

Future of the Oahu Community Correctional Center

Volume 14 - WCCC Expansion Planning Underway

August 2017

Hawaii Department of Public Safety

The Hawaii Department of Public Safety (PSD) operates the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) which acts as the local detention center for the First Circuit Court. Located within an approximately 16-acre property at 2199 Kamehameha Highway in Honolulu, OCCC is currently the largest jail facility in the State of Hawaii. OCCC provides the customary jail function of managing both pre-trial detainees and locally-sentenced misdemeanor offenders and others with a sentence of one year or less as well as providing a pre-release preparation/transition function for prison system inmates when they reach less than a year until their scheduled release.

With increasingly aged and obsolete correctional facilities, PSD is proposing to improve its corrections infrastructure through modernization of existing facilities and construction of new institutions to replace others. Among its priority projects is the replacement of OCCC which, when constructed, will take advantage of the newest cost-savings technologies and improve correctional services and safety for inmates, staff and the public. Four alternative sites are under active consideration for development of a replacement OCCC: the existing OCCC site in Kalihi, the Animal Quarantine Facility and Halawa Correctional Facility sites located in Halawa, and the Mililani Technology Park site in Mililani.

Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC)

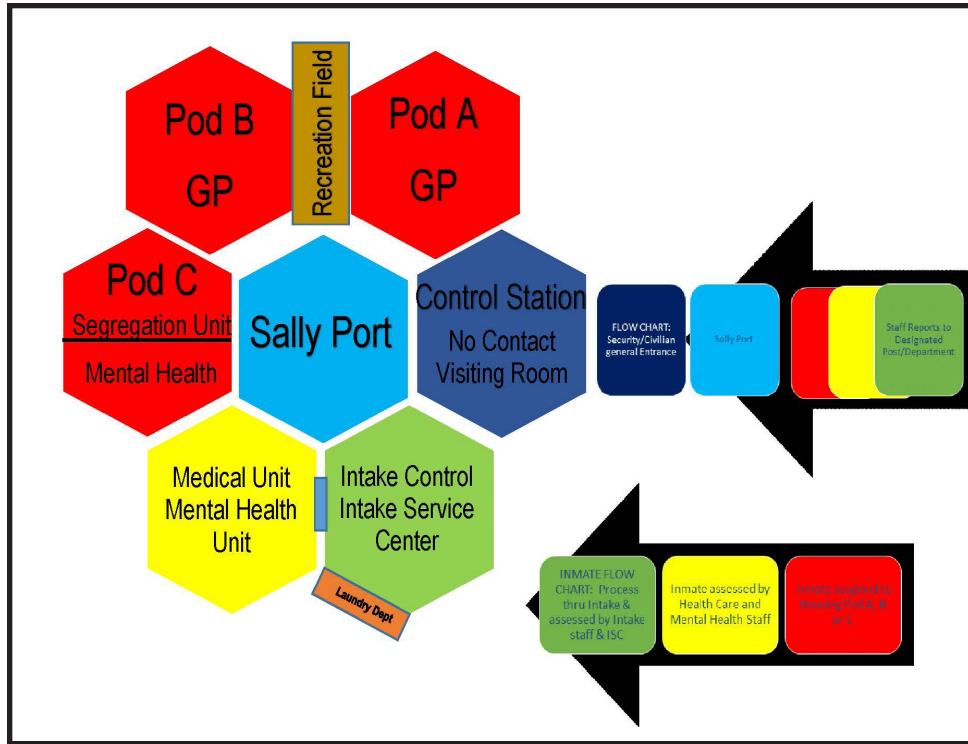
In addition to housing male offenders, OCCC currently houses pretrial female offenders, higher security female offenders, and female offenders eligible for Community Release. PSD plans to relocate female inmates from OCCC to the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) located in Kailua. The purpose of this is to provide female inmates greater access to rehabilitation programs and improved family visitation.

