



Future of Oahu Community Correctional Center

Volume 21 – New Housing and Improvements Planned for WCCC

October 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. Among the facilities operated by PSD is the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) which is the only all-female facility in Hawaii and serves as the primary facility for sentenced felons. WCCC is currently housing 246 female inmates or 95 percent of its operational capacity of 260 beds (PSD, August 31, 2018). In addition, approximately 150 female pretrial offenders, higher security female offenders, and female offenders eligible for Community Release on Oahu are housed at the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC). As reported since 2017, PSD is planning to expand and improve WCCC to allow for the relocation of female inmates from OCCC to WCCC. Such a move will provide greater access to rehabilitation programs and improve family visitation among other benefits.

PSD is committed to providing a safe, secure, healthy, humane, social, and physical environment for all inmates and staff. However, crowded and aging facilities have limited PSD's ability to provide such an environment for Hawaii's inmates. Crowding exacerbates basic physical plant operations, contributes to tension among inmates, and diminishes program opportunities and combined with an aging physical plant, replacing OCCC and undertaking improvements at WCCC are important PSD priorities. Assisting PSD with planning for WCCC is the Hawaii Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) and a consultant team led by CGL Companies.

Frequently Asked Questions - WCCC

Elected officials, stakeholders, and the public-at-large have been following the progress involving WCCC since the plan to relocate females from OCCC to WCCC was announced (PSD Newsletter Vol. 10, April 2017). PSD is anticipating questions and comments from groups and individuals concerned with the future of WCCC and has prepared Newsletter Vol. 21 to offer information about WCCC that accurately represent State of Hawaii and PSD positions and current plans.

Public trust is vital to any successful outcome and PSD, as part of its on-going community outreach, reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that the planning process involving OCCC and WCCC is transparent and benefits from the input and involvement of interested parties. In that spirit, PSD offers the following Questions and Answers regarding plans for WCCC and looks forward to continuing to engage the community-at-large.



Women's Community Correctional Center



NEW HOUSING AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS

Q1 What improvements are being planned for WCCC?

Currently, PSD is working with DAGS and its consultants to determine the improvements needed to accommodate current and future female inmates at WCCC. Once fully defined, those improvements will be made public for discussion and input and further refined prior to submission to local authorities for permits and approvals. Preliminary plans include new housing, a new Administration building, improved pedestrian and roadway access, expanded on-site parking and improved internal circulation, along with renovation of the currently vacant Ho'okipa Cottage.

Q2 How many additional beds will be added to WCCC?

Preliminary plans include development of a new housing unit consisting of approximately 180 beds along with an additional 64 beds in a renovated Ho'okipa Cottage.

Q3 What is the schedule for designing and constructing improvements to WCCC?

- Planning, permitting, and design phases completed: Late 2019
- Start date for construction: Late 2020
- Construction completed and occupancy: Late 2022

Q4 How much will the WCCC improvements cost to design and construct?

Approximately \$35 - \$40 million has been appropriated for design and construction.

Q5 How will improvements to WCCC be financed? Is a public-private partnership being considered to finance the improvements?

The Legislature has already appropriated the funds needed to design and construct the planned improvements. There is no plan to rely on public-private partnerships or other alternative financing arrangements to construct the improvements.

Q6 Can Hawaii afford to invest in WCCC while there are so many other pressing state-wide needs involving education, health care, infrastructure, etc.?

Hawaii can't afford not to invest in improvements to WCCC. The state's correctional system in general and WCCC in particular is in critical need of improvements. Improving conditions at WCCC will have a positive effect on the lives of inmates, PSD staff, and inmate families. Not acting will cost the state more over the long run than proceeding with improvements to WCCC at this time.

APPEARANCE AND DESIGN OF WCCC IMPROVEMENTS

Q1 What will the new housing unit, Administration building and other improvements look like?

