

# Future of the Oahu Community Correctional Center

## Vol. 32 – RFI Responses Under Review

May 2021

### 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 programs and treatment services. Improvement of the declining facilities (and replacing facilities when necessary) is a priority. Chief among such priorities is replacement of the existing Oahu CCC (OCCC) with a new facility at the Animal Quarantine Station (AQS) 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").

### Responses to Request for Interest Received

An important milestone was reached when a Request for Interest (RFI) for the new OCCC was released on January 29, 2021. The purpose for issuing the RFI was to seek input and expressions of interest from sources within the design, construction, financial and facility maintenance industries. Respondents were encouraged to provide the State of Hawaii with responses that were relevant and applicable to its particular potential role in developing the new OCCC and their assessment of the commercial viability of the new OCCC and AQS facilities. Respondents were asked to base responses on their experience on similar projects, and their understanding of the technical preparation that the new OCCC will require. By the deadline (March 12, 2021), 22 responses were received which have been grouped as follows:

- Architect/Engineer designers, engineering firms, facility operators and general contractors;
- Equity investors, lenders, and financiers; and
- Developers or formed teams.



*Oahu Community Correctional Center, Kalihi*

## Responses to Request for Interest Received (Continued)

After the responses were received, the OCCC team undertook an initial 'responsiveness' review of each submission for completeness and whether the requisite questions were addressed. In addition, follow-on discussions were held during April 2021 in order to provide Respondents identified as being most in alignment with the established goals and objectives of the new OCCC with an opportunity to present their understanding and conceptualization of the new OCCC in greater detail. This also allowed the OCCC team (PSD, DAGS, and the consultants) to ask questions and seek clarifications regarding the information provided in the individual submissions.

Over the coming weeks, the submissions will be assessed further for innovative approaches to development, uses of technology, construction financing, and long-term facility maintenance. The process being followed by the State is guided by four principles:

- Fairness, inclusion, and transparency
- Management of risk
- Competition
- Protecting the public interest

Procurement options are also being analyzed to determine an optimal procurement method for the new OCCC. The next step in the process is expected to be the release of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in early 2022.

## Legislative Wrap-up

During the 2021 session of the Hawaii State Legislature, which adjourned on April 29, PSD officials testified on and closely monitored a number of proposed bills relating to Hawaii's criminal justice system and correctional facilities, including several specific to the future of the new OCCC. These bills generated extensive conversations between lawmakers, state officials and a broad cross section of the community, and provided PSD Director Max N. Otani the opportunity to listen to constructive input that will be valuable in continuing efforts to improve corrections operations in Hawaii.

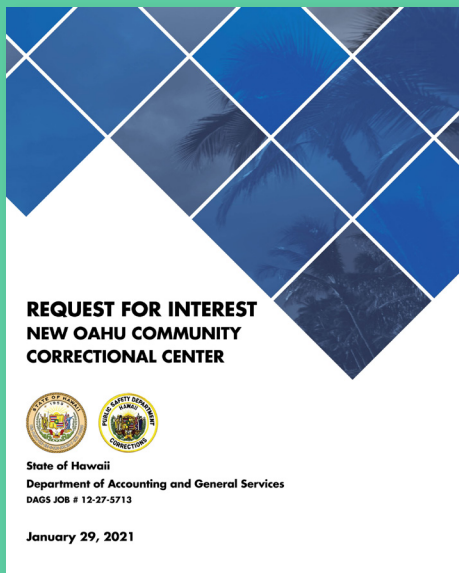
While many of the bills PSD tracked did not pass or were amended, the OCCC team was encouraged by the recognition by lawmakers of the need to replace the aging OCCC in Kalihi with a new facility that is better equipped to meet the needs of today's corrections practices, and that would address chronic overcrowding and inhumane conditions while helping to achieve better outcomes for detained individuals.

Highlights of some of the key bills that PSD tracked this session include:

- **SB664** – The original purpose of this bill was to authorize the development of the new OCCC. PSD testified in support of the bill as a new OCCC would alleviate persistent overcrowding and allow the state to provide treatment and rehabilitative services. The bill was received positively by Senate and House committees, as lawmakers recognized the need to replace the aging OCCC and the benefits a new facility would provide to improving outcomes for inmates.

In its report, the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs found that because parts of the existing OCCC are over 100 years old, it is "neither adequate nor appropriate to meet today's correctional needs," and a new OCCC "is critical to the Department of Public Safety in fulfilling their responsibility to provide safe and secure services to certain members of our community." The committee also found that a new OCCC facility will "allow the State to provide inmates with healing, and subsequently, transformational programs and services that aim at a successful integration back into their home communities." The Senate Committee on Judiciary found that "a new correctional facility is needed for the Department of Public Safety to fulfill its mandate of providing safe and secure services to incarcerated individuals."

The bill was advanced throughout the legislative session by several Senate and House committees, but it was eventually amended to remove the language relating to the new OCCC, and replaced with language to appropriate funding for the Hawaii Correctional Systems Oversight Commission (HCSOC). While the original intent of this bill did not pass, PSD and the OCCC team will continue to comply with the legislative mandate to plan for a new OCCC facility in accordance with Act 122 SLH 2014 and Act 124 SLH 2016.



- **SB1260** – PSD closely tracked this bill which would eliminate the use of monetary bail and require defendants charged with minor non-violent offenses to be released on their own recognizance. While the intent of the bill was to divert defendants from detention, the exact impact on the inmate population is unclear. Ultimately, the bill was deferred and could be taken up again in the 2022 legislative session.
- **SB1243** – This bill, which ultimately did not advance, called for a comprehensive plan to phase out the use of private correctional facilities for the incarceration of Hawaii inmates. The House Committee on Corrections, Military and Veterans in its report recognized the adverse impacts of incarcerating inmates outside of the state, but noted that the use of private prisons were authorized more than two decades ago “in response to overcrowded conditions in outdated correctional facilities that became unable to house the increase in the State’s prison population.”

