



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: Thursday, June 18, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Location: University of Hawai'i Maui College
310 W. Ka'ahumanu Avenue, Room Noii 206
Kahului, Hawai'i 96732

Recording: [YouTube](https://youtu.be/sEaEt3sUQnI?si=b4slx3nONWaMvc1N)
<https://youtu.be/sEaEt3sUQnI?si=b4slx3nONWaMvc1N>

Transcript: [Meeting Transcript](#)

Items to be Discussed:

I. (0:00:25) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Patterson on Thursday, June 18, 2026. The meeting was conducted in accordance with Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 92.

II. (0:00:35) Roll Call

- Chair Mark Patterson
- Commissioner R. Mark Browning
- Commissioner Ronald Ibarra
- Commissioner Martha Torney
- Commissioner Mike Town (virtual)

Quorum was established with all members present. Also present in person is Special Assistant George Choe.

III. (0:01:05) Approval of Meeting Minutes of May 14, 2026

- Review of minutes by members. Motion by Chair Patterson to approve May 14, 2026, Open Session Meeting Minutes.

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

IV. (0:01:35) Monthly Update from Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Director Tommy Johnson

Prior notification was given to the Commission that there were no updates at this time and all DCR leadership would not be in attendance due to their annual service awards ceremony at the State Capitol.

V. (0:02:00) Overview of Oversight Coordinator Report

- Deaths in Custody
 - i. May 19, 2026
 - ii. May 26, 2026
- Tours
 - i. No tours scheduled
- Events Attended
 - i. No events attended
- Complaints Received by the Commission
- Findings on Lack of Movement Throughout the Prison System
- Past Meetings

Public Testimony

- Oral Testimony:
 - i. Kat Brady – Addresses the complaint system and many of them from Saguaro regarding the Hawaii Contract Monitor. She keeps abusing due process rights of people who are incarcerated and have intervened in HIPPA violations. Has brought this issue up in the past and hopes that when she comes to Hawaii for her annual visit, the Oversight Commission will work with the legislature to do an informational briefing to understand what is going on.
 - ii. Kerensa Higa – Trying to request simple food and safety inspection report. Commissioners responded to address that her testimony is to be in response to the current agenda item, and she may bring this concern at the end and can add this to the next agenda.
- Written Testimony: No previously submitted written testimony was received.
- Commission:
 - i. Commissioner Torney speaks on the minimum security facilities at Kulani and how many empty beds there are and furlough beds. Referring to the chart in the oversight coordinator report.

VI. (0:09:35) Senate Concurrent Resolution 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.

Public Testimony

- Oral Testimony: No oral Testimony
- Written Testimony: No previously submitted written testimony was received.
- Commission:
 - i. First meeting to be scheduled at the end of July upon return of the Oversight Coordinator.
 - ii. Commissioner Town brings up the concern of mandatory minimums and is for the judges or paroling authority? Whether we should reduce mandatory minimums as there seems to be very poor due process on this issue.
 - iii. Chair Patterson asks Commissioner Town if he could send in his concerns to the office so that the Commission may follow up on this.
 - iv. Commissioner Town is advised to have any attorneys to write to the HCSOC office for any concerns or communication.
 - v. Commissioner Torney makes a comment that she thought that the paroling authority could not override the judge's mandatory minimum which is by law and that it's not in the hands of the judges completely, so the Hawaii Paroling Authority does not have the authority to lower the mandatory minimum and would have to go back to court. The parole board cannot set the minimums below the mandatory minimums.
 - vi. Chair Patterson makes the comment that the Commission does not have authority over the Hawaii Paroling Authority but maybe in the next legislation, this can be added in HCSOC's mandate.

VII. (0:16:50) Public Comment

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

Public Testimony

- Oral Testimony:
 - i. Kerensa Higa – would like to find more transparency and never imagined how hard it is to get simple health records and have gone through so many offices and following all the rules. Not sure what to do and what next steps.
 1. Chair Patterson requests if she can email it to the commission's website.
 - ii. Kat Brady – Ask the Commission to ask DCR when the Hawaii Contract Monitor comes to Hawaii for her annual meeting that they hold a public informational briefing with the legislature.
- Written Testimony:
 - i. Testimony received from Dr. Kinikini and asks to add the restrictive housing bill to the agenda and the implementation data analysis update including how prolonged restricted housing will be identified and reviewed when formal classification labels may not reflect the actual safety related. Stresses that the restrictive housing law is a multi-year implementation and the Department is to begin on July 1, 2026.

- Commission:
 - i. There is nothing to look at currently and have not seen the policies and will ask for them in July. The Commission needs all the information on this and there is a role for the Commission to participate in this in the bill on pages 19 and 20. It says “following the initial hearing for placement of individual into restrictive housing the Department shall immediately notify and transmit all relevant documentation to the Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission and then the correctional oversight commission shall actively monitor and review all housing placements of the individuals subjected to this.” There is working group and is primarily focused on special needs inmates.
 - 1. Kat Brady notes that the Community Prison on Alliance and OHA are community groups that are part of the working group for this.

VIII. (0:25:55) Announcements and Scheduling of the Next Meeting

- Thursday, July 9, 2026, 9:00 a.m.
- Facility Tour: Oahu Community Correctional Center

IX. Adjournment

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