



Future of the Oahu Community Correctional Center

Volume 16 - Animal Quarantine Station Selected

December 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 16.46-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 being considered 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.

In addition to housing male offenders, OCCC currently houses pretrial female offenders, higher security female offenders, and female offenders eligible for Community Release. Plans are to relocate female inmates from OCCC to the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) located in Olomana, Kailua in order to provide female inmates greater access to rehabilitation programs and improved family visitation.

Governor Announces Animal Quarantine Station Site for New OCCC

On November 8, 2017, Governor David Ige announced the Animal Quarantine Station site in Halawa to be the preferred location for development of the new OCCC. The announcement coincided with the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which documented the long-standing need for a new OCCC and the rationale for the Animal Quarantine Station site as the location for its development.



Gov. Ige during a Press Conference, November 8, 2017
Credit: Wayne Yoshioka of Hawaii Public Radio

"In my 2016 State of the State address I announced an effort to work with the community to envision a new future for Kalihi and pledged to move forward with the relocation of the Oahu Community Correctional Center. I'm confident that we will be able to build a modern facility at the Animal Quarantine Station that relieves long-standing overcrowding and is secure, efficient and cost-effective," said Gov. David Ige.



Governor David Ige

OCCC Town Meeting Held

A hallmark of the planning and environmental study process has been the commitment to openness and inclusiveness; in keeping with that approach, PSD and DAGS hosted a Town Hall meeting concerning the proposed OCCC project and the Draft EIS. Over 80 individuals representing agencies, organizations and neighborhoods throughout Oahu attended the Town Hall meeting held November 29, 2017 at the Aloha Stadium Hospitality Room. The meeting brought together leaders of PSD and DAGS and their consultants to present information to an audience interested in the future of OCCC. The meeting also provided the public with a forum from which to offer comments and input concerning the Draft EIS for the proposed OCCC project.

An Open House preceded the formal public meeting where members of the public could interact with representatives of the OCCC Project Team to share information, receive answers to questions concerning the proposed project, and offer their thoughts and insights.

Members of the public examining exhibits during Open House.



Following a year of study, the Draft EIS was published on November 8, 2017 initiating a 60-day public review period. The Draft EIS addresses the potential impacts of construction and operation of the proposed OCCC replacement facility on the natural and man-made environments at each of four alternative sites. PSD is also proposing to relocate female detainees currently housed at OCCC to WCCC to better accommodate the needs of Hawaii's adult female population. Therefore, improving and expanding WCCC to accommodate adult female offenders currently housed at OCCC will also be necessary. The potential impacts associated with the proposed improvements to and expansion of WCCC have also been addressed within the Draft EIS.

The primary objectives for replacing OCCC are to better physically accommodate current and projected detainee populations, provide for public safety, and improve operational efficiency. Developing a new facility to replace the current OCCC will ensure that Hawaii's criminal justice system in general, and PSD in particular, can function in a high quality manner while addressing the need for a modern, secure, efficient and cost-effective institution. A new OCCC facility will also allow PSD to accomplish its mission to uphold justice and public safety, meet the needs of current and future detainee populations, and provide for the continued safety and security of detainees, staff, volunteers, visitors and the public.

"The process used to develop the Draft EIS was rigorous and transparent. The state and its consultants have worked effectively to ensure the integrity of a process that included an extensive public outreach and engagement effort and the identification and evaluation of potential impacts to the environment and the public," said Roderick K. Becker, Comptroller.

Following the Open House, the Town Hall meeting began with introductory remarks by Tracey S. Wiltgen of the Mediation Center of the Pacific, who was the Moderator for the meeting. PSD Director Nolan P. Espinda then welcomed the audience and explained the urgent need to replace the outmoded, obsolete and inefficient OCCC. He also credited Governor David Ige with leading from the front on this project, beginning with the Governor's vision first expressed in his 2016 State of the State speech and continuing to his November 8, 2017 Press Conference announcing the Animal Quarantine Station as the preferred site for the new OCCC.

"A new OCCC at the Animal Quarantine Station site in Halawa, as proposed in the Draft EIS, would better meet the current and future needs of the State of Hawaii," said Public Safety Director Nolan Espinda. *"The notion that we are trying to build a larger facility to expand and increase our incarcerated population is simply not true. It is critical that we build a more modern and efficient jail to house our current population in a safe, secure, clean and constitutionally compliant facility."*

Following Director Espinda was State Comptroller Roderick K. Becker who described the role of DAGS in the important and much-needed OCCC project. DAGS is assisting PSD to oversee the planning process for the new facility and supporting PSD's efforts to improve all of Hawaii's jail facilities. DAGS and PSD have also a strong working relationship with the Consultant Team, who have partnered with the State of Hawaii to plan the new facility.

