



# Future of the Oahu Community Correctional Center

## Volume 20 - Final Environmental Impact Statement Completed

July 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.

PSD operates Community Correctional Centers (CCCs) on the islands of Kauai, Maui, Hawaii and Oahu. Each CCC houses short-term sentenced (felons, probation, and misdemeanor), pretrial (felon and misdemeanor), other jurisdiction, and probation/ parole violators. CCCs provide the customary county jail function of managing both pre-trial detainees and locally-sentenced misdemeanant offenders and others with a sentence of one year or less. CCCs 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, overcrowded, aged, and obsolete CCCs 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, all jail facilities are operating well above their operational capacities and combined with declining physical plants, undertaking improvements and upgrades are important PSD priorities. Chief among such priorities is the replacement of the existing Oahu CCC (OCCC) with a new facility at the Animal Quarantine Station site in Halawa.

### Final EIS Completed

Diverse groups of elected officials, government agencies, stakeholders, and the public-at-large shared comments and questions during the 60-day public comment period for the Draft EIS. More than 250 individuals, 12 organizations, 15 federal, state and city/county agencies, and 7 elected officials submitted written comments and questions to PSD and the Hawaii Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) concerning the proposed OCCC project and the Draft EIS in addition to comments received during the Town Hall meeting held on November 29, 2017. Since the end of the comment period (January 8, 2018), PSD, DAGS and the Consultant Team have completed responses to the comments and questions for inclusion within the Final EIS along with necessary updates or revisions to technical information contained within the Draft EIS.



Cover of the FEIS

On June 26, 2018, the Final EIS for the Replacement of OCCC, Expansion of the Women's Community Correctional Center, and New Department of Agriculture Animal Quarantine Station was submitted to Governor David Y. Ige for evaluation of acceptability under Section 11-200-23, Hawaii Administrative Rules. At the same time the Final EIS was submitted to the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) for publication of a Notice of Availability, representing a major milestone in the process of planning and developing a new OCCC.

