



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND REENTRY COMMISSION COMPLETE PLANS TO IMPLEMENT REENTRY SYSTEM

HONOLULU – In an effort to help individuals reenter community after incarceration, the Department of Public Safety (PSD) and Reentry Commission (RC) completed two plans to effectuate implementation of the comprehensive offender reentry system. The 2019 Comprehensive Offender Reentry Plan (CORP) was released at the beginning of the year and the Reentry Commission Strategic Plan (RCSP) was adopted May 2018.

“The Reentry Commission was established to work with PSD to monitor and review its reentry programs and to ensure that the comprehensive offender reentry system is implemented; to guide the work, a strategic plan was necessary,” reports Toni Bissen, co-chair of the Commission. “The key is to work together, only together as State and Community can we bring about reentry success in Hawaii, and the completion of both plans demonstrate the effectiveness of collaboration.” Bissen said.

The Reentry Coordination Office was created to address reentry efforts statewide and developed the CORP. The goal of the CORP is to build a successful and sustainable reentry process by ensuring the implementation, monitoring, and review of the comprehensive offender reentry system, while making recommendations for evidence-based improvements to existing programs and for additional, new programs and services.

The CORP’s Reentry Strategies for Success include four phases of reentry, six areas of focus and a total of 51 reentry strategies the Reentry Commission recommends to produce desired objectives and outcomes for reentry success.

The four phases of reentry are intake, prison and jail planning phase, transition and release planning phase, and the parole and post-release phase.

The CORP includes six areas of focus for reentry:

1. Support for victims
2. Public safety
3. Housing
4. Health care
5. Education, employment and vocational training
6. Family and community support

“Over the past several years, the Public Safety Department has developed a reentry foundation that will continue to adapt and change with implementation of evidence-based practices. Successful offender reentry comes with significant challenges that will require a collective effort from PSD, other agencies, and various community service providers. The Reentry Coordination Office will work to enlist the help and commitment from these other agencies, and community and faith-based organizations to build lasting connections and community partnerships,” said Public Safety Director Nolan Espinda.

The Reentry Commission issued its 2017-2020 Strategic Plan which identified six actionable areas and opportunities to carry out its mandate and partner with the Department of Public Safety:

1. Regularly monitor and evaluation of key performance measures.
2. Review and advocate for PSD initiatives to develop more inmate-centric reentry assessment and programs.
3. Review and advocate for staff support and training to implement the Comprehensive Offender Reentry System.
4. Review and encourage PSD efforts to develop community partnership opportunities to increase employment and housing options for ex-offenders.
5. Review and advocate for PSD efforts and partnerships to return out-of-state inmates.
6. Encourage and advocate for community awareness and education initiatives.

To review the CORP and RCSP in their entirety go to:

<http://dps.hawaii.gov/about/reentry-commission/reentry-commission-approved-documents/>

Background:

Reentry Coordination Office (RCO)

The Reentry Coordination Office (RCO) was made operational in 2015 and is responsible for assisting offenders with appropriate program planning as they begin the process of transitioning from the correctional system to the community. The RCO is dedicated to developing, implementing and maintaining transitional services, training, planning, risk-need assessments, victim services and restitution collection. They oversee the Inmate Classification Section, Program Planning and Training Section, Risk Assessment Section and Victim Notification/Services Section.

Reentry Commission

The Reentry Commission was established in January 2010 by the Hawaii State Legislature to work with the Department of Public Safety in monitoring and reviewing the comprehensive offender reentry program, including facility education and treatment programs, rehabilitative services, work furloughs and the Hawaii Paroling Authority's oversight of parolees. The Reentry Commission makes recommendations to the Department, the Hawaii Paroling Authority, and the Legislature regarding reentry and parole services. The Commission membership is made up of 10 members including: the Director of the Department of Public Safety (non-voting ex officio member), three members appointed by the Governor, three members appointed by the President of the Senate, and three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Cut down version:

In an effort to help individuals reenter the community after incarceration, the Department of Public Safety (PSD) and Reentry Commission (RC) released the 2019 Comprehensive Offender Reentry Plan (CORP).

The CORP goal is to build a successful and sustainable reentry process by ensuring the implementation, monitoring, and review of the comprehensive offender reentry system, while making recommendations for evidence-based improvements to existing programs and for additional, new programs and services.

The CORP's Reentry Strategies for Success include four phases of reentry, six areas of focus and a total of 51 reentry strategies the Reentry Commission recommends to produce desired objectives and outcomes for reentry success. The four phases of reentry are intake, prison and jail planning phase, transition and release planning phase, and the parole and post-release phase. The areas of focus are: Victim Support, Public Safety, Housing, Health Care, Education/Employment/Vocational Training and Family/Community Support.

To review the report: <http://dps.hawaii.gov/about/reentry-commission/reentry-commission-approved-documents/>

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