



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

News Release

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For Immediate Release: August 31, 2012

TEN HALAWA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY INMATES RECEIVE GED DIPLOMAS

HONOLULU – Ten inmates housed at the Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) are now one step closer to reintegrating back into society. A cap and gown graduation ceremony was held today at the facility where the ten men were handed their GED diplomas.

The HCF Education Center is run by the Department of Public Safety's Corrections Education Program Services Division. They help the inmates to better themselves and improve their job outlook so they can successfully return to society.

"As people pursue educational goals they learn firsthand the fruits of perseverance as well as the road to better decision making," said HCF Warden Nolan Espinda. "With these skills they are better prepared to return to their communities as good neighbors."

Once they enter the facility, the inmate goes through a series of interviews and assessments to determine intake, educational needs and other information. They also take the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE). The result of the test determines the inmate's placement in the academic program, and in some cases, the elective courses that the inmate can enroll in.

Many students start off in Basic Education which includes reading, math, and writing classes. They need to have attended each class for 40 hours before they get re-tested for placement in higher levels and eventually in the Secondary Education program otherwise known as GED Preparation. Inmates in the GED prep class take, on average, about nine months to one year to complete the course. The students do homework on a daily basis, perform class activities and study lessons to be able to qualify for the GED testing. They need to pass the official practice test before they can take the official GED test.

"The students realize that they develop skills that are beneficial for them as individuals and will help them when it's time to leave the facility and find a job," said HCF Corrections Education Supervisor Amy Jodar. "For many, completing the GED is the

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first actual accomplishment that they have in life. Having a GED diploma is also a motivation for them to pursue higher education.”

Besides the GED program, there are a variety of other education programs they can be enrolled in. For a list of the programs please see the attached document.

The Corrections Education Program Services mission is to realize and actualize the potential of each individual through the development of academic education, vocational training, cultural awareness, and spiritual growth.

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