



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UPDATE ON MAUI COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER DISTURBANCE

HONOLULU –A disturbance in one of the MCCC living units was reported just before 3 p.m. yesterday afternoon. Inmates from that module were out in the common area on rec time. When rec time was over they were directed to go to their cells. 42 inmates refused. 52 complied with the order.

Inmates who refused the order began breaking fire sprinklers, which began shooting water out in the common area. Maintenance was informed to shut off the water system. Non-compliant inmates started a small fire in the common area and smoke drifted to an adjacent module where inmates there started a lesser disturbance.

Preliminary reports indicated that at about 4:24 p.m., MCCC staff and Maui Police began negotiations with inmates by way of the rec yard. Many inmates chose to voluntarily and peacefully exit the modules. At 4:49 p.m. MCCC staff make entry through the emergency exit door. At 5:15 p.m. all inmates were secured and accounted for. Staff then turned their attention to the second module that created a lesser disturbance. At 6:13 the inmates were evacuated and by 6:26 p.m. the situation was declared contained.

Significant damage was sustained in the two modules. Damage estimates are pending. No inmate injuries were reported. Three staff members were treated for minor injuries including an injured finger, a cut to one foot from shattered glass and skin irritation from pepper spray exposure. All were treated by medical staff and returned to duty.

The disturbance is under investigation internally by the Department of Public Safety as well as criminally by the Maui Police Department. Staff are questioning inmates to determine who started the disturbance and why they started it. Once the inmates responsible for the incident are identified, they will be brought up on criminal charges as well as internal disciplinary action, pending the outcome of the investigations.

Clean up is underway in the modules. A facility-wide lockdown is still in effect until questioning and clean up are done.

“I want to thank and commend the correctional staff of MCCC for their professional, measured and effective response to this disturbance. Their coordinated actions brought a potentially much larger situation under control while keeping themselves safe and the inmates secured throughout. We also want to thank the MPD and MFD for their quick and unequivocal support. All personnel involved in this multi-agency response have shown themselves to be the best that public service has to offer,” said PSD Director Nolan Espinda.

Maui Police and Maui Fire provided much needed support and aided greatly in the resolution and control of the situation.

Public Safety’s Deputy Director for Corrections and Departmental Security Coordinator are heading to Maui to conduct incident follow up, investigation and damage assessment.

Toni Schwartz
Public Information Officer
Hawaii Department of Public Safety
Office: [808-587-1358](tel:808-587-1358)
Cell: [808-683-5507](tel:808-683-5507)
Toni.E.Schwartz@hawaii.gov
<http://hawaii.gov/psd/>