

Future of the Oahu Community Correctional Center

Vol. 28 - Request for Interest Released

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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. 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 misdemeanor 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").

Seeking Innovative Solutions to Financing New OCCC

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many state and local governments are facing increased budgetary constraints that will affect the ability to finance infrastructure projects and programs in the years ahead. This includes the State of Hawaii which is planning or has underway important investments in its education, health care, justice, and transportation systems. Given the circumstances, state officials are working on ways to allow priority projects to proceed while avoiding traditional financing solutions that could result in long-term negative consequences to the State's debt ceiling and credit rating.

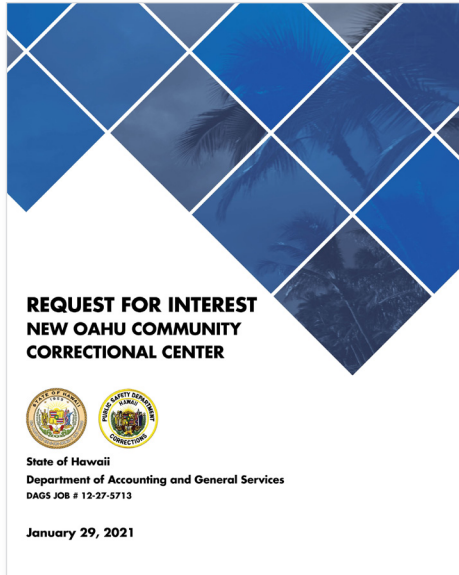
There are a wide range of alternatives available for financing infrastructure projects including development of the much needed new OCCC. However, infrastructure financing is complex and only a thorough understanding of the available options and the advantages and disadvantages of those options can ensure the approach selected to finance new OCCC development is in the best interests of the State of Hawaii. Alternative project financing methods are also continually evolving based on increasing acceptance and experience.

The State of Hawaii is currently studying the range of approaches to financing an undertaking such as the OCCC project to more fully understand the advantages and disadvantages of each and their applicability to the OCCC project. The lessons learned from experiences involving similar developments will also help build an understanding of the information needed and preparation required to formulate the financing solution that best achieves the project's goals.



Request for Interest Released

A Request for Interest (RFI) has been released to determine interest in development of the new OCCC. Expressions of interest and the information, input, and advice received from respondents to the RFI will help refine the assumptions and expectations regarding the planning, procurement and eventual delivery of the new OCCC. The RFI and information concerning the RFI process and schedule has been posted to the OCCC Future Plans website: <http://dps.hawaii.gov/occc-future-plans/>



New OCCC to Serve Special Needs Populations

The current OCCC is not comparable to the contemporary jail designs that are common today with the size and configuration of housing units requiring a detainee/security officer ratio well above industry standards. Combined with its age and condition and a history of overcrowding, a new OCCC is needed to meet current and future needs and is considered one of Hawaii's priority projects.

Development of the new OCCC would expand opportunities to provide programs and treatment services to detainees, take advantage of the newest technologies, and optimize the cost of facility operations.

Objectives for the new OCCC include:

- Accommodating current and future male detainees (with females relocated to WCCC).
- Enhancing PSD's ability to address detainees with special needs including mental health, medical care, protective custody and maximum custody.
- Improving living conditions while providing a secure and efficient work environment for correctional staff.

- Providing adequate space and an environment where the focus is on preparing detainees for successful community reintegration and reduced recidivism.
- Upgrading and expanding Pre-Release facilities and services.
- Making more efficient use of security and other staff compared to the current OCCC.
- Expanding partnerships with community volunteers and service providers while improving visiting opportunities and experiences for families.
- Eliminating the need for costly temporary repairs that attempt to remedy the obsolete facility design and physical plant.
- Employing modern security systems that use state-of-the-art technology to ensure public safety at all times.
- Be the catalyst for improving Hawaii's overall correctional infrastructure.



State-of-the-art security systems

Self-Improvement Opportunities at New OCCC

The new OCCC will offer best practices and evidence-based opportunities for self-improvement; examples include:

- Education: GED, life skills, literacy, computer literacy
- Vocational skills training: culinary arts, hospitality, landscaping
- Faith- and Culture-based activities: religious services, faith studies, counseling, native islander studies
- Treatment: substance use disorders including counseling, intervention, and medication assisted treatment and mental health counseling via group and individual therapy
- Library: recreational reading, legal research
- Re-entry: community linkages including housing, employment, social services, health care, and transportation

The Long Road to Improving Hawaii’s Correctional Facilities

The need to upgrade and/or replace Hawaii’s prison and jail facilities has been documented with master plans developed for the State of Hawaii and PSD in 1970, 1973, 1998 and 2003. The common element in each plan was the need to upgrade, update and/or replace OCCC with a modern facility that is reflective of correctional best practices to accommodate the island’s offender population. For almost 50 years, requests for funding, various attempts, proposals, and solicitations to develop/finance new correctional facilities have arisen with few implemented and little overall improvement to the state’s correctional facilities. The chronology below provides a partial list of the efforts undertaken over the years; PSD’s current effort has made considerable progress, reaching milestones never achieved by past attempts.

