



Future of the Oahu Community Correctional Center

Volume 22 - Neighborhood Boards Appraised on OCCC & WCCC Plans

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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 the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) which acts as the local detention center for the First Circuit Court and is the largest county jail facility in the Hawaii system. OCCC provides 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 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. Detainees housed at OCCC are under the authority of the Judiciary (courts) and not PSD and can only be released, placed in outside programs, or assigned to other alternatives to incarceration by the courts.

PSD also operates 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. PSD is planning to relocate female inmates from OCCC to WCCC, a move that 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 and therefore, replacing OCCC and undertaking improvements at WCCC are important priorities. Assisting PSD is the Hawaii Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) and various consultants (the "PSD Team").

PSD Attends 3 Neighborhood Board Meetings

With its on-going community outreach program, PSD is ensuring that the planning process involving OCCC and WCCC is transparent and benefits from the input and involvement of community leaders, stakeholders, and the public by attending three Neighborhood Board meetings in November 2018 to share information about progress involving OCCC and WCCC.

Aiea Neighborhood Board

On Monday, November 12, 2018, representatives of PSD, DAGS, and the consultant team attended the Aiea Neighborhood Board (#20) meeting held at the Aiea Public Library to present information on the current state of planning for the new OCCC. Led by PSD Director Nolan P. Espinda, information concerning the necessity of building a new OCCC was provided and why, because of physical plant deterioration, overcrowding, and lack of essential programs, replacement is crucial at this time. Key objectives in building a new OCCC continue to be the need to accommodate current and future male detainee populations, improve living conditions for detainees, and provide a more secure and efficient work environment for corrections staff.



PSD Director Nolan P. Espinda answering questions from Aiea Neighborhood Board members and the public.

“Replacing OCCC with a modern facility has been a goal of the Department for over a decade”, said Nolan P. Espinda, Director, “and we have never been closer to achieving that goal than we are today. OCCC is severely outdated and overcrowded and the possibility of federal oversight is always looming over us because of this. A new OCCC would help us house the current population while providing the critical program space and resources that inmates need to successfully return to their communities” said Director Espinda.

With selection of the Animal Quarantine Station site and the State’s acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement, the OCCC project is moving into the Plan Review Use (PRU) process which involves working with the city and the community to shape land use and zoning requirements for the site. The presentation provided the consultant team the opportunity to describe the PRU process, requirements, and goals. Board members and the public were then able to ask questions and provide comments and input to the PSD Team assisting with the OCCC project.

Kailua Neighborhood Board

On Thursday, November 1, 2018, the PSD Team attended the Kailua Neighborhood Board (#31) meeting. Over 40 individuals residing in and around Kailua attended the meeting held at the Kailua Recreation Center to witness a presentation about plans to expand WCCC and invest in other improvements to the facility. Director Nolan P. Espinda reiterated the plan to relocate female offenders from OCCC to WCCC which requires developing a new housing unit that can accommodate up to 180 female offenders; renovating the vacant Ho’okipa Cottage to house up to 64 female offenders; developing a new Administration Building to replace the current obsolete structure; improving internal circulation and ingress/egress from Kalaniana’ole Highway while expanding and reconfiguring on-site parking for employees and visitors; demolishing the warehouse/storage

building; among other improvements. At this time, the planning, permitting, and design phase is underway with completion expected in late 2019 at which time the State of Hawaii will release a Request for Proposals to seek bids for constructing the housing unit and other improvements. The start date of construction is projected to be late 2020 with completion and occupancy expected in late 2022. Approximately \$35 – \$40 million has already been appropriated by the Legislature for design and construction.

Bob Nardi (Louis Berger U.S.) reported on the status of the environmental study process which formally began on September 28, 2016 with a Scoping Meeting followed by publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on November 7, 2017. After a 60-day public comment period, responses to all comments were prepared and the Final EIS was published on June 26, 2018. Since then, the Final EIS was reviewed by the Office of Environmental Quality Control and on August 23, 2018, the document was accepted as satisfactory fulfillment of the requirements of Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Successful compliance with Hawaii’s environmental statute was achieved on October 23, 2018.

The meeting provided a forum for Board members and the public to ask questions of the PSD Team. Among the questions directed to PSD was how plans for WCCC would affect trees in areas slated for development. PSD responded that minimizing impacts to trees at WCCC was important and therefore it retained the services of a well-respected, ISA-certified arborist to participate in the planning process. The arborist has inventoried 40 trees in and around the areas planned for development and is working with the design team to preserve, protect and/or transplant as many native tree species as possible. Once a final plan showing the precise building and parking lot boundaries is approved, a Tree Protection Plan will also be developed to guide construction.

Waimanalo Neighborhood Board

On Monday, November 5, 2018, the PSD Team attended the Waimanalo Neighborhood Board (#32) meeting held at the National Guard Training Auditorium to convey the same information provided to the Kailua Neighborhood Board about plans to expand and improve WCCC. Director Nolan P. Espinda spoke about PSD’s plan to relocate female offenders from OCCC to WCCC which requires developing a new housing unit in addition to renovating the vacant Ho’okipa Cottage; developing a new Administration Building; improving circulation and highway ingress/egress and expanding and reconfiguring on-site parking; demolishing the warehouse/storage building; among other improvements.



PSD Director Espinda and Team members attended the Waimanalo Neighborhood Board meeting on November 5, 2018.

