



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VISITOR AND STAFF SEARCH POLICY CHANGE IMPLEMENTED AT HALAWA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY AND OAHU COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER

HONOLULU – Effective Wednesday, November 15, 2017, the Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) is implementing changes to its “Searches of Visitors and Staff” policy. This is part of ongoing efforts to crack down on contraband entering the correctional system. The policy will also be enacted at the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) on November 22, 2017.

All bags that enter HCF and OCCC shall be clear, see-through plastic tote bags that expose all contents. They can be no larger than 12”L x 8”W x 12”H. Briefcases, backpacks, coolers, gym bags and purses and other bags that are not see-through are no longer allowed.

Any soft drinks or store bought beverages must be in containers with the factory seal intact. All beverages must be sealed and unopened until cleared for entry into the facility. Clear non-glass water bottles/containers shall not exceed 64 ounces. Individual snack items will be in a see-through bag or container.

“Contraband is a problem in prisons across the country. We eliminated one contraband pathway when we converted our visitation room to non-contact visits. We are constantly working on ways to block other contraband pathways, to better protect both staff and inmate safety, as well as the public we serve,” said Scott Harrington, Halawa Correctional Facility Warden.

“This policy is in line with best practices in prison systems nationwide,” said Nolan Espinda, Department of Public Safety Director. “A majority of staff come to work and do a great job. Most staff don’t intentionally introduce contraband into our facilities, however, we have had instances where such misconduct has occurred. There will be no exceptions to this rule. Anyone who is caught intentionally bringing in contraband will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.”

Eventually, after consultation, the Department will be rolling out this new procedure to all of its facilities statewide.

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