



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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GOVERNOR IGE VISITS WITH WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER STAFF AND INMATES TO LEARN ABOUT FACILITY OPERATIONS AND THE PROGRAMS OFFERED

HONOLULU – Governor David Ige made a department visit to the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) yesterday as part of the Council of State Governments (CSG) Face to Face initiative. The national initiative challenges all elected officials to participate in a public activity through which they can interact with incarcerated individuals, corrections officers and others who have firsthand experience with the criminal justice system. While at WCCC, he visited with inmates and staff and toured many of the programs offered to the women to help them learn valuable job skills that they can use once they leave. (A link to pictures from the Governor's visit is included below).

Windward Community College Facilities Maintenance and Green Construction Program
Governor Ige started off at the container home that the women in the Windward Community College Facilities Maintenance and Green Construction Program built. It is a comprehensive program that aims to educate participants in professionalism, commitment and responsibility. The program teaches techniques that reduce fossil fuel and energy consumption for more environmentally friendly construction. The training is comprised of 270 instructional hours over an 18-week period and includes hands-on training and understanding of basic construction principles. Students receive instruction in carpentry skills; removing and installing electrical wiring and equipment; removing, installing and repairing plumbing fixtures; installing and repairing drywall; basic masonry repair and painting. There was also a graduation and certificate presentation for these ladies that the Governor attended towards the end of his visit.

Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle Hydroponics Program

Governor Ige then moved on to the Hydroponics Program which is facilitated by the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle. The Outdoor Circle volunteers teach the women how to grow hydroponic produce like lettuce. All the organic lettuce is prepared and consumed in the prison. The Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle also sells the lettuce at area Foodland

Hawaii locations. The proceeds go back to Outdoor Circle and they use them to continue teaching the women about business and how to become an entrepreneur.

Hawaii Correctional Industries Sewing and Scanning Operations

After that he visited the WCCC sewing and scanning shops. These operations are overseen by Hawaii Correctional Industries (HCI). The Scanning Shop is helping state agencies become more efficient and less dependent on paper, while at the same time providing offenders with the necessary computer skills needed to obtain gainful employment upon release. The ladies scan old archive documents into digital files that can be uploaded in searchable public databases for state agencies and other companies.

The Sewing shop makes purses, bags, quilted items, and pretty much anything you can think of for sale to the public. They also embroider all of our Sheriff and Corrections Officer uniforms.

For more on HCI, their scanning services and the other products and services they offer:

<http://hawaiici.org>

<http://hawaiici.org/Site/catalogs/scanning/scanning.htm>

You can see most of their work showcased on the Hawaii Correctional Industries Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HawaiiCI/>

Kapiolani Community College Culinary Arts Program

The Governor moved on to visit the culinary program. The culinary students are led by Kapiolani Community College (KCC) Chef Instructor Lee Shinsato. The KCC culinary arts program at WCCC is a comprehensive program that aims to educate participants in traditional and high end culinary preparation and presentation. The women work their way up from a beginner class to the intermediate level class. They also earn 14 credits that will appear in their University of Hawaii transcripts. This class provided the meal for the Green Program graduation today.

To round out his visit, Governor Ige also sat down with our WCCC corrections staff. During this time corrections officers talked to him about the complexity of their jobs, and asked him questions about everything from corrections, to the rail and affordable housing.

“The dedicated staff and instructors have done a tremendous job of training these women and giving them an opportunity to transition into jobs once they leave the facility,” said Gov. Ige. “I was truly impressed by the quality of work they produced through each of these programs and I appreciated the one-on-one time spent with the staff.”

“While much of this visit was focused on the programs, the underlying heroes and stalwarts to all of this are our dedicated, compassionate and professional staff at WCCC,” said WCCC Warden Eric Tanaka. “They allow for and insure that these programs are occurring. They believe that programs are not just programs but more importantly, that the programs ARE security, much like a lock and gate is. Hats off to the staff at WCCC for their contribution and for making the Governor’s visit a memorable one”.

Pictures from yesterday's visit at WCCC can be found here:
<https://flic.kr/s/aHsm53FZXA>.

For more on the CSG Face to Face initiative go to:
<https://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/facetoface/>

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