



Hawai‘i Correctional System Oversight Commission

Monthly Oversight Coordinator Report – April 2026

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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 Friday of each month, covering the previous month, and will be discussed on the second Thursday of each month at the monthly Commission meetings.

Death in Custody

On Wednesday, April 8th, 2026, at approximately 11:01p.m., facility staff at the state-contracted facility, Saguaro Correctional Center in Arizona, received notification from a local hospital that a Japanese male, 63 years old, was pronounced deceased after an extended stay within their care. An autopsy was performed on April 9th, 2026. The medical examiner report concluded that the individual passed due to natural causes.

Events Attended

17th Annual Parole Completion Celebration

Commissioner Town and the Oversight Coordinator were honored to attend the 17th Annual Parole Completion Celebration hosted by Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice at Ali'iōlani Hale, joining community leaders, justice system partners, and families in recognizing individuals who have successfully completed parole. The event reflected the values of restorative justice through cultural practices, shared stories, and meaningful recognition of both returning community members and those who support them. Staff appreciated the opportunity to witness firsthand the impact of reentry success, celebrate award recipients, and engage with partners committed to advancing a more rehabilitative and community-centered justice system in Hawai'i.

Tours

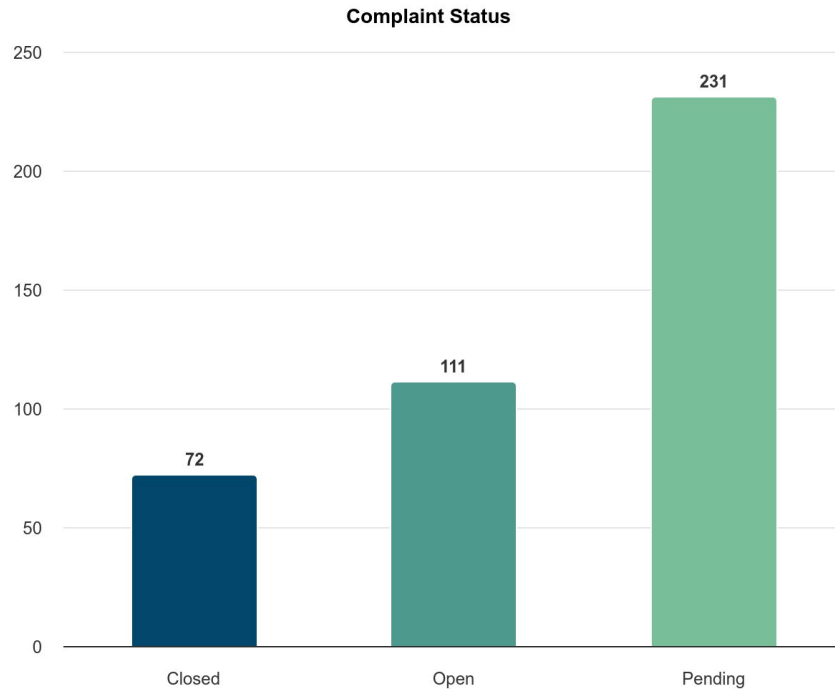
Tour of KCCC with Kaua'i's Office of the Prosecuting Attorney

The Commission extends its deepest gratitude to Becky Like and Michael Miranda from the Kaua'i County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for joining the Commissioner's annual tour of the Kauai Community Correctional Center on April 17, 2026, and engaging in a meaningful conversation about coordinating the continuity of care for reentry efforts.

Complaints Received by the Commission

After receiving dedicated funding for a case management system from the legislature, the Commission has been better equipped for tracking, monitoring, investigating, and responding to incoming complaints. Below is a breakdown of the office's current status of complaints including open complaints, pending complaints, closed complaints. Additionally, there is a breakdown of how many complaints the Commission has received from each correctional facility.