Date	Milestone
1857	Oahu Prison is built in Iwilei.
1916	Oahu Prison relocated to Kalihi.
1950s	New structures constructed at Oahu Prison to replace most built in 1916.
1970	State develops a comprehensive correctional master plan. County jails would become part of the state prison system and alternatives to incarcerate, including furlough centers, halfway houses and conditional release centers, would be established to help reduce prison population.
1973	State contracts the National Clearinghouse on Criminal Justice Planning and Architecture at the University of Illinois to design new facilities and associated programs. The result is the Hawaii Correctional Master Plan, the blueprint for transforming Hawaii’s prison system.
1975	Oahu Prison renamed Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) and an upgraded facility opens with a capacity of 628 inmates. Originally designed to house both pretrial detainees and sentenced felons, OCCC was considered a jail as well as the state’s primary prison. The 1975 structures continue in use today, as well as a 1916 building used as a high-custody housing unit.
1984	ACLU files lawsuit against the State of Hawaii citing overcrowding and inadequate safety programs at OCCC. At the time, OCCC housed approximately 1,350 offenders.
1987	New correctional facility opens in Halawa to house male felons (Halawa Correctional Facility).
1995	State sends the first 300 Hawaii inmates to out-of-state prisons.
1996	Firms express interest in developing a private minimum-security prison on the Big Island, but no prison is built.
1997	Gov. Cayetano promotes development of 1,000 new prison beds within two years. Companies show interest but no facility is built.
1998	State proposes building a 2,300-bed prison on the Big Island, but drops the idea after residents object.
1999	Legislature rejects request for \$130 million to build a prison on the Big Island. State considers using a private company to build a prison near Las Vegas and may have to release inmates early to ease overcrowding until then.
2000	State negotiates with a Native American tribe to build a 2,300-bed prison in Oklahoma, but lawmakers reject request for “earnest money.”
2002	State explores potential for a 1,100-bed prison, possibly a privately-built high-rise facility adjacent to the Halawa Correctional Facility. Plans halted due to unexpected added costs to upgrade sewage system at the proposed Halawa prison complex.
2003	Study announced to evaluate potential sites for a 600-bed “secure treatment facility” on the Big Island. Similar facility also planned for Oahu, with a separate center for women. Some of the funds are used for long-term planning, but most goes unspent.
2004	Legislature approves funding for plans and land acquisition for a new OCCC replacement facility.
2005	Funds provided for planning to replace OCCC and build a new substance abuse treatment facility. Includes siting the new facility and conducting the necessary environmental impact statement, permits, etc.
2008	Resolutions HCR228 / HR195 introduced to request PSD to plan for the sale of the OCCC site and use the proceeds to construct replacement facilities elsewhere on Oahu. Neither resolution advances.
2013	State issues Request for Information, seeking ways to design, build, maintain and finance new space to house up to 4,425 offenders. Includes construction of a jail to replace OCCC, plus new jails for Kauai and Maui and one in East Hawaii and one in West Hawaii.
2015	Legislature adopts HCR178 HD1 SD1, urging the governor to develop a modern OCCC in the vicinity of Halawa Correctional Facility through a public-private partnership. Lawmakers also consider HB840 to require PSD to construct a multi-story correctional facility at the Halawa Correctional Facility to replace the existing OCCC, authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds, and appropriates funds for the planning, design, and construction of the correctional facility. The bill was not adopted. However, funds are released for planning and to solicit proposals to relocate OCCC.
2016	Renewed effort to replace OCCC with siting study, EIS, population forecast, public outreach and engagement and other activities initiated.
2017	Draft Environmental Impact Statement to replace OCCC at one of four prospective sites is published.
2018	Gov. Ige accepts the Final Environmental Impact Statement to replace OCCC and relocate the facility to the site of the Animal Quarantine Station in Halawa. Gov. Ige reiterates that, “Building a new correctional facility is one of my top priorities,” and says the State would consider partnering with a private developer to build the new facility.
2019	Plan Review Use (PRU) application submitted to Department of Planning and Permitting for development of a new OCCC at the Animal Quarantine Station.
2020	Honolulu City Council approves PRU permit to relocate OCCC to Halawa. OCCC Status Report for 2020 prepared in accordance with PRU permit.
2021	Request for Interest (RFI) in developing new OCCC released.



Aerial view of Kalihi Kai

Upcoming Activities

The following activities are anticipated in the months ahead.

February 2021	<p>Publish OCCC Newsletter Vol. 29.</p> <p>Attend Aiea Neighborhood Board and Aiea Community Association meetings.</p> <p>Attend Hawaii Correctional Systems Oversight Commission meeting</p> <p>State of Hawaii receives responses to RFI and establishes dialogue with interested parties.</p> <p>Look to <i>OCCC Future Plans</i> website for announcements, upcoming events, and recent activities.</p>
March 2021	<p>Publish OCCC Newsletter Vol. 30</p> <p>Attend Aiea Neighborhood Board and Aiea Community Association meetings.</p> <p>Attend Hawaii Correctional Systems Oversight Commission meeting</p> <p>Look to <i>OCCC Future Plans</i> website for announcements, upcoming events, and recent activities.</p>
April 2021	<p>Attend Aiea Neighborhood Board and Aiea Community Association meetings.</p> <p>Attend Hawaii Correctional Systems Oversight Commission meeting</p> <p>Look to <i>OCCC Future Plans</i> website for announcements, upcoming events, and recent activities.</p>

Interested in Learning More?

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

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