

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, December 11, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

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

Teleconference: [YouTube](https://youtu.be/xWX0M41fugA?si=S6-wJ3NxUNzpIZvs)
<https://youtu.be/xWX0M41fugA?si=S6-wJ3NxUNzpIZvs>

Transcript: [Meeting Transcript](https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2025.12.11-HCSOC-Transcript.pdf)
<https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2025.12.11-HCSOC-Transcript.pdf>

Items to be Discussed:

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Patterson on Thursday, December 11, 2025. The meeting was conducted in accordance with Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 92.

II. Roll Call

- **Chair Mark Patterson**
- **Commissioner R. Mark Browning**
- **Commissioner Martha Torney**
- **Commissioner Mike Town**
- **Excused: Commissioner Ronald Ibarra**

Quorum was established with four members present. Reentry Oversight Specialist Kimmy Takata and Jail Oversight Specialist Alec Jamerson were present at the physical meeting location.

- III. **(0:08:25) Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2025.**
- Review of minutes by members. Motion by Chair Patterson to approve November 13, 2025, Open Session Meeting Minutes.
 - i. Motion moved by Commissioner Town and seconded by Commissioner Torney.
 - ii. Vote: Unanimous approval, motion passed, minutes approved.
- IV. **(0:09:05) Monthly Update from Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Deputy Director for Administration, Melanie Martin**
- Chicago Beyond
 - i. Organization that DCR works with and held a national convening that recognized Keiko O Ka ‘Aina and received \$100k to continue family reunification programs throughout the state.
 - Staff Wellness Response Team Policy and Procedure
 - i. December 5th – effectuated policy and convened to move forward with a staff wellness response team. This team will assist individuals in crisis as well as provide group crisis intervention and respond to critical incidents and provide peer counseling support.
 - ii. DCR submitted amended to HRS 78-52 which relates to peer support counseling sessions and would extend confidentiality protections currently in place for law enforcement and first responders to correctional officers.
 - Recruitment and Retention
 - i. Governor approved 35 healthcare positions
 - 1. 7 – clinical psychiatrists
 - 2. 10 – APRN’s (Advanced Practice Registered Nurses)
 - 3. 18 – RN’s (Registered Nurses)
 - ii. December 4th – Virtual recruitment event
 - December Events:
 - i. December 5th – Women’s Community Correctional Center (WCCC) hosted a women’s empowerment conference.
 - ii. December 6th – Ohana Day at WCCC
 - iii. December 11th – Graduation ceremony at WCCC for GED and culinary arts program,
 - iv. December 11th – Lau Maka work furlough center career fair
 - v. December 13th – DCR participating in Aiea Community Parade and fun fair
 - vi. December 14th – Winter Wonderland Keiki Day at Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF)
 - vii. December 15th – Commencement ceremony at Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) to celebrate growth and gratitude
 - viii. December 19th – Cashbox graduation at WCF
 - ix. December 19th – Dental Assistant training graduation at WCCC

Public Testimony

- Oral Testimony:

- i. Kat Brady would like to know what Chicago Beyond is and what their experience has been, worked with, and what their outcomes were. Requests more information on their experience and current work.
- Written Testimony: No previously submitted written testimony was received.
- Commission:
 - i. Commissioner Torney speaks regarding recruitment and addresses her concern with Department of Human Resources and Development's (DHRD) process from applying to hiring timeline.
 - 1. Deputy Director Martin responds and agrees 100% that it takes time to on-board corrections officers because of the process being so lengthy. HR has been working to streamline the process through the wiki program.
 - 2. DCR also works with Allstar Talent with recruitment and streamline communication enhancement with applicants.
 - 3. DCR also has retention challenges and has partnered with Desert Waters Outreach to do a train to trainer series on corrections fatigue to fulfillment, also another course titled towards corrections fulfillment to address the burnout, depression, and anxiety that correctional workers face in the facility and will launch in early 2026.
 - ii. Commissioner Torney requests to the Chair on future HCSOC agendas that agencies that DCR are working with be included with help with retention and would like to know more about it.
 - iii. Commissioner Browning congratulates the Department on receiving the Governor's approval for additional positions.
 - 1. Has the funding been approved for these positions?
 - Deputy Director Martin responds that these funds have not yet been approved and but go to the legislature, but it has been included in the governor's package to be submitted for the budget request.
 - 2. Requesting more information on how much funding will be requested for these positions.
 - Deputy Director Martin will get that information - \$2.6M for biennium.
 - Commissioner Browning is concerned that this amount may not be enough to cover all positions requested.
 - 3. How much will it cost for clinical psychologists and where will DCR recruit?
 - Deputy Director Marting responds with "it's too early to tell" but can get that information from DCR's healthcare.
 - iv. Chair Patterson asks Deputy Director Martin if she could provide more information between DCR and Chicago Beyond and what they hope to provide from them?
 - 1. Chicago Beyond is a philanthropic organization that promotes a holistic framework and aims to reduce physical isolation of

individuals in custody, more out of cell time for example. Also, reduce emotional isolation of staff and promote staff wellness.

