

Future of the Oahu Community Correctional Center

Vol. 24 – New Frequently Asked Questions about OCCC

June 2020

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. Currently, offenders are housed within State of Hawaii jail and prison facilities located within Hawaii, at the Federal Detention Center in Honolulu, and in private contractor facilities on the mainland.

PSD operates Community Correctional Centers (CCCs), widely known as jails, on the islands of Kauai, Maui, Hawaii and Oahu. Each CCC houses short-term sentenced (felons, probation, and misdemeanor), pretrial (felon and misdemeanor), other jurisdiction, and probation/parole violators. CCCs provide the customary county jail function of managing both pre-trial detainees and locally-sentenced misdemeanant offenders and others with a sentence of one year or less. CCCs also provide an important pre-release preparation/transition function for prison system inmates who are transferred back to their county of origin when they reach less than a year until their scheduled release. Although some offenders will remain in prison for life, the majority (over 95 percent) will serve their sentences and be released, eventually returning to the community.

PSD is committed to providing a safe, secure, healthy, humane, social, and physical environment for inmates and staff. However, aged and obsolete CCCs have limited PSD's ability to provide such environments. All jail facilities are antiquated with limited space for inmate programs and treatment services and combined with declining physical plants, improving facilities and replacing facilities when necessary are important priorities. Chief among such priorities is the replacement of the existing Oahu CCC (OCCC) with a new facility at the Animal Quarantine Station in Aiea/Halawa. Assisting with OCCC planning and development is the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) and a team of consultants (the "OCCC Team").

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

The State of Hawaii is addressing its facility needs on Oahu by replacing the antiquated OCCC with a new state-of-the-art facility that improves conditions for inmates and staff and broadens programming and treatment services and capabilities. Under the plan, future services would be met with a multi-custody secure OCCC (minimum, medium, maximum, close custody, and special management) for adult males who are either in pretrial status or sentenced to the facility. The plan also includes relocating all females currently housed at OCCC to the Women's CCC once new facilities are constructed to accommodate them. Over the past several months inquiries have been made representing a cross-section of topics concerning OCCC development at the Animal Quarantine Station and in response this Newsletter Vol. 24 provides answers based on the latest available information.



Conceptual plan for new OCCC Detention Center and Pre-release Facility

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q1

Is the present OCCC at capacity, below capacity, or exceeding capacity?

Originally designed for 628 detainees, OCCC was rebuilt and expanded more than 40 years ago to accommodate 954 detainees. As of February 29, 2020, there were 1,177 detainees housed at OCCC, excluding the 125 detainees held at the Federal Detention Center due to crowding. Recently, in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, emergency measures have been instituted including alternative confinement for low-risk offenders, which combined with an overall reduction in criminal activity resulting in fewer felony and misdemeanor arrests, the OCCC population was approximately 953 on March 31, 2020.

Q2

How can we be sure the state doesn't build a new OCCC that is larger or smaller than necessary?

Future detainee and inmate populations are projected so that PSD is provided with the resources necessary to meet its needs and protect public safety. With the last forecast prepared in 2017, data is currently being gathered and analyzed to develop a new 10-year OCCC population forecast. Once done, the current OCCC program will be reviewed to ensure that the spaces devoted to intake, housing, administrative, treatment programs/services, health care, support and other functional components are right-sized so that the State of Hawaii will meet its needs without constructing a facility that is larger or smaller than necessary.

Q3

How has the Hawaii Legislature addressed crowding in the state's prison and jail system?

In 2019, the State of Hawaii enacted reforms that are an outcome of the work performed by the HCR 85 Task Force and other commissions established by the Legislature to examine the state's criminal justice system and recommend policy reforms that would reduce the number of offenders housed in the state's community correctional centers. It is hoped that such reforms, once fully enacted, will have a long-term, positive effect on reducing future OCCC populations.

Q4

How are the needs of OCCC staff being considered?

The new OCCC will be designed with both staff and detainees in mind. For example, an Adult Correctional Officer, over a 25-year career, will spend over 50,000 hours, or six years of his/her life in the facility before retiring, often significantly more time than inmate populations serve in a jail. Studies have shown access to natural daylight, views to outdoors, improved acoustics, thermal comfort, and adequate spaces all contribute to reducing the levels of stress and depression among staff and inmates. Such knowledge will be used to create a new OCCC with features to enhance the feeling of safety and lower stress levels for all occupants.