In his testimony, PSD Director Otani pointed out that while the department shares the concerns of housing inmates in facilities far from home, it is infeasible to end the use of private facilities as there is currently no space available in existing Hawaii facilities to accommodate them. Director Otani emphasized that returning the 1,075 sentenced felons (as of April 5, 2021) from private Mainland facilities will require the development of a new medium-security prison larger than the current Halawa Correctional Facility. At the same time, the existing OCCC must be redeveloped to provide space to humanely house pretrial and sentenced shorter-term offenders who are sent to PSD by the courts, while also providing space for reentry and work furlough, education, medical and mental health treatment programming needs.

The OCCC team will continue to engage in dialogue with lawmakers, the HCSOC, the Judiciary and community stakeholders regarding these and other important efforts relating to improving Hawaii’s correctional facilities, reforming Hawaii’s criminal justice system, and supporting initiatives to reduce inmate population without compromising public safety.





# Maui and Hawaii CCC Housing Projects Continue to Advance

To improve conditions in its jail facilities, PSD has designed new housing units for inmates housed at MCCC and HCCC. The housing units at MCCC and HCCC are part of PSD's program of improving Hawaii's community correctional centers. Like PSD's plans for a new OCCC and improvements to the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC), the proposed housing units at MCCC and HCCC are intended to improve the living and working conditions and address long-standing issues.

Development of the new housing units is not intended to increase the HCCC and MCCC populations beyond their current number. Rather, inmates housed in spaces not well suited for inmates would be relocated to the new housing units, which would be designed and constructed to State of Hawaii and national standards. At the present time, all environmental studies have been completed and approved and applications for building and other permits are under review by local authorities. Once permits are approved, construction lasting approximately 12 months can begin.

Once constructed, the new housing units will be a substantial improvement over current conditions. The new housing units will provide occupants with natural daylight, views to the outdoors, improved acoustics, thermal comfort, and adequate space, all of which have been shown to reduce the levels of stress, depression, and fear of being victimized among inmates. Enhancing the feeling of safety and lowering stress levels for occupants and staff is expected to also have a positive effect on overall institution safety and security.



*Rendering of new MCCC housing unit*

*Credit: DLR Group*



*Rendering of new HCCC housing unit*

*Credit: DLR Group*

# Ho'okipa Makai Cottage Renovations to Begin

The Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC), located on Kalaniana'ole Highway in Kailua on the site of the former Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility, is the only all-female correctional facility in Hawaii serving the needs of female offenders. Located southeast from the WCCC's housing units and Administration Building, is a former Superintendent's Cottage and an adjoining garage.



**Current Ho'okipa Makai Cottage at WCCC**

Known today as the Ho'okipa Cottage, the structure was once used as a boys-only juvenile detention facility and later vacated before being rehabilitated into a training facility for PSD. The vacant structure is surrounded by security fencing topped with barbed wire and is accessible via an entry driveway from Kalaniana'ole Highway apart from the WCCC.

After several years of planning, design, permitting and procurement, PSD is moving forward with construction that will renovate the vacant cottage to house up to 66 female furlough and work line inmates. The renovated Ho'okipa Cottage will also accommodate training programs including resume and interview preparation, as well as courses for occupants to work toward secondary and tertiary degrees. Adjoining the Ho'okipa Cottage is a vacant support building which may remain as is (vacant), be renovated to support the female population housed at the Ho'okipa Cottage, or removed. Construction is expected to begin in 2021 and be completed within approximately 12 months.

Many of the female inmates form strong family (Ohana) groups and hold each other accountable to follow rules and exhibit good behavior and generally find it a positive step back into normal life. As a low security facility, the desires and directives from PSD is to create an environment that focuses on rehabilitation, normalization and providing life skills for successful transition out of custody, leading to lower rates of recidivism.



**Main Cottage**



**Dayroom facing North**



**Dayroom facing East**



**Front entry to Main Cottage**



**Conceptual renderings of renovated Ho'okipa Makai Cottage**





*Hawaii's State Flower: Yellow Hibiscus*

## Upcoming Activities

The following activities are anticipated in the months ahead.

<b>June 2021</b>	<p>Complete assessment of RFI responses.</p> <p>Provide status reports at Aiea Neighborhood Board #20 and Aiea Community Association meetings.</p> <p>Be present at Hawaii Correctional Systems Oversight Commission meeting.</p> <p>Continue OCCC public outreach, information, and engagement including publication of Newsletter Vol. 33. Look to <i>OCCC Future Plans</i> website for announcements, upcoming events, and recent activities.</p>
<b>July 2021</b>	<p>Provide status reports at Aiea Neighborhood Board #20 and Aiea Community Association meetings.</p> <p>Be present at Hawaii Correctional Systems Oversight Commission meeting.</p> <p>Continue OCCC public outreach, information, and engagement including publication of Newsletter Vol. 34. Look to <i>OCCC Future Plans</i> website for announcements, upcoming events, and recent activities.</p>
<b>August 2021</b>	<p>Provide status reports at Aiea Neighborhood Board #20 and Aiea Community Association meetings.</p> <p>Be present at Hawaii Correctional Systems Oversight Commission meeting.</p> <p>Continue OCCC public outreach, information, and engagement including publication of Newsletter Vol. 35. 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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