



Future of Hawaii's Community Correctional Centers

Volume 1 - PSD to Address Overcrowding at Kauai, Maui and Hawaii Jails

April 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 four 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 violators. These facilities provide the customary county jail function of managing both pretrial 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 safe, secure, healthy, humane, social and physical environments 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.

Overcrowding Experienced at Kauai, Maui and Hawaii Jails

With increasingly aged and overcrowded in-state jail and prison facilities, PSD is moving forward with plans to improve and/or replace its corrections infrastructure. Amongst its priorities is alleviating the severe overcrowding that exists at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC in order to provide safe, secure, and humane environments for the care and custody of adult male and female offenders originating from Kauai, Maui and Hawaii counties.

PSD is currently studying solutions that address the overcrowded conditions which exist at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC. Supporting PSD with these efforts are the Hawaii Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) and a team of consultants (together "the Project Team").



Maui CCC



Kauai CCC



Maui CCC



Hawaii CCC

Kauai, Maui and Hawaii Community Correctional Centers

The concept and mission of the facilities was originally defined in the 1973 Hawaii Corrections Master Plan which resulted in the construction of jails on the Islands of Kauai, Maui, Hawaii and Oahu. Consequently, all facilities share some common original facility design elements that were considered to be appropriate at the time. One of those common features is the subdivision of the original secure housing building into very small operationally inefficient units of three-, four- or six-cell clusters. Contrastingly, contemporary jail designs provide for much larger units (usually 48 to 64 beds each for general population minimum or medium security) that allow many more inmates to be supervised per officer, greatly increasing operational efficiency and resource requirements.

According to PSD, the four jails have a combined design capacity of 1,153 beds and an operational capacity of 1,609 beds. On January 31, 2018 the four jails 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 consideration is being given to developing new inmate housing for 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. The new inmate housing would be designed and constructed to State of Hawaii and national standards.

To bring commonality among all of PSD's community correctional centers, a housing prototype would be developed to meet the needs at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC. Providing standardization of the various systems and facilities will also aid PSD in maintenance. Development of the proposed new inmate housing is considered an important step to address conditions at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC; information concerning each is provided on the pages that follow.

Kauai Community Correctional Center

PSD operates KCCC located at 3-5351 Kuhio Highway in Lihue and the only correctional facility serving the Island of Kauai. From its original capacity of 12 medium security beds in 1977, KCCC was expanded in 1991 to 46 beds and currently has a design capacity of 110 beds. Additional bed space came in the form of temporary dormitory structures that were used by displaced residents of Hurricane Iniki and are still being used for correctional housing. While there have been several improvements to KCCC to meet contemporary standards, the core of KCCC and the original infrastructure remains largely unchanged. At present, KCCC is operating at 128 beds with a population of 207 inmates or 62 percent more than the capacity. The key concerns at KCCC is the use of low security modular buildings to house medium security inmates along with the persistent overcrowding. In response, PSD is proposing to develop up to 140 new beds in the form of new inmate housing. However, the new inmate housing will not increase the inmate population of KCCC beyond it's current number. Instead, inmates housed in cramped conditions and in spaces not well suited for inmates, would be placed in the new inmate housing.



Maui Community Correctional Center

PSD operates MCCC in Wailuku and is the only correctional facility serving Maui County, which includes the islands of Molokai and Lanai. Originally located within an approximately 2-acre property at 600 Waiale Road in Wailuku, MCCC has been expanded over time to its current 7.23-acre site. Developed in 1978 in a relatively isolated location, Wailuku has since grown around and beyond the facility. The original 24-bed design was expanded in 1986, 1992, and 1996 and currently MCCC is operating at 301 beds with a population of 478 inmates or 58 percent more than its capacity. PSD is proposing to develop up to 80 new beds in the form of new inmate housing in response to the severe and persistent overcrowding. However, the new inmate housing will not increase the inmate population of MCCC beyond its current number with inmates moved to the new inmate housing from their current cramped conditions and from spaces not well suited for inmates.



Hawaii Community Correctional Center

HCCC opened in 1975 as a 22-bed facility next to the old county jail at 60 Punahale Street in an area of Hilo which was largely undeveloped; today the facility is surrounded by residences, churches, schools and commercial uses. HCCC also oversees a Work Furlough Center (Hale Nani) located on a site five miles away in the Panaewa. HCCC has an operational capacity of 226 beds and is presently housing 393 inmates or 74 percent more than capacity. Alleviating the severe and persistent overcrowding at HCCC is a high priority and therefore, PSD is proposing to develop up to 140 new beds in the form of new inmate housing. However, the new inmate housing will not increase the inmate population of HCCC beyond its current number. Instead, inmates housed in cramped conditions and in spaces not well suited for inmates, would be placed in the new inmate housing.