WCCC is the only all-female facility in Hawaii, providing for the long-term care and custody of female sentenced felons. Located on the site of the former Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility in Kailua, the original housing buildings, (Ka'ala, Maunawili, and Olomana Cottages) along with most of the support infrastructure were constructed in 1952 and adapted with minor renovations undertaken from 1992 to 1994. An additional cottage – Ahiki – was constructed in 1999. The current rated capacity for WCCC is 260 beds although it is currently housing approximately 295 female inmates.

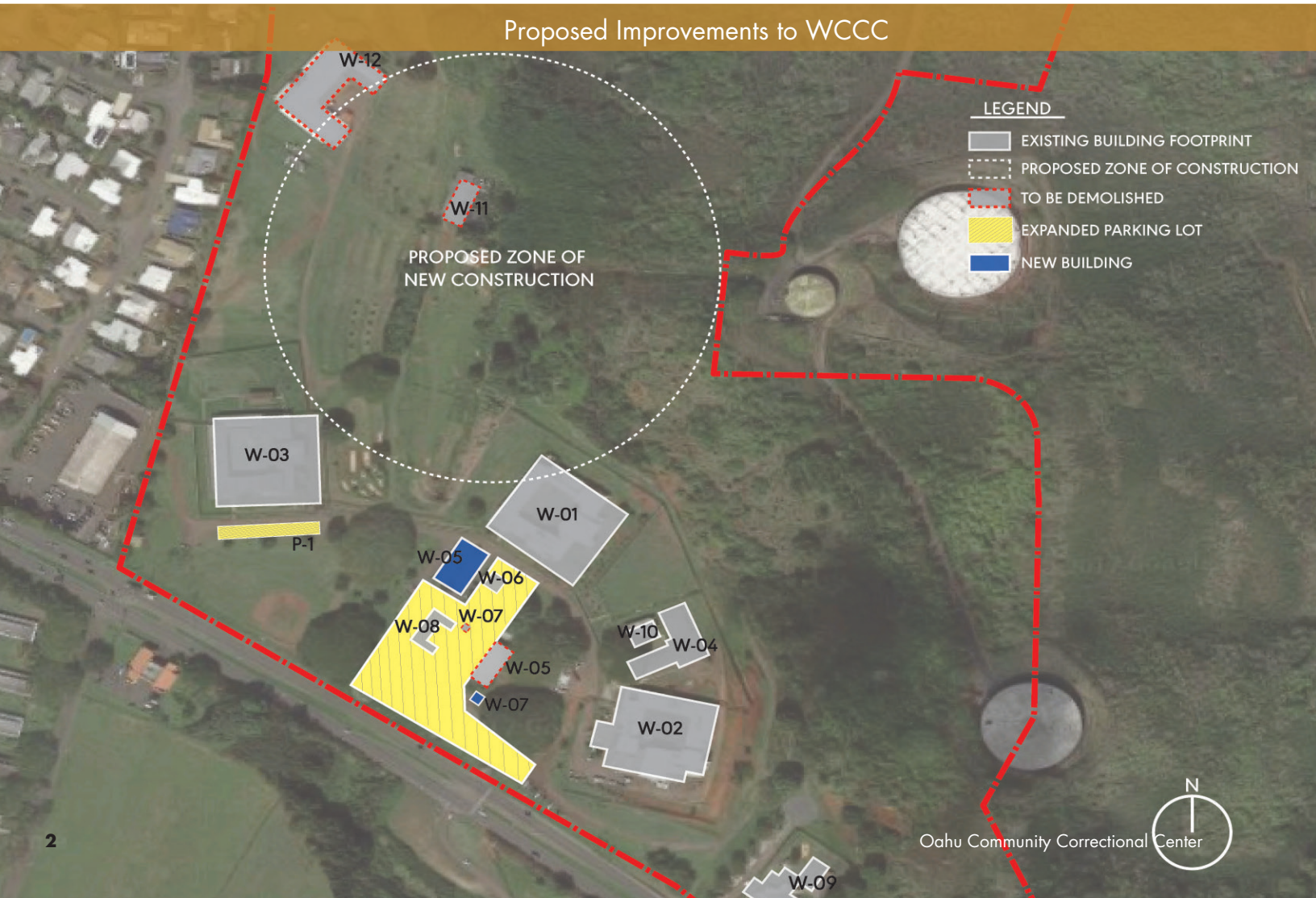


To accommodate the additional female population to be relocated from OCCC, PSD is developing plans for improving inmate housing and supporting infrastructure at WCCC. Improvements under consideration include development of a new housing unit comprising approximately 180 dormitory-style beds (Pods A and B), 14 segregation unit cells and 14 mental health unit cells (Pod C), intake control and intake services, medical and mental health units, a central control station, non-contact visiting room, outdoor recreation area, laundry department and other ancillary facilities.

Other improvements to support the increased female population are also being explored, including renovating the currently vacant Hookipa Cottage to house female inmates, replacing the dilapidated maintenance/warehouse building, constructing a new administrative office building, and new gatehouse, along with additional parking.



Additional WCCC housing unit concept design





Replacement of WCCC maintenance building/warehouse planned



Possible future development sites at WCCC

HRS 353-16.37: Community Partnering at WCCC

To address the unique aspects of developing or expanding in-state correctional facilities such as the planned WCCC improvements and expansion, the Hawaii State Legislature enacted HRS 353-16.37 to provide for “community partnering.” Enacted in 1998, the statute is intended to involve potential host communities early in the planning process. The statute also requires PSD to implement a community partnering process that includes a community hearing to solicit input as well as a community benefit and enhancement package (in concert with the host community) to mitigate the potential negative impacts of developing or expanding a correctional facility. In the 19 years since passage of HRS 353-16.37, the State of Hawaii has not developed new or expanded correctional facilities, therefore the proposed WCCC expansion project could be the first subjected to HRS 353-16.37.