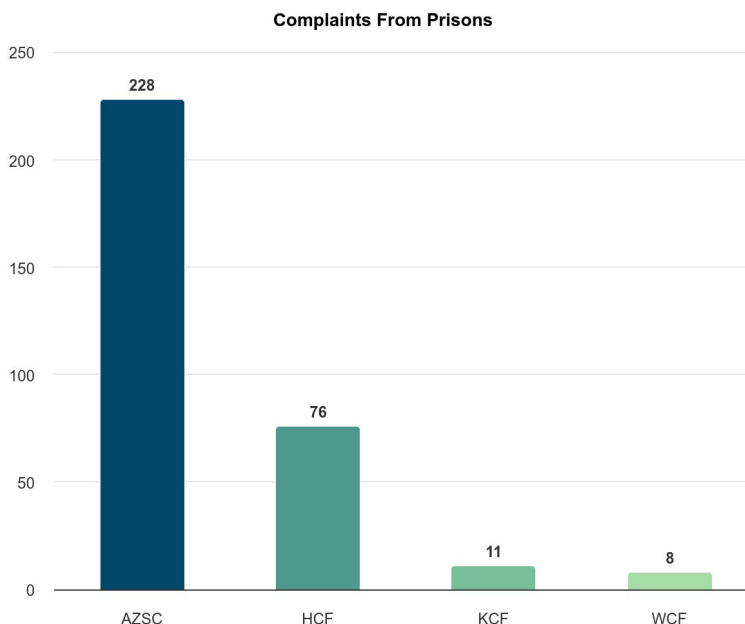
Complaint Status



Note: number of incoming complaints is subject to change as some letters may contain multiple complaints.

As of April 28th, the Commission had 72 closed complaints and 231 complaints pending waiting (an additional 40 since April 2026) for review and potential investigation. The Jail and Prison Oversight Specialists currently have 115 complaints that are open and being actively investigated while Specialists also work on building the systems and processes that make responding to complaints possible.

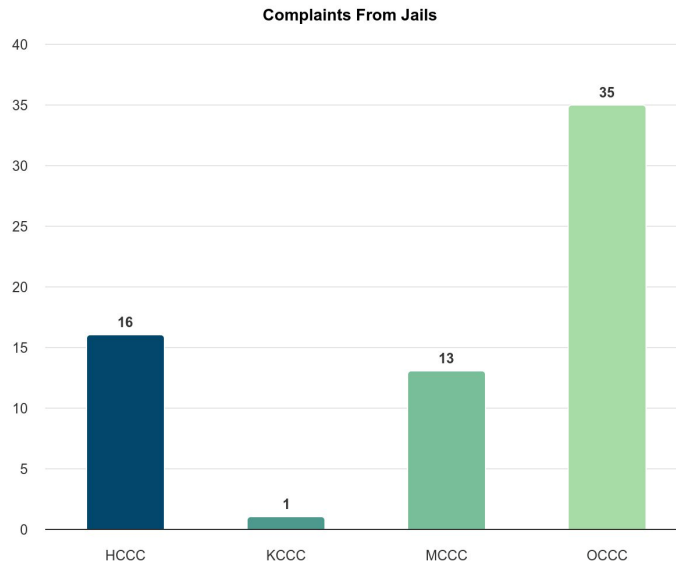
Complaints from Prison System



Note: number of incoming complaints is subject to change as some letters may contain multiple complaints.

As of April 28, 2026, the Commission has received a total of 323 complaints from the prison system (not including the Women’s facility which is detailed below). A total of 228 complaints came from Saguaro Correctional Center (AZSC), a privately run facility in Arizona, 76 complaints from Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF), 11 complaints from Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF), and 8 complaints from the Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF).

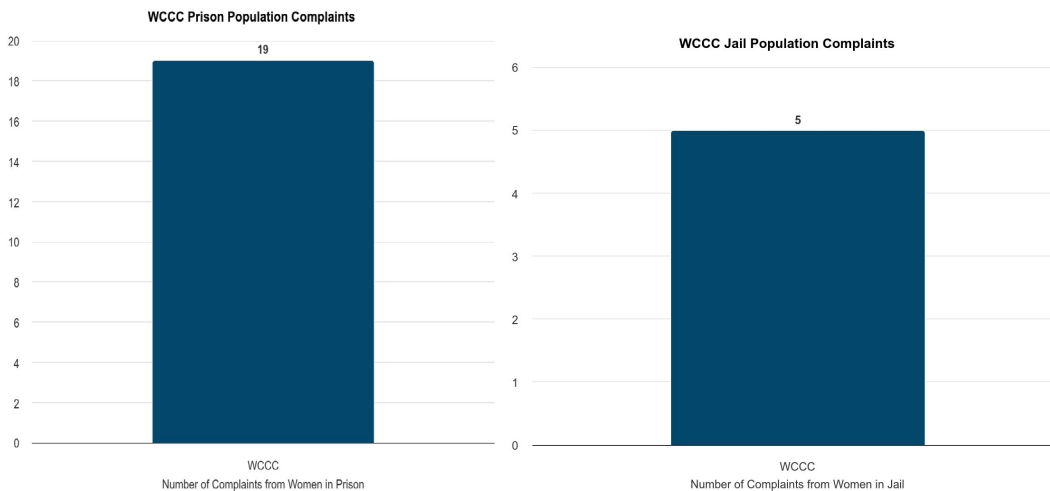
Complaints from Jail System



Note: number of incoming complaints is subject to change as some letters may contain multiple complaints.