Q5

Will a private company be responsible for operating the new OCCC?

There is no plan to privatize operation of the proposed OCCC which will continue to be operated by PSD and its staff.

Q6

What opportunities are there for the public to learn about progress in planning and developing the new OCCC?

PSD is committed to ensuring that planning for the new OCCC continues to be transparent and benefits from the input of interested parties and the public. Therefore, PSD will continue engaging the Aiea/Halawa community and others about the necessity of developing the new OCCC while sharing new information, reporting accomplishments and milestones, and responding to inquiries. Influencing these efforts for the foreseeable future is the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Federal and state governments have recommended avoiding gatherings of more than ten people among other restrictions, so as federal and State of Hawaii COVID-19 guidelines allow, OCCC Team members will participate at Aiea Neighborhood Board and Community Association meetings to provide status reports, update members and the public about progress, and answer questions. In the meantime, technical reports, newsletters, and other materials are available on the OCCC-Future Plans website: <http://dps.hawaii.gov/occc-future-plans/>.

Q7

How will construction of the new OCCC affect the return of Hawaii inmates from the mainland?

Prison inmates housed on the mainland represent a very different population from those housed in OCCC and require services and supervision substantially different from that provided at Hawaii’s community correctional centers. Development of the OCCC, therefore, will not affect the return of inmates to Hawaii who are currently housed on the mainland.

Q8

Does the Community Partnering statute (HRS 353-16.37) apply to the new OCCC project?

HRS 353-16.37 was enacted in 1998 to provide for “Community Partnering” each time the state undertakes development of a new correctional facility including the new OCCC. The legislation requires development of a benefit and enhancement package that would mitigate the impacts of the new facility on the host (Aiea/Halawa) community. While the Community Partnering process is not formally triggered until a Request for Proposals for OCCC construction is issued, a dialogue about Community Partnering with Aiea/Halawa community leaders will be initiated over the coming months. Among the first steps in the process will be to identify individuals who will represent Aiea/Halawa during the community partnering process.



Conceptual plan for new OCCC Detention Center and Pre-release Facility

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q9

Will the new OCCC address the mental health needs of offenders?

Medical and mental health services will be provided at the new OCCC. Initial medical screenings will occur at the housing units and inmates will receive medical and mental health services at the on-site clinic. A separate Acute Mental Health housing unit will be developed to provide services to those inmates requiring more intensive or specialized care. An additional Step-Down Mental Health housing unit is also being planned with these units to be physically located near the Medical/Mental Health Unit.

Q10

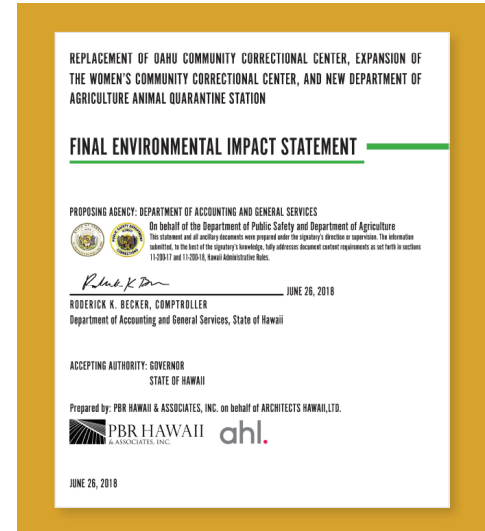
Will businesses in Halawa Valley be involved in the construction of the new facility? What benefits to the neighboring business community are expected to result from developing the new OCCC in Aiea/Halawa?

In the Request for Proposals for OCCC construction, it can be required that the selected developer must reach out to and involve the Halawa Valley business community. Once operational, businesses in the area may also benefit from patronage from the employees of and visitors to OCCC, and depending on the type of business, may have opportunities to service some of the needs of the new facility.

Q11

Have all legal and other obligations to assess the environmental impacts of developing the new OCCC been addressed?

Development of the new OCCC was the subject of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which was published in November 2017 followed by a 60-day public review period. At that time, Governor David Ige announced the Animal Quarantine Station site as the preferred location for OCCC development and reiterated that decision following publication of the Final EIS in June 2018. PSD has fully complied with HRS 343 and the environmental impact study process has been completed.



