

**Request for the Office of Information Practices' Concurrence  
for a Limited Meeting**  
(HRS § 92-3.1)

Date: May 6, 2026

Name of Board: Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC)  
Contact Person: George Choe Tel: 808 - 587 4160  
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Board's Attorney: Charles Lee Tel: 808-586-0618  
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Date of Proposed Limited Meeting: Thursday, May 14, 2026  
Place/Location of Proposed Limited Meeting: Hawaii Community Correctional Center  
60 Punahale Street, Hilo, HI 96720

1. Type of Limited Meeting:

- location is dangerous to health or safety; OR  
 public attendance is impracticable

2. (Attach relevant portion of draft or adopted minutes showing board's deliberation and vote to adopt the determination, including applicable timestamps if minutes were recorded.) After sufficient public deliberation at a prior regular meeting, and by vote of two-thirds of all members to which it is entitled, the Board has adopted a determination that:

- the limited meeting is necessary and the location would be dangerous to health or safety; OR  
 the on-site inspection is necessary and public attendance is impracticable.

As shown in its minutes, the Board has made this determination based upon the following reasons:

Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission Meeting (0:39:15 in video)  
On Thursday, February 12, 2026, The HCSOC held a meeting to discuss and vote on  
holding a limited meeting at the Hawaii Community Correctional Center (HCCC).  
Please see supplemental attachment for further details for said Limited Meeting.

3. Notice of the Limited Meeting under HRS § 92-7 (attach agenda):

- was filed on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_; OR  
 will be filed by Monday, May 11, 2026.

4. Required Videotape of the Limited Meeting:

- will be made; OR  
 Board requests a waiver of this requirement because:  
Please see supplemental attachment for further details regarding Boards request  
for waiver of required videotaping requirement of the Limited Meeting.

## CONCURRENCE

The Director of the Office of Information Practices concurs with the request made for a Limited Meeting and:

- does not waive the videotape requirement; OR
- waives the videotape requirement, with the following conditions:

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If concurrence is granted, the Board must:

1. provide notice of the Limited Meeting in accordance with HRS § 92-7;
2. make no decisions at the Limited Meeting;
3. comply with all requirements of HRS § 92-9; and
4. videotape the Limited Meeting and make the videotape available at its next regular meeting, unless this requirement is fully waived above.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carlotta Amerino  
Director

*May 6, 2024*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

2. (Attach relevant portion of draft or adopted minutes.) Board has, after sufficient public deliberation at a prior regular meeting, determined by vote of two-thirds of all voting members that:
- the limited meeting is necessary and the location would be dangerous to the health or safety of the attending public, or
  - the on-site inspection is necessary and public attendance is impracticable

The Board has made this determination based upon the following reasons:

On Thursday, February 12, 2026, the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) held their monthly meeting to discuss and vote on holding a limited meeting at the Hawaii Community Correctional Center (HCCC) (0:39:15 in recording) and noted in the minutes (see attached). The Commission stated that the "on-site inspection is necessary and public attendance is impracticable".

As the Commission discussed, the onsite inspection is necessary to get an idea of what is happening within the facilities as it's extremely different to do oversight in general without having the opportunity to experience the tour and discuss it publicly as a whole. Attendance is impractical for the public due to specific facility policy and procedures – the public is not invited into jails or prisons under any circumstances as you must have an official reason to go into correctional facilities.

Further, the Commission has specific duties to oversee correctional facilities, and it is important for the entire Commission to be able to tour together to collectively find solutions for issues related to the Commission's mandate (HRS 353L). Per HRS 353-3, the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission (HCSOC) shall:

- (1) Oversee the State's correctional system and have jurisdiction over investigating complaints at correctional facilities and facilitating a correctional system transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model.

To achieve these ends, it is vital that the Commission be able to visit every jail and prison overseen and run by the Hawaii Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR). The Commission must tour collectively together so they can discuss their findings as a group, publicly. This will allow all Commissioners to use their unique perspectives and backgrounds while facilitating a correctional system transition to a rehabilitative and therapeutic model.