Approach to WCCC Community Partnering

It is expected that development of the improvements at WCCC (estimated completion: early 2023) will occur ahead of the proposed OCCC replacement project (estimated completion: mid 2023). Given the earlier schedule for WCCC implementation, there is an opportunity to undertake partnering with the Kailua community while the OCCC project and process continues to unfold.

To initiate community partnering for the proposed WCCC expansion project, PSD is inviting representatives of the Kailua community to participate as members of a WCCC Community Partnering Task Force. Elected officials representing the area surrounding WCCC are being invited to participate as Task Force members as well other members of the Kailua community (educators, business leaders, Neighborhood Board members, etc.). The WCCC Community Partnering Task Force would be responsible for representing the Kailua community in partnering

with PSD to consider and agree upon the nature and scale of potential adverse community impacts arising from construction and operation of the planned WCCC expansion, based on the findings of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) currently in preparation. Additionally, the WCCC Community Partnering Task Force will determine applicable and appropriate benefit and enhancement measures to mitigate potential adverse impacts of WCCC expansion based on the findings of the Draft EIS.

Once invitations to participate as members of the WCCC Community Partnering Task Force have been accepted, PSD will host an organizational meeting with discussions of Task Force goals and objectives, leadership positions, an anticipated meeting schedule, and other administrative responsibilities.

Determining WCCC Impacts and Possible Benefit and Enhancement Measures

To understand the nature, scale and scope of potential impacts associated with WCCC expansion, analysis and input from the Draft EIS is necessary. It will be via the Draft EIS process that the potential community, social, infrastructure and other impacts associated with WCCC expansion will be identified. The basis for a community benefit and enhancement package necessary to minimize potential adverse impacts will be determined from the Draft EIS analysis. It is envisioned that a second WCCC Community Partnering Task Force meeting would be held to present and discuss anticipated adverse impacts requiring mitigation and the range of potential measures to mitigate those impacts.