Compliance with State of Hawaii Regulations

Hawaii Environmental Policy Act

Hawaii law (HRS Chapter 343) requires that government agencies such as PSD give systematic consideration to the environmental, social, and economic consequences of proposed projects prior to construction. Equally important, HRS 343 assures the public opportunities to participate in planning projects that may affect their community. PSD intends to ensure that its environmental impact studies and public involvement activities for the planned KCCC, MCCC and HCCC new inmate housing projects fully comply with HRS 343 requirements.

As the first step in complying with Hawaii laws and regulations PSD, with assistance from DAGS and the Consultant Team, will soon begin consultations with key state and local elected and appointed officials, regulatory and permitting agencies, and stakeholders concerning the proposed housing projects at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC. Soon thereafter, work will begin to gather information and document the potential environmental impacts of alleviating overcrowding via new inmate housing projects at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC. Those efforts will culminate in preparation of separate Environmental Assessments for KCCC, MCCC and HCCC. The HRS 343 review process serves as the basis for PSD and DAGS decision-making based on an understanding of the potential environmental impacts and the possible need for mitigation. PSD will ensure that the contents of each Environmental Assessment meet the requirements of and are pursuant to HRS Chapter 343.

Community Partnering for KCCC, MCCC and HCCC

In 1998, the Hawaii State Legislature enacted HRS 353-16.37 to provide for "Community Partnering". The statute is intended to involve host communities early in the process of planning for new or additions to existing in-state correctional facilities. The statute requires PSD to develop and 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.

As provided in HRS 353-16.37, the community benefit and enhancement package may include a variety of measures including infrastructure improvements; social or job training programs, among others. This statutory requirement is triggered when Request for Proposals for the construction of a new correctional facility or improvements to an existing facility is issued. PSD intends to ensure that its actions and activities comply with HRS 353 requirements.

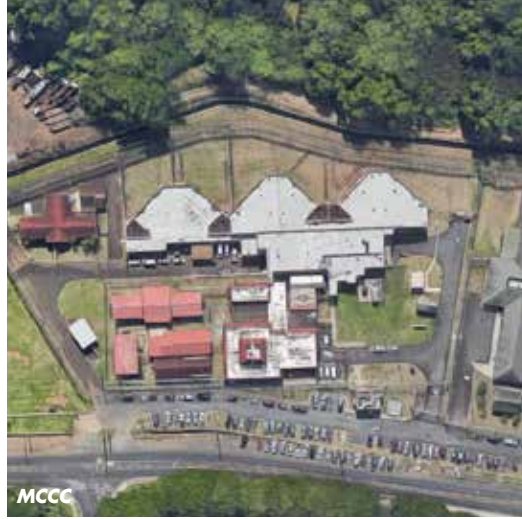
PSD Pursues Public Outreach and Engagement Activities

PSD recognizes the challenges it faces as it moves forward with planning, environmental studies, permitting, design, and eventual construction of new inmate housing projects to alleviate overcrowding at KCCC, MCCC, and HCCC. PSD acknowledges the valuable and important contributions from elected and appointed officials, agencies, interest groups, and the public. When projects or actions are of a scope or nature that has the potential to affect local and statewide interests, such as alleviating overcrowding at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC, engaging community leaders, civic and business groups, regulatory agencies, and the public during the planning process can help achieve approval and acceptance of the outcome. PSD will soon initiate public outreach activities on Kauai, Maui and Hawaii islands in order to:

- Provide information describing the urgent need to alleviate overcrowding at KCCC, MCCC, and HCCC,
- Frame the planning and decision-making process involving KCCC, MCCC and HCCC,
- Explain how citizens can participate in the environmental study process, and
- Describe how public input will be integrated into the decision-making process.

Using its website, newsletters, and one-on-one and group meetings, PSD will ensure that the process of planning for and eventually implementing new inmate housing projects at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC is transparent and benefits from the input of all interested parties. PSD encourages participation in the planning and environmental impact study process.





Upcoming Activities

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

<p>April 2018</p>	<p>Notify elected and appointed officials, regulatory agencies, stakeholder groups, and the public about plans to alleviate overcrowded conditions at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC, the environmental impact study process, and schedule.</p> <p>Publish Newsletter Vol. 1.</p>
<p>May 2018</p>	<p>Initiate public outreach process for KCCC, MCCC and HCCC.</p> <p>Initiate data collection as part of environmental impact 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 preparation of environmental impact studies involving KCCC, MCCC and HCCC.</p> <p>Continue public outreach and engagement process; look to the PSD website for upcoming announcements, information, and activities.</p> <p>Publish Newsletter Vol. 3.</p>

Interested in Learning More?

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