2. Reduce isolation between the individuals in custody and DCR staff.

V. **(0:26:50) Overview of Oversight Coordinator Report**

- Deaths in Custody - 3
 - i. Sunday, November 16, 2025.
 - ii. Wednesday, November 19, 2025.
 - iii. Saturday, November 29, 2025.
- Tours
 - i. Tour of Oahu Community Correctional Center with ACLU Hawai'i
- Events Attended
 - i. Civil Beat Editorial Interview
 - ii. WCCC Mental Health Day
 - iii. Hawai'i Homeless & Housing Conference 2025
- Reports
 - i. Halawa Correctional Facility Site Observations
- Projects
 - i. Complaint Management
- Past Meetings
 - i. November 13, 2025, Monthly Commission Meeting

Public Testimony

- Oral Testimony:
 - i. Carrie Ann has questions and comments relating to deaths in custody and would like to suggest to DCR in the interest of transparency and accountability and that on their website that they comport with the federal law which requires more demographic and other details. Understands that there is a state and federal law, but the state is required to submit that information to the federal government and so that information should be made public. Currently reports online does not provide specific age although they provide their name and sex, but not their race or ancestry.
- Written Testimony: No previously submitted written testimony was received.
- Commission:
 - i. Commissioner Town states for the record that there's an article in Civil Beat about more homeless people are dying on Oahu, can we reverse the crisis? It's data and anecdotal driven.
 - ii. Commissioner Torney asks Oversight Coordinator Johnson if she knows if the two deaths that occurred in the medical unit were part of the population?
 1. Oversight Coordinator Johnson responds and states that the three deaths were all in long-term care or long-term care patients.
 - iii. Commissioner Browning agrees with community member Carrie Ann about the need to conform and comply with federal law especially the importance of transparency.

VI. **(0:46:05) Overview and Discussion of the Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF) Tour and Report**

Public Testimony

- Oral Testimony:
 - i. Carrie Ann
 - ii. Ronald Fujiyoshi
- Written Testimony: No previously submitted written testimony was received.
- Commission: Commissioners speak

VII. **(1:09:00) Interstate Compact Transfers Follow Up**

- HCSOC now has investigators and can now investigate these types of issues
- Does the State verify Security Threat Group Status (STG) or go by hearsay?
 - i. DCR does verify STG status by conducting individual interviews and utilizing a specific checklist/worksheet with questions and document answers.
 - ii. Use gang tattoos as an indicator and DCR tries to obtain updated pictures of gang tattoos.
- If there is no longer an affiliation or the person is not a shot caller, how can they be rehoused to a rehabilitative space rather than deteriorate in segregation?
 - i. There is no step-down process once you're labeled as a gang member, this is not best practice.
 - ii. If DCR understands that you are potentially unaffiliated, they'll interview and review institutional history and conduct a debrief with the individual and willing to note that they are inactive.
- How is STG determination made?
 - i. Interview and questionnaire are the main component as to determine gang status.
- Does the person in custody have the opportunity to make a case for being unaffiliated?
 - i. Unfortunately, not. It's either active or inactive.
- Is there a debriefing process?
 - i. No, same idea...either active or inactive.

Public Testimony

- Oral Testimony:
 - i. Kat Brady
 - ii. Nina Kealoha
- Written Testimony: No previously submitted written testimony was received.
- Commission: Commissioners speak

VIII. **(1:24:05) Briefing Investigation**

- In accordance with Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) sections 92-4, 92-5(a)(6) and 92-5(a)(8), the Commission anticipates convening in executive session to discuss a Commission investigation conducted pursuant to HRS section 353L-3.

- i. Motion moved by Commissioner Torney and seconded by Commissioner Browning.
- ii. Vote: Unanimous approval, motion passed, minutes approved.

IX. (1:24:40) Public Comment

- Public comment on issues not on the agenda, for consideration for Commission's agenda at the next meeting.
 - i. Carrie Ann
 - ii. Lea Lani Kinikini
 - iii. Nina Kealoha

X. (2:43:55) HCSOC reconvenes from Executive Session

- Commission held a meeting to discuss an investigation that the commission is conducting regarding follow-up procedures and actions.

Public Testimony

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

XI. (2:47:00) Announcements and Scheduling of the Next Meeting

- Thursday, January 8, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

XII. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

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