Comptroller Becker also provided a brief overview of the purpose of the environmental review process which is to ensure that all environmental, economic, and technical concerns are given appropriate consideration in decision making. While there are several types of actions that can "trigger" the State's environmental law, every State project is required to address this law in some form. Beginning in September 2016 with publication of the EIS Preparation Notice, the OCCC process has progressed to publication of the Draft EIS and the 60-day public review process. Following the end of the review process, preparation of the Final EIS will begin and following its publication in 2018 and the Governor's acceptance, the environmental process will have been completed.



PSD Director Nolan P. Espinda



Comptroller Roderick K. Becker



Meeting audience listening to the speakers



AHL CEO, Bettina Mehnert



Bob Nardi, Senior VP, Louis Berger U.S.

Consultant Team representatives followed next with information concerning the timeline for developing a new OCCC, the extensive public outreach undertaken since 2016, technical information about Draft EIS contents, how to view a copy of the document, and the process and deadline for submitting written comments that will be addressed in a Final EIS (Figure 1).

Bettina Mehnert, Chief Executive Officer of AHL (the prime consultant) discussed the importance of the OCCC project. She reminded the audience that how we care for our inmates is a reflection of who we are as a society. Development of a new OCCC is expected to be a catalyst for change in Hawaii – that developing a modern OCCC will have a ripple effect because it means the facility can be designed to support programs tailored for Hawaii’s local and cultural context.

Ms. Mehnert also described the project timeline; planning

began in 2016 and will continue through the end of 2018, with approximately two years devoted to facility design (2019 - 2021). Actual construction will likely take a minimum of 2 years (2021–2023) (Figure 2).

Bob Nardi, Senior Vice President with Louis Berger U.S., summarized the contents of the Draft EIS which addresses:

- Replacement of the OCCC facility at one of four possible locations:
 - Animal Quarantine Station
 - Halawa Correctional Facility
 - Existing OCCC
 - Mililani Technology Park
- Expansion and improvement to WCCC
- Relocation and replacement of the Animal Quarantine Station if selected for OCCC development

Figure 1. EIS Timeline



Figure 2. Anticipated Project Timeline



The primary finding of the Draft EIS was the identification of the Animal Quarantine Station site as the #1 preferred location for OCCC development. Many factors were considered in determining the suitability of the Animal Quarantine Station site which is under the control of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA). One factor is the potential cost of constructing the project, which has been identified as a key concern among community members and elected officials alike. The Animal Quarantine Station site has the lowest projected construction cost by a significant margin over other alternative locations, due to its large buildable area of nearly 25 acres. The large area affords a number of cost saving advantages, such as separating the Pre-Release and Detention portions of the facility into two distinct buildings. This physical separation allows the Pre-Release portion to be constructed to a different security standard, making this option more affordable than combining both functions into one high-security, higher-cost building. The Animal Quarantine Station site is also large enough to accommodate at-grade parking, likely avoiding the necessity for a costly parking structure. The majority of the site is owned by the State of Hawaii, so little or no land acquisition costs are anticipated.

Comments must be received or postmarked during the 60-day review period. Comments will be considered valid for incorporation into the Final EIS if received or postmarked on or before January 8, 2018. Only written comments and responses will be incorporated into the Final EIS with responses mailed to the author of the comments if a mailing address is provided.



Vincent Shigekuni, VP of PBR Hawai'i

Public Offers Comments During Meeting

The primary purposes of the meeting were to offer members of the community an additional opportunity to make their voice heard by the OCCC Team and the island-wide community and to provide feedback directly to the team to be used as part of the Final EIS effort. Towards that end, the majority of the evening was given over to the public who offered verbal comments covering a wide variety of topics including the need for additional programs and services to help offenders reintegrate into their communities, the role of state-sponsored task forces and commissions studying approaches to reforming the criminal justice system in Hawaii, and concerns over the possible cost of developing a new OCCC among other issues and concerns. Those unable or unwilling to speak were offered comment cards to allow for written comments that when submitted will be reviewed by the OCCC Team following the meeting for consideration in the EIS process.

After the last member of the public concluded her remarks, Director Nolan P. Espinda closed the meeting on behalf of PSD and DAGS by thanking all who attended for taking time to join the OCCC Team and others at the Town Hall meeting. "We appreciate your comments and will consider them going forward into the EIS process" said Espinda. He also encouraged the audience to visit the OCCC website periodically for the latest information on the project's progress (<http://dps.hawaii.gov/occc-future-plans>).



