



# Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission

Monthly Oversight Coordinator Report – June 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 Saturday, May 30, 2026, at approximately 9:31pm., facility staff at the state-contracted facility, Saguaro Correctional Center in Arizona, received notification from a local hospital that a male, 68 years old, was pronounced deceased. An autopsy will determine the official cause of death.

*Please note, this death in custody was not reported to the Commission. Our office only learned of this passing following a review of DCR's webpage. All details contained within this section were provided by DCR's public notification to the Governor.*

On Sunday, June 28, 2026, at approximately 6:00pm, a Caucasian male in custody, 38 years old, was found unresponsive in his cell by other people in custody, who alerted security staff at Maui Community Correctional Center. DCR records indicate that security immediately called for medical assistance before starting CPR at approximately 6:05pm. EMS arrived at approximately 6:18pm before discontinuing CPR at approximately 6:36pm. The Coroner's Office removed the decedent from the cell at approximately 9:02pm. An autopsy will determine the official cause of death and time of death.

## Tours

*No tours were made for the month of June*

## Events Attended

### *NACOLE Quarterly Investigator Forum*

On June 18, 2026, HCSOC staff attended the NACOLE Investigator's Forum, where national oversight representatives discussed emerging trends and developments in correctional and law enforcement accountability. NACOLE event organizers highlighted that the upcoming NACOLE Conference in Kentucky will feature a dedicated track with at least five sessions focused on jail and prison oversight, reflecting a growing emphasis on detention-related best practices. The forum

also included an update from St. Louis, Missouri, where dual oversight over law enforcement and jails has recently shifted, with law enforcement complaints being redirected to the police department's Internal Affairs—a change currently being litigated. The session concluded with a recommendation to view the French film “Dossier 137,” noted for its realistic portrayal of day-to-day investigative oversight work.

#### *NACOLE Jail and Prison Oversight Quarterly Forum*

On June 23, 2026, HCSOC staff attended the NACOLE Jail and Prison Oversight Quarterly Forum, where presenters examined the challenges that arise at the intersection of reproductive health and incarceration. The session highlighted ongoing concerns related to access to prenatal and postpartum care, the use of restraints during pregnancy, inadequate nutrition, and the frequent dismissal of requests for assistance. A significant gap noted throughout the discussion was the absence of comprehensive national data on incarcerated pregnancies. The primary presenter, Emily Werth of ACLU Illinois, reviewed Public Act 103-745, which prohibits the use of restraints throughout the entirety of pregnancy and bans postpartum shackling for at least six months. Hawai'i's own HRS § 353-122 contains similar protections, restricting the use of restraints on committed females during the third trimester, labor, postpartum recovery, or at any point during pregnancy if ordered by a physician, except under extraordinary circumstances such as preventing escape or harm. The statute also requires corrections staff to document any extraordinary circumstances and allows medical professionals in hospital settings to request restraint use.

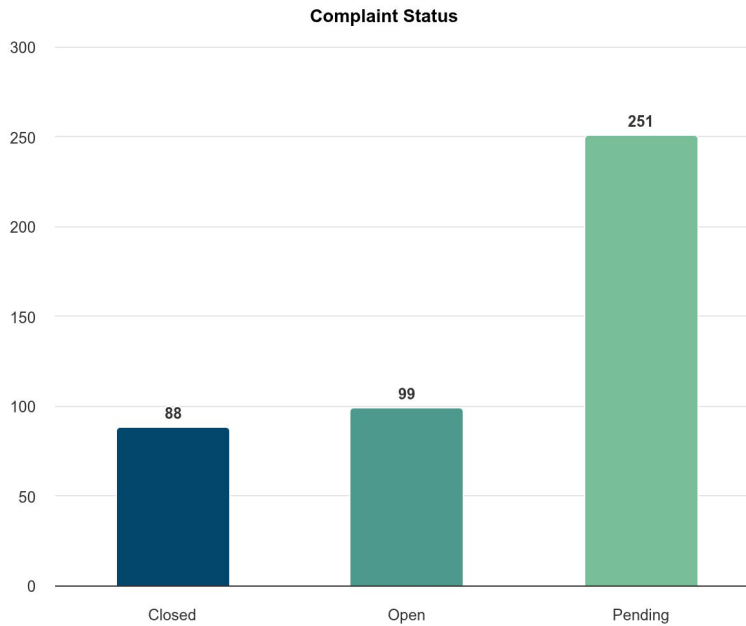
#### *NACOLE Webinar “Reading the Death Record — Autopsy Reports, Toxicology, and Medical Records in Law Enforcement-Related or Custodial Death”*