Modern correctional facility designs conform to the community, using building materials, design features, and a color palette that reflect local surroundings. Although the design phase won't be completed until late 2019, the improvements planned for WCCC will be similar in scale and appearance to a community college campus or medical campus with spaces devoted to administration, inmate housing, staff training, visitation, inmate counseling and training, among others. Visitor and employee parking will be situated near the facility entrance. The design and appearance of the improvements will differ from the current facility.

Q2 What are some of the features that are being considered for WCCC?

- Security system upgrades and fencing
- Improved internal circulation via walkways and roads
- Improved highway ingress and egress
- Expanded visitor and staff parking



PSD, DAGS and its consultants have been participating in a variety of forums to present and discuss plans for a new OCCC and improvements to WCCC. To continue engaging community leaders and the public in plans for OCCC and WCCC, PSD will be attending three upcoming Neighborhood Board meetings to share information about progress:

11/1/2018

Kailua (WCCC) Neighborhood Board No. 31

Kailua Recreation Center, 21 South Kainalu Drive

Board convenes at 7:00 p.m.

11/5/2018

Waimanalo (WCCC) Neighborhood Board No. 32

National Guard Training Auditorium, 711 Tinker Road

Board convenes at 7:00 p.m.

11/12/2018

Aiea (OCCC) Neighborhood Board No. 20

Aiea Public Library, 99-374 Pohai Place

Board convenes at 7:00 p.m.

REHABILITATION

Q1 How will the planned improvements improve/enhance inmate rehabilitation?

The WCCC improvements are intended to enhance the ability of PSD to respond to the needs of Hawaii's female inmate population with improved access to rehabilitation programs and counseling. The improvements will also help Hawaii to deliver rehabilitation programming, mental health treatment, and similar services to reduce recidivism among female inmates. Since the vast majority of all inmates will eventually be released back into the community, it is important to provide services that will help female inmates return to the community upon release as productive members of society.

Q2 What types of programs will be offered to female inmates at WCCC?

Additional programs expected include drug counseling and rehabilitation, GED and other education programs, spiritual and religious services, job training, and life skills programs.

Q3 What is PSD doing in the way of diversion to reduce the number of females ending up in WCCC?

PSD is working with the Judiciary, members of the Corrections Population Management Commission and others to seek solutions to reduce the number of females under supervision.

Q4 How will the improvements planned for WCCC affect the return of Hawaii inmates currently housed on the mainland?

No female inmates from Hawaii are housed on the mainland.

WCCC STAFF, VISITORS, AND VOLUNTEERS

Q1 How will PSD staff assigned to WCCC be affected?

WCCC will continue to be operated by PSD and personnel assigned to WCCC should experience no discernible changes to their typical routines as a direct result of the new housing and related improvements.

Q2 Will additional personnel be assigned to WCCC to accommodate the expanded population?

Yes, additional PSD staff will be assigned to WCCC although the precise number has not yet been determined.

Q3 Part of the rationale for relocating female inmates from OCCC to WCCC is to improve visitation for inmates. How will visitation be improved under the plan?

Visitation remains a priority consistent with current policies and procedures. Visitation will be improved with new space dedicated within the planned Administration building for visitation.

Q4 How will visitors of female inmates at WCCC be affected?

Relocating female inmates from OCCC to WCCC should have only minor impacts to family members, friends, and others visiting WCCC with some having shorter drive distances/drive times and others longer drive distances/drive times to arrive at the facility. Given the network of federal, state and county roads, and available public transit services, visitors to WCCC should not be adversely affected.

Q5 Will volunteers who provide valuable services to WCCC inmates be affected?

Among the planned improvements to WCCC will be counseling and educational spaces allowing for increased participation by volunteers and volunteer organizations. Relocating female inmates from OCCC to WCCC should have only minor impacts to volunteers assisting at WCCC with some having somewhat shorter drive distances/drive times and others somewhat longer drive distances/drive times to arrive at the facility.

Monkeypod tree at WCCC



POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON THE KAILUA COMMUNITY

Q1 How is public safety affected by relocating OCCC female inmates to WCCC?
Public safety and overall institution security have always been PSD's highest priorities evidenced by the long history of operating WCCC with no adverse community impacts. Included among the planned improvements are state-of-the art security system upgrades unavailable at the current facility.

