

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

**NOLAN P. ESPINDA**  
DIRECTOR

**Maria C. Cook**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Shari L. Kimoto**  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

**Renee R. Sonobe Hong**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

March 31, 2020

Councilmember Felicia Cowden  
Kauai County Council  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

Email: [fcowden@kauai.gov](mailto:fcowden@kauai.gov); [ssato@kauai.gov](mailto:ssato@kauai.gov)

Dear Councilmember Cowden:

Thank you for your letter to Director Nolan Espinda, dated March 30, 2020, concerning the flooding at the Kauai Community Correctional Center (KCCC) and PSD's response to COVID-19.

KCCC sustained substantial damage from this past weekend's flood including the loss of 3 facility vehicles and 5 new water heaters installed last week. Warden Wagatsuma and his building maintenance staff are taking an inventory of the damages and will be submitting their equipment replacement list to our budget office for emergency funding. In addition, Warden Wagatsuma is working directly with PSD's Emergency Management Officer to submit their equipment list to FEMA for federal reimbursement as we have done in the past.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Department of Public Safety has developed a comprehensive response plan consistent with the conditions and environment of our correctional facilities and the communities in which they reside. We are closely monitoring entry into our facilities to prevent any possible community spread from reaching the facilities. The Department's top priority remains the continued health and safety of the public, staff, and inmates under our supervision.

The Department has, and continues to, dialog with the State Department of Health, other governmental agencies and national correctional institutions to formulate and update our current response plan. Within the Department, the Health Care Division is leading ongoing "tabletop" discussions that address health care issues for both staff and offenders. The current plan includes widely disseminating COVID-19 information to offenders and staff, reinforcing guidelines for safety and sanitation among staff, and implementing robust health care practices specific to COVID-19 at all facilities statewide.

Councilmember Felicia Cowden

March 31, 2020

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The Department is in the process of screening low-risk, non-violent inmates in the event the Director is given authorization to release certain inmates from incarceration. In addition, the Health Care Division continues working with the Hawaii Paroling Authority to identify inmates with serious medical conditions who may qualify for compassionate medical release.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shari L. Kimoto".

Shari L. Kimoto

Deputy Director for Corrections

cc: KCW

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
Arryl Kaneshiro, Chair  
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair  
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Mason K. Chock  
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**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

March 30, 2020

Nolan Espinda, Director  
State of Hawai'i, Department of Public Safety  
Via E-mail Only: psd.office.of.the.director@hawaii.gov

Dear Mr. Espinda:

**RE: KAUA'I COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER (KCCC)  
FLOODING & COVID-19 CONCERNS**

I begin by sending you my best regards during these very uncertain times and thank you for the important work that you do. I am writing to you today as an individual Councilmember and as the Public Safety & Human Concerns Committee Chair of the Kaua'i County Council.

I am writing with great concern regarding the impact of the torrential rains this past weekend. I wanted to ask for a report as to the extent of the flooding impacts to the Kaua'i Community Correctional Center (KCCC) at both a physical property level, as well as for staff and inmates. I have seen photos of your site and recognize the impact it must have had on your operations.

I am also wanting to know how KCCC and the Department of Public Safety is managing COVID-19 concerns within our facility. I have received numerous messages of concern from our community regarding this matter and want to provide them with assurance that our Department of Public Safety is doing everything in its power to protect our inmate population and staff.

I thank you in advance for your time and response. Please let me know how I or we as the Kaua'i County Council can assist you during these very difficult times. I look forward to hearing from you. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

FELICIA COWDEN  
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council