Once the nature and scale of potential community impacts arising from WCCC expansion (construction and operation) is accepted by the WCCC Community Partnering Task Force, possible benefit and enhancement measures can be considered, which according to HRS 353, may include infrastructure improvements; job training programs or improvements to schools and health care facilities; social programs; or other governmental functions. It will be necessary to determine potential benefit and enhancement measures that directly address the nature and scale of potential adverse project-related impacts while focusing on measures that are legal and justifiable and avoiding those that are not legal and justifiable. Doing so early in the process is intended to avoid

devoting time and effort to measures which are not project-related and for which the State of Hawaii is unable to fund and/or implement.

The legal authority for implementing such benefits, the timing of implementation (i.e., pre-construction, construction, and post-construction/operation), and potential costs will also need to be identified so that as the community partnering process progresses, PSD and the WCCC Community Partnering Task Force will consider measures that are justifiable and implementable while providing the host community with the benefits necessary to offset adverse or negative project-related impacts. It is envisioned that one to two WCCC Community Partnering Task Force meetings would take place to propose, discuss and reach conceptual understanding on possible community benefits.

Community Hearing

Community partnering activities will include holding one Community Hearing that would bring together PSD, the WCCC Community Partnering Task Force, Kailua community leaders, and the public to learn about the community partnering process, gain an understanding of the types of project-related impacts requiring mitigation, and allow for feedback concerning the range of potential benefits and enhancement measures. PSD would arrange for and host the Community Hearing within Kailua to ensure that the requirements of HRS 353-16.37 are met. Public input during the Community Hearing would be encouraged and welcomed.



Progress Continues in Preparing Environmental Impact Statement

As reported in previous OCCC Newsletters, the OCCC team has been focused on preparing the Draft EIS. To date, studies undertaken include biological surveys, archaeological and historical research, air and noise analyses, economic impact studies, cultural impact studies and traffic impact studies. Other technical studies have been initiated and advanced over the past month as summarized below.

Traffic Studies Underway

As part of Draft EIS preparation, traffic impact analyses are underway for the four alternative OCCC sites, as well as the WCCC. Traffic count surveys were conducted in the vicinity of the study sites and the data gathered has been processed for analysis to establish baseline traffic demands and operating conditions along the surrounding roadways at each site. To ensure adequate sampling of traffic data reflecting current baseline traffic conditions, traffic count survey programs were conducted for each of the study sites during the typical morning and afternoon peak periods of traffic on several days throughout several survey weeks in April 2017. During the surveys, the operational characteristics of the study roadways and intersections were observed noting operational characteristics, such as vehicular queuing, traffic signal timing and coordination, platooning, pedestrian demands, and other conditions, as appropriate.

Other traffic-related work included research of historical traffic data in the region of the five study sites, including ambient traffic projections using statistical analyses to establish potential future traffic growth. Once the baseline traffic conditions, and ambient traffic projections and forecasts are established, project-related traffic generation will be determined and incorporated into the analysis to represent future traffic conditions. The resulting cumulative traffic demands will be analyzed to determine project-specific traffic impacts as the result of the development of each of the study sites. If adverse traffic operational impacts are identified, mitigation measures to eliminate or minimize such potential impacts will be recommended and documented in a Traffic Impact Analysis report that will be incorporated within the Draft EIS.



Economic Impacts Being Studied

Constructing and operating the proposed OCCC and WCCC projects would generate economic impacts beyond the direct expenditures required for construction and operation. Additional output, employment, and personal income as well as tax revenues would be generated through increased spending by construction companies, proposed OCCC project suppliers, and facility workers and their families, thereby boosting economic activity within the County. There would also be some spillover effects to the rest of Hawaii in the form of indirect and induced benefits. The economic and financial effects resulting from the project would be both short-term and long-term. Towards that end, the Draft EIS will include a detailed assessment of the economic impacts associated with development and operation of the proposed OCCC and WCCC projects.