Leadership of HDOA has been a willing partner with PSD and the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) in the planning and EIS study effort and are looking forward to planning a new, more modern quarantine station to replace the current facility which will be demolished to allow for OCCC development. With selection of the Animal Quarantine Station site for the new OCCC, two of the State's pressing facility needs (a modern OCCC and a new Animal Quarantine Station) are being addressed.

Vincent Shigekuni, Vice President of PBR Hawai'i & Associates, Inc., led the audience through the process of acquiring a copy of the Draft EIS and how to submit questions or comments before the January 8, 2018 deadline.



Public Invited to Comment on Draft EIS

How to Obtain a Copy of the Draft EIS

Copies of the Draft EIS are available for downloading or viewing from the following sources:

- OEQC direct link to the document: http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/EA_EIS_Library/2017-11-08-OA-DEIS-Replacement-of-Oahu-Community-Correctional-Center.pdf, or visit the online EA/EIS Library through the OEQC website: <http://health.hawaii.gov/oeqc/>
- OEQC's The Environmental Notice for November 8, 2017 (link provided within the Notice)
- SmartComment link set up for the OCCC project: <http://futureoccc.commentinput.com/?id=4fGhu>
- OCCC Future Plans website: <http://dps.hawaii.gov/occc-future-plans>
- Printed copies are available at: Hawaii State Public Library, Kalihi-Palama Public Library, Aiea Public Library, Mililani Public Library, Kailua Public Library, and Hawaii Kai Regional Library

How to Comment on the Draft EIS

The public comment period on the Draft EIS began on November 8, 2017 and will end on January 8, 2018. There are multiple ways to provide comments:

- **Submit online** at: <http://futureoccc.commentinput.com/?id=4fGhu> which became available for use on the first day of the public comment period (November 8, 2017) and will remain active until the end of the public comment period. This commenting website also provides a link to an electronic version (PDF) of the Draft EIS, a space to provide comments, areas to provide contact information, a summary page to review comments and information prior to submission, and an emailed receipt confirming the comment submission. Comments submitted through the website may be typed into a comment box or uploaded as a PDF or Word file. Additional instructions are available through the website.
- **By mail or email:** The November 8, 2017 issue of OEQC's Environmental Notice provides contact information (mailing and email addresses) for addressing public review comments. Comments that are not sent to either DAGS, the Office of the Governor, or PBR HAWAII, will not be replied to.

All comments sent via the link to DAGS, the Office of the Governor, and PBR HAWAII will be reviewed by representatives from DAGS, PSD, the Office of the Governor, OEQC, and PBR HAWAII in the course of preparing the Final EIS which is scheduled to be published in 2018.



Olelo Community Media Records Town Hall Meeting

Thanks to Olelo Community Media and its team of videographers, the Town Hall meeting was recorded for viewing by those unable to attend in person. Look for the meeting to be broadcast on Olelo TV Channel 49 and streaming online on Olelo.org on the dates listed below. If you miss these airings you can also find the recording posted on Olelo.org, under Olelo on Demand, a few days following the original broadcast.

OLELO BROADCAST DATES:

- 6:00 P.M. December 25, 2017
- 1:30 P.M. December 26, 2017
- 8:00 A.M. December 27, 2017
- 1:30 P.M. December 29, 2017



Olelo's mission is to "To strengthen island voices and advance community engagement through innovative media."





OCCC Town Hall Meeting, November 29, 2017

Upcoming Activities

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

<p>December 2017</p>	<p>Draft EIS public comment period continues.</p> <p>Press Release and Draft EIS presentation distributed following November 29, 2017 Town Hall meeting.</p> <p>Public outreach, information, and engagement process continues; look to the OCCC website for upcoming announcements, events, and activities.</p> <p>Publish OCCC Newsletter Vol. 16.</p>
<p>January 2017</p>	<p>Public comment period ends and preparation of Final EIS begins.</p> <p>Public outreach, information, and engagement process continues; look to the OCCC website for upcoming announcements, events and other activities.</p> <p>Publish OCCC Newsletter Vol. 17.</p>
<p>February 2018</p>	<p>Preparation of Final EIS continues.</p> <p>Public outreach, information, and engagement process continues; look to the OCCC website for upcoming announcements, events and other activities.</p> <p>Publish OCCC Newsletter Vol. 18.</p>

Interested in Learning More?

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

Toni Schwartz, Public Information Officer

Hawaii Department of Public Safety

Tel. 808.587.1358

Email: Toni.E.Schwartz@hawaii.gov

Robert J. Nardi, Principal Associate

Louis Berger U.S., Inc.

Tel: 973.407.1681

Mobile: 973.809.7495

Email: rnardi@louisberger.com