



Future of Hawaii's Community Correctional Centers

Volume 2 – Frequently Asked Questions about KCCC, MCCC and HCCC

May 2018

Hawaii Department of Public Safety

The Hawaii Department of Public Safety (PSD) is responsible for carrying out judgments of the state courts whenever a period of confinement is ordered. Its mission is to uphold justice and public safety by providing correctional and law enforcement services to Hawaii's communities with professionalism, integrity and fairness. Currently, approximately 5,600 offenders are housed within State of Hawaii jail and prison facilities located within Hawaii, at the Federal Detention Center in Honolulu, and in private contractor facilities on the mainland.

PSD operates Community Correctional Centers (CCCs), widely known as jails, on the islands of Kauai, Maui, Hawaii and Oahu. Each jail houses short-term sentenced (felons, probation, and misdemeanor), pretrial (felon and misdemeanor), other jurisdiction, and probation/parole violators. These facilities provide the customary county jail function of managing both pre-trial detainees and locally-sentenced misdemeanor offenders and others with a sentence of one year or less. Jails also provide an important pre-release preparation/transition function for prison system inmates who are transferred back to their county of origin when they reach less than a year until their scheduled release.

PSD is committed to providing a safe, secure, healthy, humane, social, and physical environment for inmates and staff. However, aged and undersized jails have limited PSD's ability to provide such environments. In particular, the persistent and severe overcrowding exacerbates basic physical plant operations, contributes to tension among inmates, and diminishes program opportunities. Overall, jail facilities are operating well above their operational capacities and alleviating overcrowding is an important PSD priority at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

As of January 31, 2018, KCCC, MCCC, HCCC and OCCC were housing 2,269 inmates or 41 percent more than their total operational capacity. As is apparent, Hawaii's jail population has grown well beyond the system's capacity, during which time no new jail facilities were added to the system. Consequently, PSD has had to add beds to housing units without increasing space and convert spaces normally used for inmate programs, counseling and similar services to other functions such as inmate housing in order to cope with the population.

Alleviating the severe overcrowding problem within Hawaii's jails is among PSD's highest priorities and PSD is developing New Medium Security Housing for medium security inmates who are currently housed at KCCC, MCCC, and HCCC. The addition of new inmate housing at each facility is intended to provide a sufficient number of beds under appropriate conditions to address the history of overcrowding; provision of new inmate housing will not increase the inmate populations of KCCC, MCCC and HCCC beyond their current number. Rather, inmates housed in cramped conditions and in spaces not suitable for inmates, would be accommodated in the new housing designed and constructed to State of Hawaii and national standards. KCCC, MCCC and HCCC Newsletter Volume 2 provides a cross-selection of anticipated questions about the proposed inmate housing projects and offers answers that represent currently available project information.

Q1 Why is PSD undertaking development of new inmate housing at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC?

Hawaii's jail population has grown well beyond the system's capacity, during which time no new jail facilities were added to the system. As of January 31, 2018, KCCC has approximately 207 inmates housed in units designed for 128 inmates (62 percent over capacity); MCCC has approximately 478 inmates housed in units designed for 301 inmates (58 percent over capacity); and HCCC has approximately 393 inmates housed in units designed for 226 inmates (74 percent over capacity). Consequently, PSD has been forced to add beds to housing units without increasing space and convert spaces normally used for inmate programs, counseling and similar services to other functions such as inmate housing in order to cope with the population.

Q2 Why is it important to construct the new inmate housing projects?

Constructing the new inmate housing projects will improve conditions of confinement, reduce stress, and improve living conditions for those inmates awaiting trial or sentencing, serving sentences, or preparing for reentry. By moving forward to alleviate the severe and persistent overcrowding at KCCC, MCCC, and HCCC, PSD will be better able to provide a safe, secure, and humane environment for the care and custody of adult male and female offenders originating from Kauai, Maui and Hawaii counties.

Q3 Is construction of new inmate housing projects part of a larger plan to upgrade, expand or replace KCCC, MCCC, and HCCC?