As of April 28, 2026, the Commission received a total of 65 complaints from the jails (not including the Women’s facility which is detailed below). A total of 16 complaints came from the Hawaii Community Correctional Center (HCCC), one complaint from the Kauai Community Correctional Center (KCCC), 13 complaints from the Maui Community Correctional Center (MCCC), and 35 complaints from the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC).

Complaints from Women’s Hybrid System



Note: number of incoming complaints is subject to change as some letters may contain multiple complaints.

The Women’s Community Correctional Center (WCCC) functions as the State’s only hybrid facility housing the jail and prison population of women. The Commission received

19 complaints from the prison side of WCCC, and five complaints from the jail side of WCCC.

The Commission will continue to report on complaints monthly based on feedback from the Commissioners and public on what statistics are best to make available. If you have feedback you would like to share regarding complaint information you would like to see, please email us at hcsoc@hawaii.gov.

Findings on Lack of Movement Throughout the Prison System

Concerns Regarding Lack of Bed Utilization at Minimum Custody Facilities

The Commission has consistently reported on concerns regarding a lack of bed utilization at minimum custody facilities. Hawaii has two minimum custody prisons for men - Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF) and Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF). These facilities are designed for people who pose low public safety risk and are eligible for rehabilitation-focused programming. WCF's rated capacity is 334 individuals, and KCF's rated capacity is 160 individuals. Despite this:

- Both facilities are less full now than they were in 2023 (WCF is at 50% capacity, KCF is at 48% capacity).
- At the same time, it has been consistently **over 200 who qualify for minimum custody** remain housed in Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) (a higher-security prison), or Saguaro Correctional Center in Arizona (AZSC) (higher security, out-of-state prison).

The Commission has found that minimum custody beds are sitting empty while eligible individuals are housed in more expensive, more restrictive, and less rehabilitative settings.

	2023 Hawaii Male Prison Security Classifications						
Male Prison	Community	Minimum	Medium	Close	Maximum	Unclassified	Total Population
AZSC	--	53	455	369	--	--	877
HCF	4	183	435	187	2	11	822
WCF	27	154	--	--	--	--	181
KCF	24	61	--	--	--	--	85

Source: Hawaii Department of Public Safety Roster, Dated Nov. 13, 2023

	2024 Hawaii Male Prison Security Classifications						
Male Prison	Community	Minimum	Medium	Close	Maximum	Unclassified	Total Population
AZSC	--	77	506	411	--	--	994
HCF	6	179	306	204	6	5	706
WCF	23	113	--	--	--	--	136
KCF	13	65	--	--	--	--	78

Source: Hawaii Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Roster, Dated Oct. 14, 2024

2025 Hawaii Male Prison Security Classifications							
Male Prison	Community	Minimum	Medium	Close	Maximum	Unclassified	Total Population
AZSC	--	67	409	340	--	--	816
HCF	4	173	351	271	5	8	812
WCF	17	148	--	--	--	--	165
KCF	23	62	1	--	--	--	86

Source: Hawaii Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Roster, Dated Nov. 17, 2025

2026 Hawaii Male Prison Security Classifications							
Male Prison	Community	Minimum	Medium	Close	Maximum	Unclassified	Total Population
AZSC	--	15	430	370	--	1	816
HCF	5	203	326	239	2	9	784
WCF	20	155	--	--	--	--	175
KCF	24	45	1	--	--	--	70

Source: Hawaii Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Roster, Dated March 30, 2026

The above charts highlight that since 2023, between 220–260 people classified as *minimum or community custody* have remained in Halawa or Saguaro. Meanwhile, Waiawa’s population has fluctuated from 181 (2023) to 136 (2024) to 165 (2025) and 175(2026). Kulani’s population has fluctuated from 85 (2023) to 78 (2024) to 86 (2025) and 70 (2026). The Commission believes that this is not a year-by-year fluctuation, but a sustained pattern.