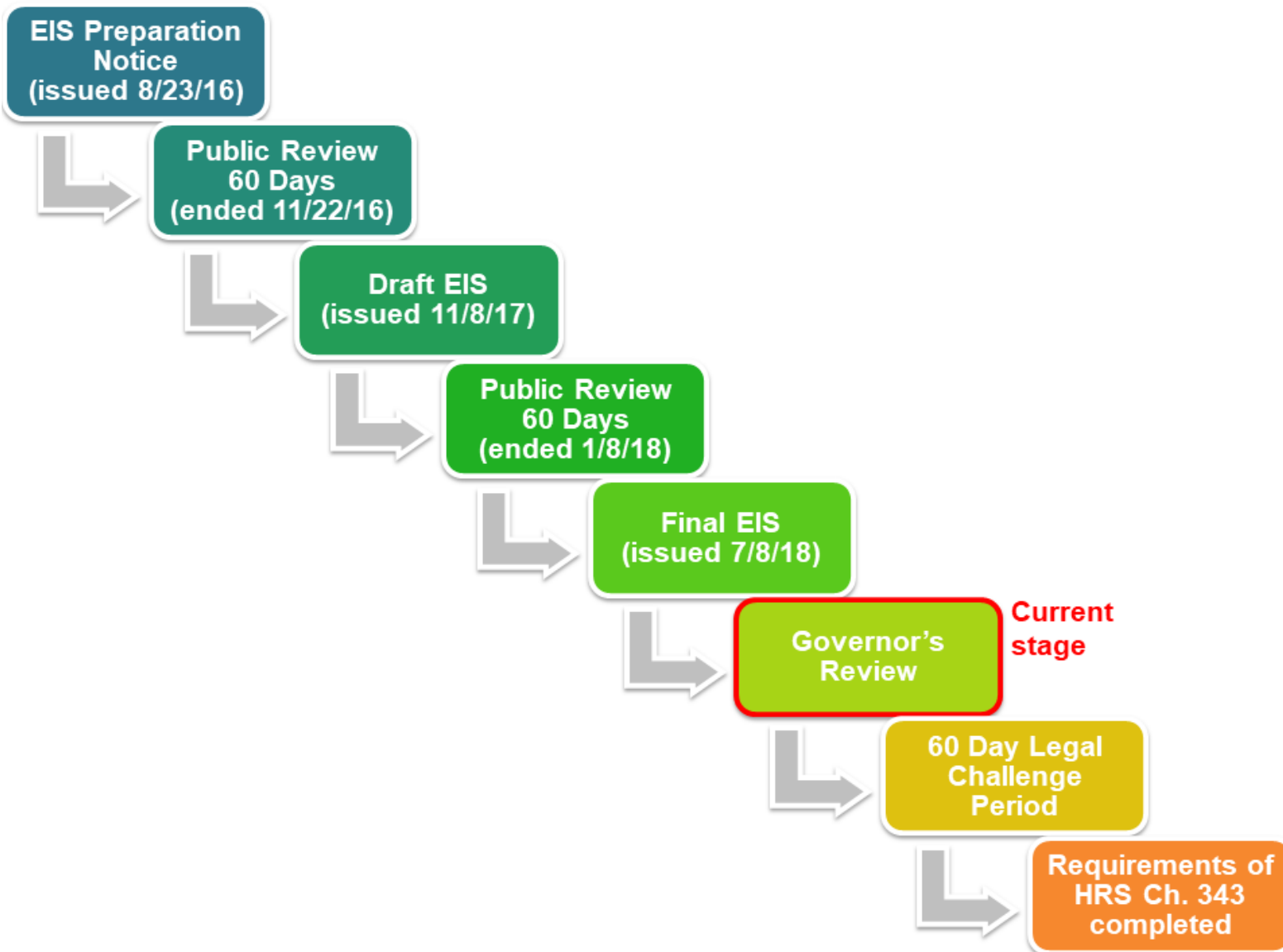
## Final EIS Sequence of Activities

Once the OCCC Final EIS was submitted to both Governor Ige and OEQC, the Notice of Availability was able to be published in the July 8, 2018 edition of "The Environmental Notice" thereby making the Final EIS document available to the public. Look to the OEQC website ([http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/EA\\_EIS\\_Library/2018-07-08-OA-FEIS-Replacement-of-Oahu-Community-Correctional-Center.pdf](http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/EA_EIS_Library/2018-07-08-OA-FEIS-Replacement-of-Oahu-Community-Correctional-Center.pdf)) and the PSD website (<http://dps.hawaii.gov/occc-future-plans>) for a copy of the Final EIS. At this time, OEQC staff are able to begin their review of the Final EIS and once done, will provide recommendations to the Governor.

OEQC is responsible for providing a recommendation for the Governor's acceptance. If the Governor accepts the Final EIS and reaffirms the Animal Quarantine Station site as

the preferred location for the new OCCC, OEQC staff will draft the Governor's official letter of Acceptance along with a discussion of why the Final EIS has met the proper criteria for environmental review. The letter of Acceptance is then published in a subsequent issue of "The Environmental Notice".

The date of publication of the Governor's Acceptance letter in "The Environmental Notice" initiates a 60-day Challenge Period (as the public at that time will have had access to both the Final EIS document and the Governor's Acceptance letter). Following publication of the Governor's Acceptance letter in "The Environmental Notice" and the end of the Challenge Period (i.e., Day 61), provided there are no challenges, the requirements of HRS Chapter 343 will have been met. Provided below is the overall EIS timeline and the current stage of the process.



## Objectives for Replacing OCCC

As the environmental impact study process reaches completion, it's important to remember the objectives for replacing the outdated and obsolete OCCC. A new OCCC has long been proposed 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 community. OCCC project objectives include:

- Accommodate current and future male detainee populations with potential for expansion.
- Provide adequate space and an environment where the focus can be on better preparing detainees for successful reintegration into the community and reduce recidivism.
- Enhance opportunities for addressing detainees with special needs including mental health and medical health and those in protective custody and maximum custody.
- Improve overall living conditions for detainees.
- Employ an improved and efficient security system that uses state-of-the-art technology.
- Allow for better partnerships with community volunteers and service providers, and provide greater visiting opportunities for families.
- Be more labor efficient and provide for an increase in operational capacity while making more efficient use of security staff, compared to the current OCCC.
- Provide a more secure and efficient work environment for corrections staff.
- Eliminate the need for costly temporary repairs that attempt to remedy an old facility and its ill-fitting and obsolete design.
- House female detainees away from male detainees at WCCC in order to provide greater access to rehabilitation programs and improved family visitation.
- Be a catalyst for improving corrections in Hawaii.

PSD appreciates the valuable and important contributions it has received from elected officials, government agencies, stakeholders and the public throughout the planning and environmental study process that contributed to preparation of the Final EIS and selection of the Animal Quarantine Station site as the location for the new OCCC.



## Upcoming Activities

OCCC planning is moving forward with these activities during the months ahead:

<b>July 2018</b>	<p>Final EIS published in OEQC's "The Environmental Notice". Look to OEQC and PSD/OCCC websites for a copy of the Final EIS.</p> <p>Tentative: Publication of Governor's Acceptance letter in "The Environmental Notice" initiates the 60-day Challenge Period (pending completion of OEQC and Governor's review and formal acceptance of EIS).</p> <p>Look to PSD/OCCC website for project-related documents, announcements, upcoming events, and activities.</p> <p>Publish OCCC Newsletter Vol. 20</p>
<b>August 2018</b>	<p>Tentative: 60-day Challenge Period continues (pending completion of OEQC and Governor's review and formal acceptance of EIS).</p> <p>Look to PSD/OCCC website for project-related documents, announcements, upcoming events, and activities.</p>
<b>September 2018</b>	<p>Look to PSD/OCCC website for project-related documents, announcements, upcoming events, and activities.</p>

## Interested in Learning More?

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

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