On June 30, 2026, HCSOC staff attended the NACOLE webinar “Reading the Death Record — Autopsy Reports, Toxicology, and Medical Records in Law Enforcement-Related or Custodial Death,” scheduled from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. ET with an optional discussion from 3:30 to 4:00 p.m. ET. This provided a practical, working understanding of the key documents that make up the official record in custodial or law enforcement involved death cases, including medicolegal death investigation reports, autopsy findings, toxicology results, and medical records. The session guided attendees through how each document is created, how to interpret critical sections, and how to identify red flags or inconsistencies when the documents are reviewed together. Participants also learned about common errors—such as conflating cause and manner of death—and how to evaluate toxicology results and medical records within their proper context.

### **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.

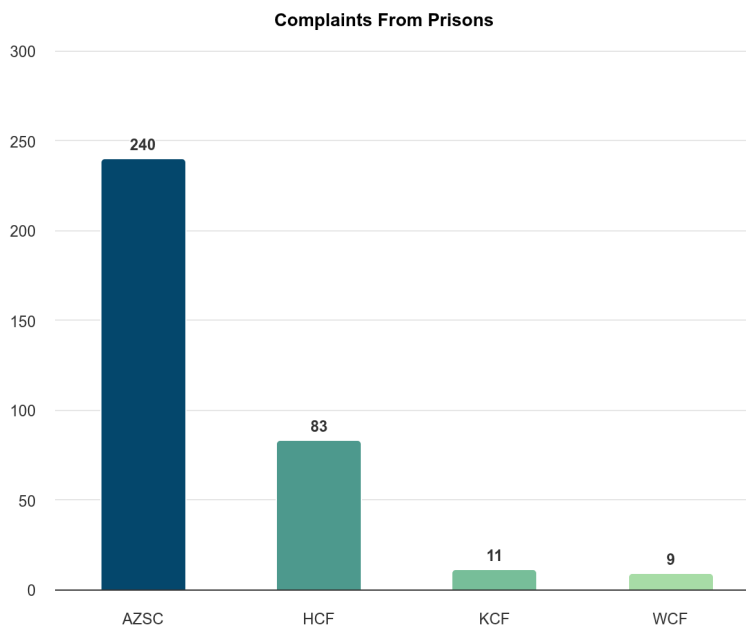
### Complaint Status



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

As of June 25, the Commission had 88 closed complaints and 251 complaints pending waiting for review and potential investigation. The Jail and Prison Oversight Specialists currently have 99 complaints that are open and being actively investigated.

