



**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 Hawai'i 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: Friday, April 17, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Location: Kaua'i Community College  
3-1901 Kaumualii Highway, Room: OCET 105  
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

Recording: [YouTube](https://youtu.be/7Tc5c8Y0ZxA?si=jKOT9KMsRsg5iO1t)  
<https://youtu.be/7Tc5c8Y0ZxA?si=jKOT9KMsRsg5iO1t>

Transcript: [Meeting Transcript](#)

### Items to be Discussed:

- I. (0:00:15) **Call to Order**
- II. (0:30:00) **Roll Call**
  - **Chair Mark Patterson**
  - **Commissioner R. Mark Browning**
  - **Commissioner Mike Town (virtual)**
  - **Commissioner Ronald Ibarra (virtual)**

Quorum was established with all members present. Oversight Coordinator Christin Johnson attended virtually and in person staff attendance was Jail Oversight Specialist Alec Jamerson, Prison Oversight Specialist Christopher Albritton and Special Assistant George Choe. Excused was Commissioner Martha Torney.

- III. (0:01:05) **Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2026.**
  - Review of minutes by members. Motion by Chair Patterson to approve February 12, 2026, Open Session Meeting Minutes.
    - i. Motion moved by Commissioner Ibarra and seconded by Commissioner Town.

- ii. Vote: Unanimous approval, motion passed, minutes approved.

**IV. (0:01:41) Monthly Update from Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Director Tommy Johnson**

- **Work Furlough**

- i. Update regarding incident involving a work furlough individual that resulted in DCR pulling 50 people back from the work furlough program temporarily in an abundance of caution.
- ii. This did not affect anyone who was in the program, anyone already granted parole regardless of the offense committed, and anyone on extended furlough regardless of offense committed.
- iii. Director Johnson to meet with Governor Green to brief on work furlough program.
- iv. DCR notified all employers that individuals pulled from the program did nothing wrong as well as family members or person of contact.
- v. Module 20 is currently being used for work furlough and would go to the new work furlough site and alleviate overcrowding.

- **OCCC Update**

- i. No update to provide and awaiting additional funding to be released.
- ii. Removed 300 beds CTC from OCCC site and made more sense to build the jail with programming, but also to raise the Laumaka work furlough site and to add the beds there.
  - a. Purpose to have one efficient location for supervision to monitor individuals in the work furlough program.
  - b. Efficiency of operation near rail station for transportation.
  - c. Individuals that are released and not in a program or to a loved one, DCR will transport person to a particular location, so they are not wandering around. (i.e. Not walking around in a neighborhood or lost)

- **Legislative Update**

- i. DCR, HPA, and HCSOC were able to draft language pertaining to the Compassionate Release bill.
- ii. Joint letter sent to Senator Fukunaga encouraging her to accept the language for SB2688.
  - a. Language from DCR's policy would allow DCR/HPA to consider a wider range of individuals whose medical conditions would be eligible for compassionate release.

- ~~Partnership between the Humane Society and Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation~~

**V. (0:06:38) Overview of Commission's Legislative Priorities**

- Compassionate release bill
- Specific bills HCSOC supports:
  - i. [HB1516 HD1 SD1](#) – Relating to pretrial release

- ii. [HB1628 HD2 SD1/ SB2688 SD1 HD1](#) – Relating to compassionate release.
- iii. [HB1518 HD1 SD1](#) – Relating to the supplemental nutrition assistance program.
- iv. [HB1769 HD2 SD1](#) – Relating to correctional facilities
- v. [SCR 89](#) – Requesting the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission to establish an advisory committee to develop recommendations on the implementation of alternative models for rehabilitation and restorative justice on O‘ahu.
- vi. [SCR 60 SD1](#) – Requesting the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to provide an update on the findings of the proof of concept study titled Breaking Cycles: Alternative Models of Rehabilitation and Restorative Justice on O‘ahu.

**VI. (0:11:50) [Overview of Oversight Coordinator Report](#)**

- Deaths in Custody
  - i. March 29, 2026
- Tours
  - i. March 10, 2026 – Tour of OCCC with University of Ryūkyūs
- Events Attended
  - i. March 18, 2026 – Ka‘ahumanu Hale, First Circuit Court
- Complaints Received by the Commission
  - i. As of March 31, 2026, the Commission had 70 closed complaints and 191 complaints pending waiting for review and potential investigation.
- Findings on Lack of Movement Throughout the Prison System
  - i. Concerns regarding lack of bed utilization at minimum custody facilities
    - 1. Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF)
    - 2. Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF)
- Past Meetings
  - i. April 17, 2026 – Monthly commission meeting

**VII. (0:18:50) Concerns Regarding Mail Interference at the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC)**

- Commission received individual complaint from a person in custody that their mail (i.e. legal mail) being interfered with and DCR was investigating and that complaint was substantiated. Also, other people’s mail was being interfered with.
- Nobody was notified regarding these findings such as judiciary, attorneys, etc.
- HCSOC notified Judiciary, prosecuting attorneys, and public defenders.
- Commission will continue to follow this concern.
  - i. Commissioner Town makes comment
  - ii. Chair Patterson comments on legal mail, grievance boxes, and PREA boxes.
  - iii. Commissioner Browning makes comments regarding violation of federal law, constitutional, and civil rights.
  - iv. Commissioner Browning would like to know what preventive measures the Department takes to prevent this from happening again.

**VIII. (0:29:00) Makahiki Observations and Upcoming Report**

- Native Hawaiians, Makahiki was a time that would celebrate the harvest and have an opening and closing ceremony.
- Makahiki was introduced in Arizona first and was successful
- DCR concerned of the findings and make it a priority and to take action on this

**IX. (0:36:20) Public Comment**

- Public comment on issues not on the agenda, for consideration for Commission's agenda at the next meeting.

**X. (0:36:50) Announcements and Scheduling of the Next Meeting**

- Thursday, May 14, 2026, 9:00 a.m.
- Facility Tour: Hawaii Community Correctional Center

**XI. Adjournment**

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**Respectfully submitted,**  
George Choe, Special Assistant to Oversight Coordinator  
Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813