The new inmate housing projects are to address the current overcrowding at KCCC, MCCC or HCCC. Public Safety Department continues to review the conditions of the facilities to meet the mission of the department.

Q4 Who benefits from developing the new inmate housing projects?

Groups that will directly benefit from developing the new inmate housing projects include detainees, inmates and PSD staff. Indirect benefits will accrue to the citizens of Hawaii who will benefit from a more secure, safer, and efficient KCCC, MCCC and HCCC operation.

Q5 Why isn't PSD investing more to improve conditions at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC?

The immediate issue affecting KCCC, MCCC and HCCC is the severe overcrowding which will be addressed by development of the proposed new inmate housing projects. As capital improvement funds become available from the Hawaii State Legislature, PSD will undertake other improvements and upgrades at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC.

Q6 Is PSD considering relocating KCCC, MCCC or HCCC to new locations and developing new, modern jails? If not, why not?

The most immediate and urgent need facing KCCC, MCCC and HCCC is to alleviate overcrowded conditions. At this time, addressing the overcrowding is PSD's primary focus.

Q7 How will construction of the new inmate housing projects at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC affect the return of Hawaii prison inmates from the mainland?

Prison inmates housed on the mainland represent a very different population from the jail population which are housed within Hawaii's community correctional centers. Development of the New Medium Security Housing projects at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC will neither delay nor expedite the return of inmates currently housed on the mainland.

Q8 How many beds are proposed for each new inmate housing project?

Preliminary estimates are as follows: KCCC: up to 140 beds; MCCC: up to 80 beds; HCCC: up to 140 beds.

Q9 Won't constructing new inmate housing increase the population of KCCC, MCCC, and HCCC?

The total number of inmates and detainees at the community correctional centers varies daily depending on the actions of the courts. The population level has remained relatively constant over the past few years and current projections do not anticipate substantial increases. It should be noted the sentencing actions of the courts is beyond the control of PSD.

Q10 What is the schedule for constructing the new inmate housing projects?

The projects are currently in the early design stage and the estimated date for the start of construction remains to be determined.

Q11 How much will the new inmate housing projects cost?

The projects are in the early design stages and final costs have not been determined. In 2017 the legislature appropriated the following funding:

- KCCC - \$15 Million
- HCCC \$15 Million
- MCCC \$7.5 Million

Q12 How will construction of the new inmate housing projects be financed?
Funds for design and construction of the new inmate housing projects have already been appropriated by the Hawaii State Legislature.

Q13 Can Hawaii afford to build the new inmate housing projects when there are so many other pressing needs (education, health care, infrastructure, etc.)?
Hawaii can't afford not to construct the new inmate housing projects as overcrowding is severe and persistent. The cost of not acting will likely cost the State of Hawaii more over the long run than moving forward to construct the new inmate housing projects.

Q14 Are there any plans to involve a private corrections corporation in the management or operation of KCCC, MCCC, or HCCC?
There is no plan to involve private corrections contractors in the operation of KCCC, MCCC and HCCC which will continue to be operated by PSD staff and management.

Q15 How will construction of the new inmate housing projects affect local police, fire and emergency response services?
PSD is responsible for overall institution security and as such the need for assistance from local police, fire protection and emergency medical responders are expected to be minimal. In addition, development of the new inmate housing will not increase the inmate populations of KCCC, MCCC and HCCC beyond their current number.

Q16 What will the new inmate housing projects look like?
The appearance of the new inmate housing projects will be improvement over housing units currently found at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC. Currently, a prototype housing unit is being considered to meet the needs at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC.

Q17 What are some of the features that will be considered in the design of the new inmate housing?
To bring commonality and standardization among PSD's jails, a prototype housing structure is being considered to meet the needs at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC. Providing standardization of the various systems will also aid PSD in maintenance.