Q12

How will the public transit needs of employees and visitors who will be traveling to and from the new OCCC facility be addressed?

The availability of public transit services (bus and rail) were among the considerations that led to selection of the Animal Quarantine Station as the new OCCC location. The site is located in proximity to existing bus service and a Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) rail station is under construction at the nearby Aloha Stadium. While there is currently no service to the Animal Quarantine Station itself, extending existing bus service to the new OCCC or from the new rail station to OCCC once in operation will be discussed with the Honolulu Department of Transportation Services in the weeks ahead including the need for new bus stop locations, route changes, frequency of bus service, and similar transit system details. Improving public transit service to the Aiea/Halawa area is a priority now and will become more essential once OCCC construction begins.

Q13 What plans have been developed to provide public transportation to inmates released from OCCC? Where will bus stops be located, or will other means of transportation be provided?

As the OCCC project advances, a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) will be prepared which will address transit use and the need for shuttle programs and/or transit service. There is already a need for additional public transit service to the Aiea/Halawa area and opportunities for improving service will grow once the HART rail transit system begins operating to the Aloha Stadium station.



Halawa Station under construction at Aloha Stadium (HART, 2019)

Q14 The Legislature appropriated funds towards the Aloha Stadium Development District, a mixed-use sports and entertainment district surrounding Aloha Stadium. Such development in proximity to Aiea/Halawa will exacerbate existing traffic congestion and require considerable mitigation to allow the transportation network to operate properly.

The New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District project is in the planning phase and preparation of a Draft EIS is currently underway. Once the Draft EIS is published, Aiea/Halawa community members will have opportunities to raise questions and express their concerns so that issues such as traffic congestion are properly addressed.

Q15 Is the new OCCC location at the Animal Quarantine Station within the Halawa Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) zone?

The site of the new OCCC at the Animal Quarantine Station is located outside the boundary of the Halawa TOD zone.

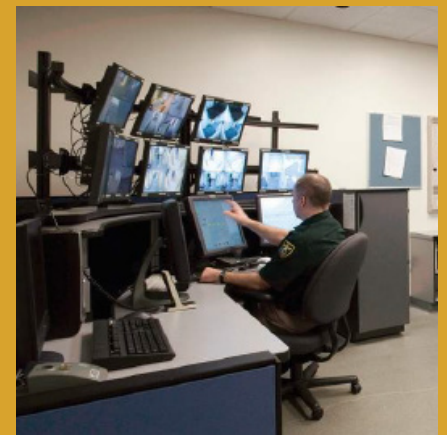
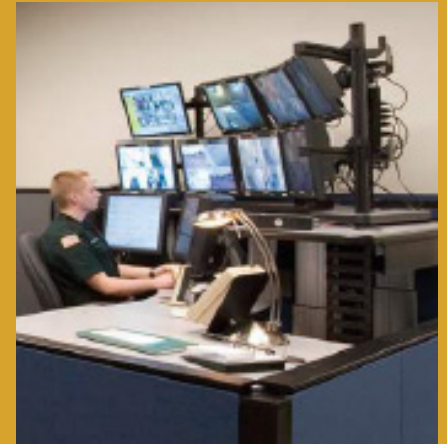
Q16 What is the status of the Application for Plan Review Use (PRU) for the relocation of OCCC to Aiea/Halawa filed with the City and County of Honolulu?

Following months of careful review and deliberation, the Honolulu City Council approved the PRU on February 19, 2020. Included in the approving Resolution 19-136 is a requirement that DAGS and PSD include in their written annual report to the Aiea Neighborhood Board and the area Councilmember an update on the feasibility of providing treatment to the homeless and mentally ill, a frequent topic of interest on the part of the public.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q17 **How will nearby businesses be notified of an escape or other incident at the new OCCC? What type of warning system will be implemented? How will communications with neighboring residents and businesses be handled in the event of an emergency?**

The new OCCC will incorporate state-of-the-art security and monitoring systems which should go far to protecting public safety and security. In the unlikely event of an escape, reliance will be placed on established policies and procedures, including notification to the Sheriff's Division and the Honolulu Police Department. Notification to neighboring businesses and the public will continue to be through the Nixile Alert System. Until OCCC is under construction, which is still several years away, there is no immediate need to change existing policies and procedures or to develop procedures specific to the new OCCC.