3. Required Videotape of the Limited Meeting:

- will be made
- Board requests a waiver of this requirement because:

Videotaping is strictly prohibited in any jail or prison in addition to the privacy of staff and people in custody being of high priority. Per 353-7, the Coordinator is required to maintain confidentiality in respect to all matters and the identities of the complainants or witnesses

coming before the Oversight Coordinator except so far as disclosures may be necessary to enable the Oversight Coordinator to carry out the Oversight Coordinator's duties and to support the Oversight Coordinator's recommendations. It is common for complainants to bring issues forward while the Oversight Coordinator and/or Commission visit the jail and prison facilities. Therefore, any recording of this jail visit would be inappropriate, against DCR's procedure, and in potential violation of 353-7.

Further, it is strictly against DCR's Policy ADM.02.05 Cellular Telephones, CL21-2764 Cellular Phone – Electronic Device Authorization and COR.08.02 Searches of Visitors, Staff, Delivery Vehicles, and Delivered Items to take electronic devices in the facilities.

Additionally, on behalf of the Commission, the Oversight Coordinator spoke to the Director of DCR, Tommy Johnson, regarding this issue. He supports the Commission's efforts to bring light to facility conditions and to do so collectively. However, Director Johnson has made it clear that no recording devices are allowed on the premises for distribution of said recording to the public. This is in accordance with Department policy, Hawaii Administrative Rules Title 23 Subtitle 2, Chapter 101, Contraband, and Hawaii Revised Statute 710-1022, Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree and Hawaii Revised Statute 710-1023, Promoting Prison Contraband in the Second Degree. He told me he is happy to talk to you about this if you would like further explanation. His email is [tommy.johnson@hawaii.gov](mailto:tommy.johnson@hawaii.gov).

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR



**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

**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.)**

## 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, February 12, 2026, 9:00 a.m.
- Location: Leiopapa A. Kamehameha Building  
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 204  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
- Recording: YouTube  
<https://youtu.be/zWPtfflw6as?si=RiH7V8ac38W5hJHx>
- Transcript: Meeting Transcript

### Items to be Discussed:

- I. (0:02:20) Call to Order**  
The meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Patterson on Thursday, February 12, 2026. The meeting was conducted in accordance with Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 92.
- II. (0:02:30) Roll Call**
  - **Chair Mark Patterson**
  - **Commissioner R. Mark Browning**
  - **Commissioner Martha Torney**
  - **Commissioner Mike Town**
  - **Commissioner Ronald Ibarra**

Quorum was established with all members present. Also present in person is Oversight Coordinator Christin Johnson and Special Assistant George Choe.

- III. (0:02:55) Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2026.**
- Review of minutes by members. Motion by Chair Patterson to approve January 8, 2026, Open Session Meeting Minutes.
    - i. Motion moved by Commissioner Browning and seconded by Commissioner Ibarra.
    - ii. Vote: Unanimous approval, motion passed, minutes approved.
- IV. (0:03:25) Monthly Update from Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Director Tommy Johnson**
- No updates to OCCC project but looking at changes to mail processes and procedure due to drugs.
  - DCR is looking into making copies of the mail and providing the copy to the recipient, then destroying the original.
  - They are still doing research on the legalities of how it would work.
  - To address assaults and suicides and looking into biotype anklets that will monitor heart rate, pulse increases and respiration. Would pilot and place on higher risk population based on assessment.
  - Legislative bills introduced with the governor's package.
- V. (0:11:45) Overview of Commission's Legislative Priorities**
- HCSOC's 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Priorities  
<https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/33rd-legislative-priorities>
- VI. (0:13:55) Overview of Oversight Coordinator Report**
- Deaths in Custody
    - i. December 30, 2025
    - ii. January 24, 2026
    - iii. January 26, 2026
  - Events Attended
    - i. January 13, 2026 – Restrictive Housing Working Group Meeting
    - ii. January 16, 2026 – Waiawa Correctional Facility – InsideOut Dad/7 Habits on the Inside
    - iii. January 26, 2026 – Women's Community Correctional Center – Makahiki Season of Peace
    - iv. January 29, 2026 – House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee Information Briefing: Hawaii's Pretrial System
    - v. January 30, 2026 – Women's Community Correctional Center – Mental Health Technician Graduation
  - Projects
    - i. Complaint Management
  - Past Meeting
    - i. January 8, 2026 – Monthly Commission Meeting