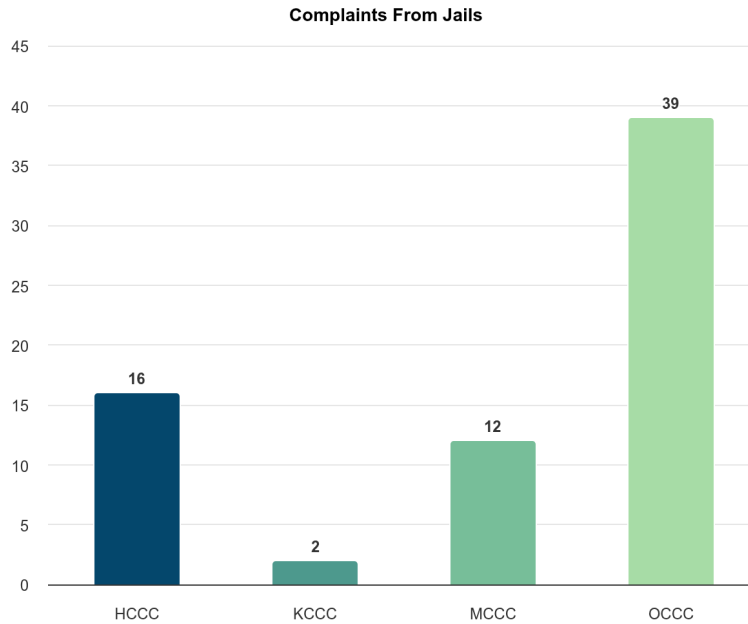
### Complaints from Prison System



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

The Commission received a total of 343 complaints from the prison system (not including the Women’s facility which is detailed below). A total of 240 complaints came from Saguaro Correctional Center (AZSC), a privately run facility in Arizona, 83 complaints from Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF), 11 complaints from Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF), and 9 complaints from the Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF).

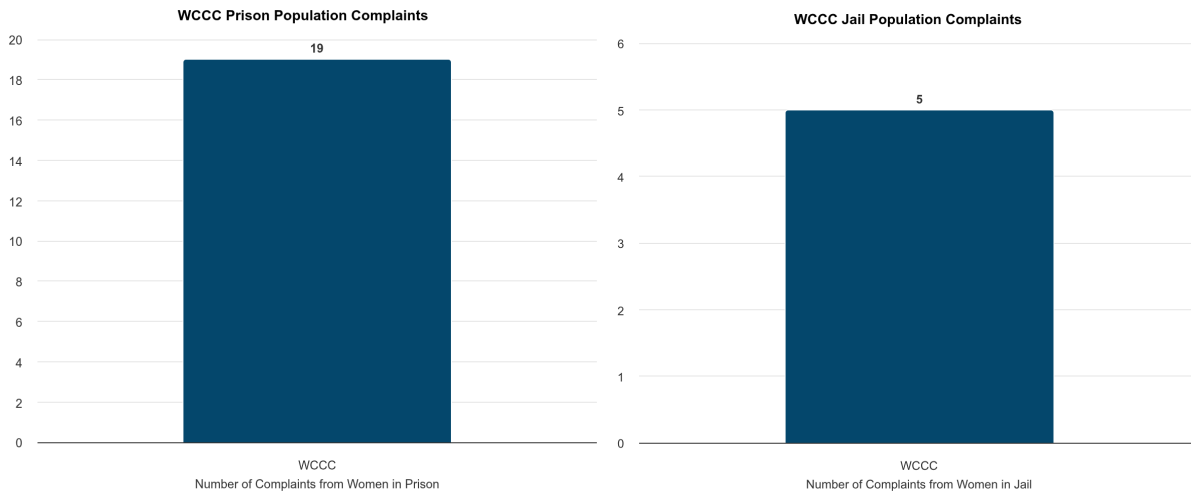
### Complaints from Jail System



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

The Commission received a total of 69 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), 2 complaints from the Kauai Community Correctional Center (KCCC), 12 complaints from the Maui Community Correctional Center (MCCC), and 39 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 on a monthly basis 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](mailto: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 can hold 334 individuals, and KCF can hold 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, **hundreds of people who qualify for minimum custody** remain housed in Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) (a higher-security prison), or Saguardo 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.

November 13, 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

October 14, 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

November 17, 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

June 22, 2026 – Hawaii Male Prison Security Classifications							
Male Prison	Community	Minimum	Medium	Close	Maximum	Unclassified	Total Population
AZSC	--	32	417	362	--	--	811
HCF	5	148	3744	238	2	9	774
WCF	25	163	--	--	--	--	188
KCF	16	47	--	--	--	--	63

Source: Hawaii Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Roster

The above charts highlight that since 2023, between 180–260 people classified as *minimum custody or below* have remained in Halawa or Saguaro. Meanwhile, Kulani’s population dropped from 85 (2023) to 78 (2024) to 86 (2025) and 63 (2026).

Waiawa’s population dropped from 181 (2023) to 136 (2024) to 165 (2025). In the HCSOC May 2026 Monthly Report, the Commission reported that Waiawa’s population had increased its population count for the first time since the Commission began its tracking in 2023. In June 2026, Waiawa maintains this increase from 181 (2023) to 188 (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 (and Why)*

Since 2023, the Commission has recommended transferring eligible minimum 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.