The Draft EIS will analyze the changes in employment, income, and output associated with building and operating the new OCCC as well as the improvements planned for WCCC. Direct employment, for example, would include the workers hired to construct the facilities and to manage the facilities once operational. The analysis will also address indirect and induced effects which result from purchases of materials and services such as steel, lumber, and cement from local suppliers. Finally, "induced" effects, which are the increases in economic activity attributable to additional spending by workers and their families who were directly or indirectly hired as a result of the project, will also be assessed. The economic benefits arising during the construction phase would be temporary and would cease at the end of the construction period. In contrast, the benefits arising from the operation and maintenance phase would continue for the life of the facility. However, because the new OCCC facility is intended to replace the existing OCCC, only the incremental economic benefits of operating the new OCCC are being considered in the analysis.

Potential Air Quality Impacts Assessed

Regardless of the alternative site selected for OCCC development, short-term impacts to air quality would result directly and indirectly as a consequence of project construction. For a project such as a new OCCC, the majority of the potential air emissions that could result in short-term air quality impacts during construction involve two types: fugitive dust from vehicle movement, site clearing, grading and excavation; and exhaust emissions from operation of on-site construction equipment. The Draft EIS will analyze the potential impacts to air quality associated with construction of the new OCCC project.

Construction-related impacts to air quality are generally limited to fugitive dust emissions that would occur in and around the construction site resulting from site preparation and construction operations. Fugitive dust emissions typically occur during building demolition, ground clearing and preparation, site grading, the stockpiling of materials, on-site movements of construction equipment, and the transportation of construction materials to and from the site. Actual quantities of fugitive dust emissions depend on the extent and nature of the clearing operations, the type of equipment employed, the physical characteristics of the underlying soil, the speed at which construction vehicles are operated, and the type of fugitive dust control methods employed. Much of the fugitive dust generated by construction activity consists of relatively large-size particles which would settle within a short distance from the construction work areas and, as a result, not pose a significant adverse impact upon neighboring properties or residents of the vicinity of the project site.

Example of fugitive dust emissions during construction





Public Outreach Continues with Neighborhood Board Meetings

PSD is committed to openness and inclusiveness throughout the planning process for the new OCCC and is continuing its outreach efforts at these September and October 2017 Neighborhood Board meetings:

9/11/2017

Aiea Neighborhood Board No. 20

Aiea Public Library, 99-374 Pohai Place

Board convenes at 7:30 p.m.

9/18/2017

Wahiawa Neighborhood Board No. 26

Wahiawa District Park, Halekoa Building, 1139-A, Kilani Avenue

Board convenes at 7:00 p.m.

9/19/2017

Mililani/Mauka/Launani Valley Neighborhood Board No. 35

Mililani Mauka Elementary School, 95-111 Makaikai Street

Board convenes at 7:00 p.m.

9/20/2017

Kalihi Palama Neighborhood Board No. 15

Kalihi Union Church, 2214 North King Street

Board convenes at 7:00 p.m.

10/5/2017

Kailua Neighborhood Board No. 31

Kailua Recreation Center, 21 South Kainalu Drive

Board convenes at 7:00 p.m.



Upcoming Activities

The OCCC planning process is moving forward with these activities anticipated in the months ahead:

September 2017	<p>Continue detailed studies of four alternative OCCC sites and the WCCC via the Environmental Impact Statement process.</p> <p>Initiate "Community Partnering" with the Kailua community concerning WCCC improvements in accordance with HRS 353-16.37.</p> <p>Continue public outreach, information, and engagement process; look to the OCCC website for announcements concerning Neighborhood Board meetings and other events and activities.</p> <p>Publish OCCC Newsletter Vol. 15.</p>
October 2017	<p>Complete technical studies of four alternative OCCC sites and the Women's CCC towards publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement by the end of 2017.</p> <p>Advance "Community Partnering" with the Kailua community concerning WCCC improvements in accordance with HRS 353-16.37.</p> <p>Continue public outreach, information, and engagement process; look to the OCCC website for announcements, events and related activities.</p>
November 2017	<p>Continue public outreach, information, and engagement process; look to the OCCC website for announcements, events and related activities.</p> <p>Publish OCCC Newsletter Vol. 16.</p>

Interested in Learning More?

For additional information visit <http://dps.hawaii.gov/occc-future-plans> or contact:

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