Q18 What efforts will be made to inform members of the Hawaii State Legislature, County Councils, stakeholders, and the public about the proposed inmate housing projects?
PSD recognizes the value and importance of effectively communicating its plans and actions with elected and appointed officials, interest groups, media, and public. PSD intends to reach out to officials, agencies, organizations and the public to share information as it moves forward with planning, programming, design, and construction of the new inmate housing projects. PSD is committed to ensuring that the process of planning and developing the new inmate housing projects is transparent and includes the input from all interested parties.

Q19 What is PSD doing in the way of diversion to reduce the number of people ending up in jail?
PSD is working with the Legislature, the Judiciary, members of the Corrections Population Management Commission, the HCR 85 Task Force and HCR 134 task force, to seek solutions to reduce the number of persons under supervision throughout Hawaii.

Q20 How will construction of the new inmate housing affect the environment at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC?
PSD has initiated preparation of Environmental Assessments for each proposed inmate housing project. EAs are being prepared to document the nature, extent, duration and significance of potential impacts to the natural and man-made environments resulting from construction and operation of the proposed inmate housing projects at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC.

Q21 What is the schedule for the Environmental Assessment process?
Publication of the three Draft Environmental Assessments is expected to occur in early Fall 2018.

Q22 Does the Community Partnering statute (HRS 353-16.37) apply to the proposed new inmate housing projects?
The Hawaii State Legislature enacted HRS 353-16.37 in 1998 to provide for "Community Partnering" when the state undertakes development of new or additions to existing in-state correctional facilities. The Community Partnering process is triggered when the Request for Proposals for the construction of a new correctional facility or improvements to an existing facility is issued. PSD intends to comply with HRS 353.

Q23 How can we reduce the pretrial population? Should we change the bail system?

The Hawaii Judiciary and State Legislature are the appropriate entities for addressing criminal justice reforms. The work of the HCR 134 Task Force and HCR 85 Task Force is intended to result in reforms that will allow greater numbers of detainees to be released, placed in outside programs, or assigned to other alternatives to incarceration than are available today. PSD supports such initiatives and encourages others to do so.

Q24 What are the ways the state judiciary and/or legislature could address the problem of overcrowding and/or provide alternatives to building new inmate housing?

A variety of criminal justice reforms are being considered or implemented by other states across the country. Initiatives such as bail reform, sentencing reform, alternatives to incarceration, increased support for mental health and substance abuse treatment programs, among other justice system reforms are the purview of the Hawaii Judiciary and Legislature. PSD supports such initiatives.

Q25 I understand that there are approximately 1,575 male inmates in a private prison in Arizona. Explain why the proposed inmate housing projects will not affect the inmates in Arizona.

A portion of Hawaii's prison population is serving their sentences in Arizona; inmates serving terms in prison represent a very different population from offenders housed in Hawaii's community correctional centers which serve as jails and not prisons. The new inmate housing at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC (jail facilities) will not affect the number of Hawaii's prison inmates currently held in public or private prisons.

HCCC



KCCC



MCCC





Upcoming Activities

KCCC, MCCC and HCCC planning is moving forward with these activities during the months ahead:

<p>May 2018</p>	<p>Initiate public outreach process for KCCC, MCCC and HCCC. Look to PSD/Neighbor Island Jails website for announcements, information, and activities.</p> <p>Initiate data collection as part of environmental study process of proposed new inmate housing projects at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC.</p> <p>Publish Newsletter Vol. 2.</p>
<p>June 2018</p>	<p>Continue public outreach process for KCCC, MCCC and HCCC. Look to PSD/Neighbor Island Jails website for announcements, information, and activities.</p> <p>Continue data collection as part of environmental study process of proposed new inmate housing projects at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC.</p> <p>Publish Newsletter Vol. 3.</p>
<p>July 2018</p>	<p>Continue public outreach process for KCCC, MCCC and HCCC. Look to PSD/Neighbor Island Jails website for announcements, information, and activities.</p> <p>Continue data collection as part of environmental study process of proposed new inmate housing projects at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC.</p> <p>Publish Newsletter Vol. 4.</p>

Interested in Learning More?

For additional information visit <https://dps.hawaii.gov/neighbor-island-jails-project/> or contact:

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