Although the Commission understands that not all Minimums will be eligible to be in a Minimum facility (based on factors such as finishing programming, waiting for and passing medical clearance, pending misconduct adjudication, etc.), the Commission is still concerned regarding the high number of lower-level classifications in higher level facilities. Leaving minimum custody facilities 50% underused while eligible individuals sit in higher custody settings undermines rehabilitation, public safety, and responsible stewardship of state resources. The Commission will continue to report on this issue until it has been appropriately addressed.

### *Monthly Commission Meeting*

On February 12, 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 – June

Item	Cost	Qty	Total	Description
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			<b>\$13,552.43</b>	
TELEPHONE	\$264.99	1	\$264.99	MAY
SHI INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION	\$11,368.56	1	\$11,368.56	COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
NACOLE	\$700.00	1	\$700.00	MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
PROFESSIONAL IMAGE	\$1,218.88	1	\$1,218.88	2025 HCSOC ANNUAL REPORTS (11 COPIES)
<b>Inter-Island Travel</b>			<b>\$1,255.54</b>	
P. DIEM MEAL-GC	\$20.00	1	\$20.00	04/17 - PER DIEM
PARKING-GC	\$25.00	1	\$25.00	04/17 - TRAVEL PARKING
P. DIEM MEAL-GC	\$20.00	1	\$20.00	05/14 - PER DIEM
PARKING-GC	\$27.00	1	\$27.00	05/14 - TRAVEL PARKING
P. DIEM MEAL-MTT	\$20.00	1	\$20.00	05/14 - PER DIEM
PARKING-MTT	\$27.00	1	\$27.00	05/14 - TRAVEL PARKING
AIRFARE-RI	\$179.90	1	\$179.90	02/12 - AIRFARE REIMBURSEMENT
P. DIEM MEAL-RI	\$20.00	1	\$20.00	02/12 - PER DIEM
PARKING-RI	\$26.99	1	\$26.99	02/12 - TRAVEL PARKING
P. DIEM MEAL-RI	\$20.00	1	\$20.00	04/17 - PER DIEM
PARKING-RI	\$26.99	1	\$26.99	04/17 - TRAVEL PARKING
P. DIEM MEAL-ANJ	\$20.00	1	\$20.00	04/17 - PER DIEM
AIRFARE-MKP	-\$192.90	1	-\$192.90	05/14 - AIRFARE REIMBURSEMENT
CAR RENTAL-GC	\$77.00	1	\$77.00	05/14 - ENTERPRISE
AIRFARE-CMA	-\$192.90	1	-\$192.90	05/14 - AIRFARE REIMBURSEMENT
AIRFARE-RI	\$190.60	1	\$190.60	06/18 - ALASKA
AIRFARE-RMB	\$156.81	1	\$156.81	06/18 - ALASKA
AIRFARE-MKP	\$156.81	1	\$156.81	06/18 - ALASKA
AIRFARE-ANJ	\$156.81	1	\$156.81	06/18 - ALASKA
AIRFARE-MTT	\$156.81	1	\$156.81	06/18 - ALASKA
AIRFARE-GC	\$156.81	1	\$156.81	06/18 - ALASKA
AIRFARE-CMA	\$156.81	1	\$156.81	06/18 - ALASKA
<b>Mainland Travel</b>			<b>\$1,337.24</b>	
PER DIEM-MKP	\$616.25	1	\$616.25	02/17-21/2026 PHX, AZ
EXCESS LODGING-MKP	\$680.99	1	\$680.99	02/17-21/2026 PHX, AZ
BAGGAGE FEE-MKP	\$40.00	1	\$40.00	02/17-21/2026 PHX, AZ
<b>Conferences</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>	
			<b>TOTAL \$16,145.21</b>	

*\* All expenses reflect posted transactions procured*

## General Office Information

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

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

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

Email: [hcsoc@hawaii.gov](mailto: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 July 9, 2026. The next monthly meeting is scheduled to occur on August 13, 2026, at the Leiopapa A. Kamehameha Building, 235 S. Beretania Street, Room 204, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813, or online via teleconference. More information can be found on the Commission's webpage here: <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov/information>.