

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

News Release

NEIL ABERCROMBIE GOVERNOR

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STATE PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT NEW BOOKING AND WARRANTS FACILITY WILL CURB DELAYS IN PROCESSING

HONOLULU – After two years of planning and construction the new Sheriff Division Booking/Receiving and Warrants Facility on Keawe Street is open. The previous booking station was housed in Halawa Correctional Facility which made it difficult for people to voluntarily turn themselves in and resulted in delays in processing arrests due to transport and paperwork challenges.

"This new facility will help streamline operations for the Sheriff's Division as well as provide a valuable service to the surrounding community," said Governor Neil Abercrombie. "I commend the Sheriff's Division for the work they do to ensure public safety on all levels."

"We expect the number of people who voluntarily turn themselves in to increase because of this move to a new location," said State Sheriff Shawn Tsuha. "The relocated facility is ideally located to service members of the public and better support our law enforcement partners".

The \$1.2 million facility opened last month. The number of bookings has nearly doubled from 74 in November 2010 to 155 in November of this year. Bookings increased from 38 in December 2010 as compared to 74 as of December 13, 2011.

The Public Safety Department (PSD) worked diligently with federal officials, contractors, designers, and utility companies to ensure the facility was ready to support State Law Enforcement mission areas during the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

Legislators along with the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) were also instrumental in working with PSD to make this happen. PSD is allowed to use the land at no cost in return for the added security of patrolling the Kakaako area.

"There was a recognized need for law enforcement in the Kakaako area," said Jodie Maesaka-Hirata, Director of the Department of Public Safety. "Without their support, projects like this wouldn't move forward. We hope public/private partnerships like this one will be a model for the future".

Part of the Abercrombie administration's "New Day" plan is to ensure that Law Enforcement is focused on collaborative efforts to address the negative effects of criminal behavior and drugs in order to create a better standard of living for Hawaii's Families. As such, PSD's Sheriff Division is working to reach out to other stakeholders and organizations in an effort to think "outside the box" in addressing law enforcement.

Contractor T. Lida Contracting, Ltd., designer Mitsunaga and Associates, the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division, Hawaiian TELCOM, Oceanic Cable and Hawaiian Electric Company all contributed to the completion of the Sheriff's new booking/receiving and warrants facility.

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