Differences Between Minimum and Medium+ Facilities:

Minimum Custody Facilities:

- Are **far less restrictive** than medium or higher custody prisons
- Focus on:
 - Education
 - Vocational training
 - Substance use treatment
 - Reentry preparation
- Allow more movement, work opportunities, and pro-social behavior
- Are designed to prepare people for successful release

Medium and Higher Custody Facilities:

- Emphasize **security and control**, not rehabilitation
- Offer fewer programs
- Often have long waitlists for classes or treatment
- Increase the likelihood that individuals:
 - Serve their entire sentence
 - Are released without skills, treatment, or planning

Impact:

Underusing minimum custody facilities increases the risk of people returning to the community unprepared.

When people are housed in higher custody settings than necessary:

- They are less likely to receive:
 - Treatment
 - Job skills
 - Education
- They are more likely to “max out” their sentence and be released with **no supervision and no preparation.**

By contrast, people in minimum custody are:

- More engaged in programming
- More likely to earn credits
- More likely to transition gradually back into the community

Cost to State:

Cost differences:

- Higher custody incarceration is **inherently more expensive** as they require:
 - More staffing
 - More security resources

Leaving minimum custody beds empty while paying for higher custody placements is:

- Operationally inefficient
- Financially wasteful
- Contrary to best practice

What the Commission Has Recommended

Since 2023, the Commission has recommended DCR implement a system to ensure a timely transfer of eligible minimum and community custody individuals from Halawa and Saguaro and fully utilizing Kulani and Waiawa. This recommendation aligns custody level with actual risk, maximizes rehabilitative impact, improves reentry outcomes, and uses state facilities as intended. However, the recommendation has **not been implemented**. The same underutilization continues into 2026.

The Commission understands that not all incarcerated persons will be eligible for immediate transfer upon gaining Minimum classification. Those who are actively participating in a program not available at the minimum facilities will be transferred upon completion of their program. Others have pending misconducts that needs to be resolved. Those with chronic medical conditions may be precluded from transfer if they require a higher level of care than offered in the minimum facilities. The Commission is concerned, though, about the number of minimum classified persons who are awaiting medical clearance prior to transfer. Those with chronic or serious medical conditions are known to the staff. Medical clearance must be expedited for those known not to experience health problems.

Leaving Waiawa Correctional Facility and Kulani Correctional Facility with 50% of the beds unfilled while eligible minimum individuals remain in higher custody settings undermines the

goals of rehabilitation and successful re-entry. The Commission will continue to monitor the flow of incarcerated persons through the correctional system and advocate for better use of the resources available.

Past Meetings

Monthly Commission Meeting

On April 17, 2026, 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/2026-meetings>. All meetings are live streamed on our [Facebook](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

Expenses for the Preceding Month - April

Item	Cost	Qty	Total	Description
Operating Expenses			\$623.35	
TELEPHONE	\$265.09	1	\$265.09	JANUARY
MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPT	\$14.00	26	\$358.26	AUTOPSY REPORT REQUEST
Inter-Island Travel			\$480.71	
AIRFARE-ANJ	\$147.31	1	\$147.31	02/24 - ALASKA AIRLINES
AIRFARE-MKP	\$147.31	1	\$147.31	02/24 - ALASKA AIRLINES
AIRFARE-RI	\$66.10	1	\$66.10	03/12 - ALASKA AIRLINES
CAR RENTAL-ANJ	\$77.00	1	\$77.00	02/24 - ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR
P. DIEM MEAL-ALS	\$20.00	1	\$20.00	11/13/25 - PER DIEM
PARKING-ALS	\$22.99	1	\$22.99	11/13/25 - TRAVEL PARKING
Mainland Travel			\$1,216.32	
AIRFARE-MKP	\$323.50	1	\$323.50	02/17 - ALASKA AIRLINES
CAR RENTAL-CMA	\$819.44	1	\$819.44	02/16-02/21 (PHX)
G. TRNPRT-CMA	\$53.98	1	\$53.98	02/16-02/21 (UBER)
TRVL PARKING-CMA	\$19.40	1	\$19.40	02/16-02/21 (PHX)
TOTAL			\$2,320.38	

** All expenses reflect posted transactions procured*

General Office Information

Mailing Address: Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission
235 S. Beretania Street, 16th floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

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 on May 14, 2026. The next monthly meeting is scheduled to occur on June 11, 2026, at the University of Hawai'i Maui College, 310 W. Kaahumanu Ave, Kahului, Hawai'i, 96732, Room Noii 206 or online via teleconference. More information can be found on the Commission's webpage here: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/information>.