

Future of the Oahu Community Correctional Center

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Hawaii Department of Public Safety

The Hawaii Department of Public Safety (PSD) carries out orders from the state courts to confine individuals for a set period of time utilizing jails and prisons located within Hawaii, at the Federal Detention Center in Honolulu, and in private contracted facilities on the mainland. Jails, known in Hawaii as Community Correctional Centers (CCCs), are located on the islands of Kauai, Maui, Hawaii and Oahu and house pre-trial detainees, misdemeanor offenders, and others with a sentence of one year or less. CCCs also provide a pre-release transition function for prison inmates who reach less than a year until their scheduled release. While some offenders will remain confined for life, over 95 percent will serve their sentences and be released to the community.

PSD envisions a future when all its facilities provide safe, secure, healthy, and humane environments for offenders and staff. A future based on better understanding the differing needs of offender populations, using therapeutic rather than punitive management techniques, ensuring racial equity, and by promoting positive change so that fewer individuals are incarcerated in Hawaii. However, aged and obsolete CCCs have undermined PSD's ability to deliver such a vision and improving some and replacing others is a PSD priority. Chief among its priorities is developing a new Oahu CCC (OCCC) at the Animal Quarantine Station (AQS) in Aiea. Assisting with OCCC planning and development is the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) and a team of consultants (the "OCCC Team").

OCCC & CTC Operational/Space Needs Report Completed

In July 2021, PSD commenced work to update the operating principles developed earlier and to develop a detailed space needs list and functional adjacency diagrams for the future Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) and future Community Transitional Center (CTC). Much of the information used to develop the operating principles and space needs originated from earlier master plan discussions, the 2021 population forecast update, workshops conducted with key PSD officials and OCCC representatives, and documents received during the work effort. The resultant report will serve as a foundation for development of both concepts and the schematic design for the new OCCC and CTC facilities. This report is a summary of broad planning assumptions and proposals on operational space needs for the future OCCC. It should be noted that no decisions have been made on a final design.

Oahu Community Correctional Center

The new OCCC will be designed to provide a safe and secure environment meeting all State and professional standards as well as reflecting best practices relating to contemporary jail design and operation. To that end, enhanced rehabilitative programs and services will afford increased opportunities for inmates to be productively occupied while also maintaining community ties. Appropriate housing for males, and treatment and services necessary to address the needs of the inmate population will be provided; more specifically:

- General population (GP) housing
- Medical treatment and housing – skilled nursing, medical detoxification, medical GP
- Mental health treatment and housing – acute, subacute, special needs
- Protective custody housing
- Restrictive housing

The new OCCC will support the transition of sentenced misdemeanants, and those inmates sentenced one year or less being released by providing assistance to connect with community resources to help with their reentry efforts while incarcerated. Upon release, these individuals will have the opportunity to physically access and be connected with follow-on community services that may include continuing care and treatment. Pre-trial detainees released by the courts under the supervision of the Intake Service Centers (ISC) are afforded follow-on services. On the other hand, pre-trial detainees can post bail and get released or are released on their own recognizance by the courts.

PSD is planning for a future average daily population of 875 inmates and with peaking and classification factors applied will require 1,012 beds. Developing standardized configurations for housing pods results in the future OCCC having 1,032 beds, which will provide the right type and number of beds to serve the populations outlined above and is consistent with the approved Plan Review Use permit. Of the 1,032 beds, there will be 96 mental health beds as well as 104 specialized beds planned to meet the medical and behavioral needs of the inmates.

Community Transitional Center

On the grounds of the OCCC campus will be the CTC, which will serve prisoners within three-to-six months of their calculated release date, many of whom will originate from Halawa, Waiawa, and Kulani correctional facilities. Programs and services offered at the CTC are intended to facilitate prisoners' successful return to the community as responsible, self-sufficient law-abiding citizens, and will include education, treatment, and work training.

Programs provided will focus on CTC residents' specific needs, such as substance use disorder/addiction, in a therapeutic setting, and transitional services that typically include the opportunity to work in the community, receive counseling and education, and participate in treatment in a structured setting.

CTC inmates may be working off site under supervision of PSD staff, gainfully employed within the community and/or taking part in community-based programs/treatment. When not involved in work or programs/treatment, they will reside at the CTC.

PSD is planning for a future capacity of 270 prisoners at the CTC who are deemed to be a low risk to the community.

Pandemic Response

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic struck, not only in Hawaii but the world and two years later, the pandemic continues. While there is still much to learn about COVID-19's causes, variants, transmission, treatment, and prevention, the new OCCC and CTC aims to reflect the science in responding to this and future pandemics. For example:

- The new OCCC will be configured to support virtual events such as court proceedings, personal and professional visits, telehealth, etc.
- The new OCCC will be better equipped to prevent transmission of airborne pathogens through the use of respiratory isolation rooms.
- The new OCCC and CTC will be equipped with improved mechanical ventilation, UV light protection, and/or HEPA filters so that inmates can still be safely processed into the OCCC and CTC. In addition, portions of the facility could be repurposed in the event of a pandemic to house non-chronic inmates who may be infected.