Bob Nardi reported that the environmental study process has been successfully completed. The Final EIS was reviewed by the Office of Environmental Quality Control and on August 23, 2018, the document was accepted as satisfactory fulfillment of the requirements of HRS Chapter 343 by Governor David Y. Ige. Full compliance with Hawaii’s environmental statute (HRS 343) was achieved on October 23, 2018.

OCCC Master Planning Underway

With the environmental impact studies completed and accepted, and a site selected for OCCC development (the Animal Quarantine Station or AQS), in-depth master planning can be undertaken. This involves accommodating and organizing the various functions and departments within the detention and pre-release buildings including:

- Administration
- Intake/Transfer/Release
- Security Operations Services
- Medical/Mental Health Services
- Physical Plant Operations
- Pre-Release Facility (Male)
- Visitation
- Intake Services Center
- Inmate Program
- Food and Laundry Services
- Inmate Housing (Male)

The AQS site is large enough that a mid-rise Detention Facility and low-rise Pre-Release Facility can be constructed as separate structures and to the appropriate security standards. Preliminary engineering analyses are also underway for the AQS site with engineers analyzing how best to accommodate storm water drainage, supply potable water, collect wastewater, provide natural gas and electricity, configure on-site parking along with other key development parameters.



Aerial view of conceptual new Pre-release Facility (top) and Detention Facility.



PSD Director Nolan P. Espinda answered questions from Aiea Neighborhood Board members and the public.



Members of the public inspected conceptual images of WCCC improvements.

WCCC Concept Drawings Revealed

The PSD Team has developed conceptual drawings of the planned WCCC Housing Unit and Administration Building which will differ substantially in appearance from the current facility. Today, new correctional facility designs conform more 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 small community college campus or medical campus with spaces devoted to administration, inmate housing, visitation, inmate services, among others. Visitor and employee parking will remain situated near the facility entrance.



Conceptual image of planned WCCC Housing Unit and Administration Building presented to Kailua Neighborhood Board.



Conceptual image of planned WCCC Housing Unit.



Conceptual image of planned WCCC Housing Unit.



Conceptual image of planned WCCC Housing Unit.

Governor David Y. Ige Accepts Final EIS

Following submittal of the Final EIS on July 8, 2018, the State of Hawaii conducted a thorough review and on August 23, 2018, Gov. David Ige and the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) accepted the document as satisfactory fulfillment of the requirements of Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes. At a press conference held on August 28, 2018, Governor Ige confirmed that the Animal Quarantine Station site will be the home of the new OCCC.

"The existing jail at Dillingham and Puuhale is severely overcrowded and in disrepair. Building a new correctional facility is one of my top priorities. Moving OCCC to Halawa is also a tremendous opportunity to reposition Kalihi for the future, when the land along the rail route will be used for new economic development, affordable housing, and open spaces as envisioned by the community," said Gov. David Ige.

The next step is to work with the Hawaii State Legislature to identify the funding and project delivery strategies necessary to continue advancing this essential project. Once funding is appropriated, the design and construction process for the new OCCC facility can begin.



Governor David Y. Ige, with DAGS Comptroller Roderick Becker (left) and PSD Director Nolan P. Espinda (right) announcing acceptance of the Final EIS.

Planned Neighbor Island Jail Expansions Moving Forward

As has been reported by PSD, the inmate populations housed at KCCC, MCCC and HCCC have experienced steady increases over the past several years. As of November 30, 2018, the number of male and female inmates housed at KCCC was 172, while MCCC housed 415 inmates, and HCCC housed 387 (total 974 inmates). During this same period, the operational capacity of each facility has not increased with only 128 beds at KCCC, 301 beds at MCCC, and 226 beds at HCCC (total 655 beds). Hence, the total number of inmates housed at all three facilities is 48 percent more than the operational capacity of the three jails combined.

Inmates housed in KCCC, MCCC, and HCCC are a combination of two groups – detention inmates and pre-release inmates – who have very different needs. Detention inmates are those charged with a crime(s) and are going through the legal (court) process. Detention inmates also include individuals who have been found guilty of a crime(s) and received a sentence of up to one year. Pre-release inmates are nearing the end of a lengthier sentence and are transitioning from prison back to the community.

The severe and persistent overcrowding at KCCC, MCCC, and HCCC limits PSD's ability to provide safe, secure, and humane social and physical environments for inmates and staff; has exacerbated physical plant operations; contributed to tension among inmates; and diminished program opportunities. In response PSD is moving forward with plans for new Medium Security Housing Units for inmates currently housed at KCCC, MCCC, and HCCC. PSD has determined that alleviating overcrowding at MCCC, KCCC and HCCC are cost-effective solutions that can be implemented in a relatively short period of time to the benefit of inmates and staff. Funds to improve conditions at the neighbor island jails have already been appropriated and planning is well underway as described in the Pre-Assessment Consultations document distributed in July 2018. Additional information about plans to improve MCCC, HCCC, and KCCC is available by visiting the Neighbor Island Jail Project website at: <https://dps.hawaii.gov/neighbor-island-jails-project/>.



On-going Activities

PSD is engaged in these on-going activities:

November 2018	Attend Aiea, Kailua, and Waimanalo Neighborhood Board meetings to present status of OCCC and WCCC projects, next steps, schedule, etc. Look to PSD website for OCCC and WCCC-related documents, announcements, and upcoming activities.
December 2018	Publish Newsletter Vol. 22. Look to PSD website for OCCC and WCCC-related documents, announcements, and upcoming activities.
January 2019	Look to PSD website for OCCC and WCCC-related documents, announcements, and upcoming activities. Publish Newsletter Vol. 23.

Interested in Learning More?

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

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