VII. **(0:34:50) Vote on the necessity for holding a Limited Meeting at the following correctional facilities for this year:**

- The first motion, I move to determine that it is necessary to hold a “limited meeting” at the \_\_\_\_\_, because the onsite inspection is necessary, and public attendance is impracticable due to it being a locked and secured facility. Also, public attendance is not allowed without an official reason due to facility specific policies and procedures.
- The second motion for \_\_\_\_\_, I move that we waive the videotaping requirement because of privacy issues for the people incarcerated in the facility and for those who may be under jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.
- **(0:35:00)**     Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC)
  1. First Motion
    - a. Moved by Commissioner Torney
    - b. Seconded by Commissioner Browning
    - c. Motion passed
  2. Second Motion
    - a. Moved by Commissioner Torney
    - b. Seconded by Commissioner Browning
    - c. Motion passed
- **(0:37:05)**     Kauai Community Correctional Center (KCCC)
  1. First Motion
    - a. Moved by Commissioner Browning
    - b. Seconded by Commissioner Torney
    - c. Motion passed
  2. Second Motion
    - a. Moved by Commissioner Browning
    - b. Seconded by Commissioner Torney
    - c. Motion passed
- **(0:39:15)**     Hawaii Community Correctional Center (HCCC)
  1. First Motion
    - a. Moved by Commissioner Ibarra
    - b. Seconded by Commissioner Browning
    - c. Motion passed
  2. Second Motion
    - a. Moved by Commissioner Ibarra
    - b. Seconded by Commissioner Browning
    - c. Motion passed
- **(0:41:10)**     Maui Community Correctional Center (MCCC)
  1. First Motion
    - a. Moved by Commissioner Browning
    - b. Seconded by Commissioner Ibarra
    - c. Motion passed

- 2. Second Motion
    - a. Moved by Commissioner Browning
    - b. Seconded by Commissioner Ibarra
    - c. Motion passed
- **(0:43:10)** Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC)
  - 1. First Motion
    - a. Moved by Commissioner Torney
    - b. Seconded by Commissioner Browning
    - c. Motion passed
  - 2. Second Motion
    - a. Moved by Commissioner Torney
    - b. Seconded by Commissioner Browning
    - c. Motion passed
- **(0:44:55)** Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF)
  - 1. First Motion
    - a. Moved by Commissioner Torney
    - b. Seconded by Commissioner Browning
    - c. Motion passed
  - 2. Second Motion
    - a. Moved by Commissioner Torney
    - b. Seconded by Commissioner Browning
    - c. Motion passed
- **(0:46:45)** Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF)
  - 1. First Motion
    - a. Moved by Commissioner Ibarra
    - b. Seconded by Commissioner Browning
    - c. Motion passed
  - 2. Second Motion
    - a. Moved by Commissioner Ibarra
    - b. Seconded by Commissioner Browning
    - c. Motion passed
- **(0:48:45)** Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF)
  - 1. First Motion
    - a. Moved by Commissioner Torney
    - b. Seconded by Commissioner Browning
    - c. Motion passed
  - 2. Second Motion
    - a. Moved by Commissioner Torney
    - b. Seconded by Commissioner
    - c. Motion passed Browning

**VIII. (0:34:05) Public Comment**

- Public comment on issues not on the agenda, for consideration for Commission's agenda at the next meeting.
  - i. No public testimony

IX. Announcements and Scheduling of the Next Meeting

- Thursday, March 12, 2026, 9:00 a.m.
- Facility Tour: None

X. Adjournment

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