State-of-the-art security and monitoring systems.

Q18 **The Aiea/Halawa community remains concerned over the potential impact of OCCC development on neighboring residences and businesses.**

To avoid potential land use conflict, efforts were made to identify and evaluate alternative OCCC sites that were located away from residential and commercial developments and instead towards sites in and around industrial districts. Among the reasons for selecting the Animal Quarantine Station site is its isolation from residential and commercial neighborhoods by virtue of H-201 and U.S. Navy Red Hill facilities to the south, H-3 to the west, Halawa Valley Street and the Halawa Cement Company facility to the north, and the Halawa Industrial Park and Halawa Correctional Facility to the east. Potential impacts of OCCC development have also been thoroughly analyzed within the Draft and Final EISs which found no land use conflicts with development at the Animal Quarantine Station.



OCCC to be developed at Animal Quarantine Station

Q19 What will the new OCCC look like?

OCCC renderings to date have consisted solely of massing studies to show relationships of buildings to each other and to the overall site. As building sizes and layouts are refined over the coming months, building forms and styles will be further developed. Building materials and architectural styles will be proposed to determine PSD and DAGS preferences. The preferred architectural style option will be further developed to create renderings showing overall building appearance as well as stylistic details. At this time OCCC design is

expected to be similar to that of the Federal Detention Center. Efforts will be made to ensuring new OCCC conforms to its site and surrounding environment as well as providing the level of safety and security required of modern jail design.



Federal Detention Center – Honolulu

Q20 What features are being considered to enhance sustainability and reduce the building's carbon footprint?

New developments in Hawaii must recognize the importance of resiliency and sustainability with the new OCCC representing a significant reduction in its carbon footprint compared to the existing OCCC. This includes redeveloping the Animal Quarantine Station thereby avoiding clearing and developing a greenfield site. In addition to installing highly efficient HVAC and other engineering systems that will meet or exceed modern building code requirements, other sustainable features will include an exterior envelope with high insulation values; use of energy efficient lighting fixtures, low flow plumbing fixtures, among other features yet to be determined.

Q21 What is the current estimated cost to construct the new OCCC?

In 2018, construction costs were estimated at approximately \$500 million. However, with a more refined conceptual design (which may include a resizing based on the new population forecast), updated design and construction timelines, additional technical information (i.e., geotechnical investigation, etc.), current/projected inflation and construction trends on Oahu, and COVID-19 pandemic-related impacts, will come a new construction cost estimate. Over the coming months, as the work progresses and the above-mentioned tasks are accomplished, an updated construction cost estimate will be prepared to assist with decisions concerning project delivery and financing.

Q22 How will developing the new OCCC affect PSD's operating and maintenance budgets?

A vastly improved design, use of modern construction materials, installation of highly efficient mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, and advanced security and monitoring systems will help keep operating and maintenance costs as low as possible.

Q23 Will developing the new OCCC result in a reduction in property tax revenues to the City and County of Honolulu?

Among the goals for developing the new OCCC was to do so using only publicly-owned lands, and in particular state-owned lands, to avoid private property acquisition. Selection of the Animal Quarantine Station site meets that goal by limiting acquisition to only state-owned land. With no private properties removed from the tax rolls for the project, there will be no reduction in property tax revenues and no affect upon local government operations and services.



Upcoming Activities

The following activities are anticipated in the months ahead.

June 2020	<p>Publish Newsletter Vol. 24.</p> <p>Continue OCCC public outreach, information and engagement in accordance with federal and state COVID-19 guidelines regarding public gatherings and social distancing.</p> <p>Look to OCCC website for announcements, information, and activities.</p>
July 2020	<p>Continue OCCC public outreach, information and engagement in accordance with federal and state COVID-19 guidelines regarding public gatherings and social distancing.</p> <p>Look to OCCC website for announcements, upcoming events, and activities.</p>
August 2020	<p>Publish Newsletter Vol. 25.</p> <p>Continue OCCC public outreach, information and engagement in accordance with federal and state COVID-19 guidelines regarding public gatherings and social distancing.</p> <p>Look to OCCC website for announcements, upcoming events, and activities.</p>

Interested in Learning More?

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

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