to Initiate and Process Emergency Hires On-Site

The Commission highly recommends that DCR allow correctional facilities to conduct on-site emergency hiring to expedite filling vacancies and increase staffing levels that are desperately needed to:

- Monitor the mental health population and ensure the mental health population are housed in the best possible setting for their condition;
- Ensure people in custody have access to out-of-cell time;
- Provide much needed and urgent relief to burnt-out staff; and
- Improve staff morale and retention.

The Commission extends special thanks to the KCCC staff for their time, professionalism, and expertise during the tour.

Past Meetings

On June 26, 2025, the Commission hosted its monthly public meeting. All past meeting agendas, video recordings, meeting minutes, and testimonies can be found on our website here: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/2025-meetings>. All meetings are live streamed on our [Facebook](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

Expenses for the Preceding Month – June

Item	Cost	Qty	Total	Description
Operating Expenses			\$3,440.08	
General Office Supplies	\$228.26	1	\$228.26	
Telephone	\$217.24	2	\$434.48	April & May
Other Current Expenditures	\$2,707.86	1	\$2,707.86	Logitech Rally UHD 4K
Other Current Expenditures	\$5.12	4	\$20.48	Autopsy reports
Other Current Expenditures	\$99.00	1	\$99.00	ACA membership (3yrs)
Other Current Expenditures	-\$25.00	2	-\$50.00	4/25-NACOLE webinar refund
Inter-Island Travel			\$1,748.28	
Airfare	\$1,352.78	1	\$1,352.78	multiple travel dates
Car Rental	\$115.50	1	\$115.50	5/8
Per Diem	\$20.00	9	\$180.00	multiple travel dates
Lodging				
Transportation - Uber				
Airport Parking	\$25.00	4	\$100.00	multiple travel dates
Baggage Fee				
Miscellaneous				
Mainland Travel			\$0.00	
Airfare				
Car Rental				
Per Diem				
Lodging				
Transportation				
Airport Parking				
Baggage Fee				
Toll Fee				
Miscellaneous				
Conferences			\$206.78	
Airfare				
Car Rental				
Per Diem	\$58.00	1	\$58.00	3/6-3/29/2024-CMJ
Lodging				
Transportation - Uber	\$148.78	1	\$148.78	3/6-3/29/2024-CMJ
Airport Parking				
Baggage Fee				
Toll Fee				
Miscellaneous				
TOTAL			\$5,395.14	

* All expenses reflect posted transactions procured

General Office Information

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Website: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov>

Submit Testimony: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/submit-testimony>

Email: hcsoc@hawaii.gov

Social Media: [YouTube](#)
[LinkedIn](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)

Monthly Meetings

This report will be discussed at the monthly Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission meeting held on July 10, 2025. The next monthly meeting is scheduled to occur on August 14, 2025, at the Windward Community College, 45-720 Keaahala Rd, Room: Hale A'o 102, Kaneohe, HI 96744 and online via Microsoft Teams. More information can be found on the Commission's webpage here: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/information>.