Q2 Are inmate families likely to relocate to be closer to WCCC once female inmates are relocated from OCCC?

Given the relative confines of the island of Oahu and the network of federal, state and county roads and public transit services, access to WCCC should not require inmate families to relocate from their place of residence on Oahu to continue to visit their family member.

Q3 How will the new housing and related improvements to WCCC affect the market value of nearby homes and businesses?

With WCCC successfully operating for many years, the real estate market has already accounted for the nature of WCCC operations and its location. In addition, evidence shows that property values do not decrease with proximity to a community correctional center with the market value typically determined by variables of greater importance such as:

- Values and marketability of other properties in the area
- Interest rates, income growth, and unemployment rates
- Proximity to infrastructure (roads, water, wastewater, power and telecom systems)
- Proximity to quality schools, public transportation services, recreational and cultural amenities, and shopping centers among others.

Q4 Will local police, fire protection and emergency response services be affected in the surrounding community?

PSD is responsible for overall institution security and the safety of inmates and staff and as such demands for assistance from emergency responders have been minimal are expected to be minimal going forward. The WCCC workforce is comprised of well-trained correctional officers and staff which will ensure the highest level of security continues in place. In addition, among the improvements planned for WCCC is security system upgrades and enhancements unavailable at the current facility.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Q1 What efforts are being made to inform and involve the Hawaii State Legislature, City/County Council, neighborhood boards, the public, and others in WCCC planning?

PSD understands the importance of communicating with elected and appointed officials, interest groups, the media, and the public and is committed to ensuring that the process of developing new housing and related improvements to WCCC continues to be transparent, defensible, and inclusive. PSD is continuing its public outreach and engagement effort to provide information about plans for WCCC, the OCCC replacement facility and other planned projects. Numerous meetings have been held with members of the Legislature, City & County Council members, federal, state and city agency officials, as well as participation at Neighborhood Board meetings and discussions with countless numbers of stakeholders, interest groups, volunteers/volunteer organizations, and others, a process that will continue in the months ahead.

Q2 Does the Hawaii State Legislature support the improvements planned for WCCC?

The Legislature has appropriated considerable resources in support of the effort to plan, design and construct new housing and related improvements to WCCC. It is expected that the Legislature will continue to support those efforts through to completion.

Q3 How can individuals learn more about plans for WCCC and be kept informed of PSD's progress?

Information is regularly updated and posted to the PSD project website which is accessible at the OCCC Future Plans page on the PSD website: <http://dps.hawaii.gov/occc-future-plans/>. Interested individuals can also inquire or comment about PSD plans by contacting PSD at INQUIRIES at: <http://dps.hawaii.gov/occc-future-plans/>.

Q4 Under HRS 353-16.37, PSD is responsible for Community Partnering. At what point does the Community Partnering process for WCCC begin?

The Hawaii Department of the Attorney General has determined that the community partnering statute is triggered by the issuance of Request for Proposals by the State of Hawaii for construction of the proposed improvements. With completion of the Environmental Impact Statement process (HRS 343), the nature, scale and scope of potential impacts from WCCC improvements have been identified along with measures to mitigate such impacts.





Upcoming Activities

PSD is moving forward with these activities in the months ahead:

October 2018	<p>60-day Challenge Period to OCCC Final EIS ends (October 22, 2018); compliance with HRS 343 achieved.</p> <p>Publish Newsletter Vol. 21 .</p> <p>Look to PSD website for OCCC and WCCC documents, announcements, upcoming events, and activities.</p>
November 2018	<p>Attend Kailua, Waimanalo and Aiea Neighborhood Board meetings to present OCCC and WCCC status, next steps, schedule, etc.</p> <p>Look to PSD website for OCCC and WCCC documents, announcements, upcoming events, and activities.</p>
December 2018	<p>Look to PSD website for OCCC and WCCC documents, announcements, upcoming events, and activities.</p>

Interested in Learning More?

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

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