Next Steps

Although completion of the architectural space needs was an important step forward, there is more to be done in developing the new OCCC and CTC and over the coming months, the project team will be focusing its efforts on the following tasks:

- Perform a Building Massing analysis that combines the OCCC and CTC's major building elements and adjacencies to include block and stacking of major building elements, develop living unit configurations, and outline basic floor plates.
- Based on the Building Massing analysis, undertake a review (and revise as necessary) the current site influences with consideration given to utilities, land restrictions, topography, site access, parking, and services. The project team will also further develop the OCCC and CTC floor plates to address these site influences
- Continue development of detailed floor plates that illustrate room locations, adjacencies, and circulation to include walls, windows, and doors and primary security elements.
- Establish baseline staffing analysis, an operational budget estimate, and an update projected construction cost.

Completion of these tasks will result in a proposed site plan; individual OCCC and CTC floor plans, building elevations, sections, along with 3-dimensional renderings of what the new OCCC and CTC could look like. The Operational/Space Needs Report is a summary of broad planning assumptions and proposals on operational space needs for the future OCCC and no decisions have been made on a final design.

Status of Adopted Criminal Justice Legislation

During the 2022 Legislative session two measures affecting Hawaii's criminal justice system were adopted with the goals of reducing the number of individuals housed in Hawaii's CCCs and improving the functioning of the correctional system.

HB1567 HD1 SD1 CD1: Criminal Pretrial Reform

Among the measures adopted is a reform to the bail system by eliminating monetary bail under certain conditions. HB1567 HD1 SD1 CD1 addresses the substantial and continued overcrowding of facilities used to house pretrial defendants by requiring defendants to be released on their own recognizance for certain nonviolent offenses including traffic offenses, violations, nonviolent petty misdemeanor offenses, nonviolent misdemeanor offenses and nonviolent class C felony offenses, subject to exceptions and requirements. Reducing pretrial incarceration will reduce costs to taxpayers and the community. The measure also allows defendants the option to participate in a bail report interview via video-conference.

The measure, however, was opposed by the Hawaii Department of the Attorney General, the State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers, the Retail Merchants of Hawaii, prosecuting attorneys for Hawaii, Maui and Honolulu counties, among others who warned that the measure, as written, is overly broad and deprives judges of discretion over defendants. All four mayors and the Honolulu Star-Advertiser editorial board also urged the Governor to veto the bill which he did in July 2022.

PSD agrees that justice reforms that place an emphasis on sentencing/bail reform, pre-trial diversion programs, expansion/development of new special courts, and other alternatives to incarceration should continue to be pursued, and the Hawaii Judiciary and Legislature are the appropriate entities for addressing such reforms. Until those reforms are adopted, the people in Hawaii must work to help those in custody right now. While Hawaii's courts determine who is placed at OCCC, it's PSD's job to house and care for them and that starts with providing better living conditions and services and programs that inmates need to successfully return to the community.

A recent Population Forecast report prepared for PSD addressed specific opportunities to reduce OCCC's population through policy changes and legal reforms that would divert defendants from detention. If such reforms are enacted, PSD is ready to adjust plans for the new OCCC to reflect the reforms but until then, plans for OCCC can only reflect current laws and policies that dictate who's incarcerated.

HB2169 HD1 SD2 CD1 (Act 103, SLH 2022): Comprehensive Offender Reentry System

The Legislature also adopted a measure to support successful offender reentry (Act 103, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022). The measure clarifies the role of PSD which is to work with other state and local agencies in assisting inmates to acquire civil identification cards. Civil identification cards are essential to eliminating barriers for inmates exiting prison to successfully integrate into the community by transiting into the workforce, accessing social services including health care, opening bank accounts, and securing housing among others.

Under the measure, PSD will assist inmates to obtain a civil identification card, birth certificate, social security card, and other relevant identification documents before the inmate is released to work furlough, extended furlough, or community placement programs if the inmate requests assistance. The measure was supported by the Office of the Public Defender, PSD, Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, Common Cause Hawaii, and the Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center, as well as other public interest groups and individuals and was signed into law by Governor Ige.

To Deliver Restorative Justice, Hawaii Needs a New OCCC

Hawaii's residents would agree that replacing the current OCCC is necessary and after many attempts to address the poor conditions at the existing Kalihi jail, PSD has made significant progress towards development of a new facility at the Animal Quarantine Station site in Halawa. During the 2022 legislative session, the Governor requested funds to begin design for the new OCCC, however, the Legislature decided to withhold funding at this time. Doing so further delays any meaningful movement to build a facility that would allow PSD to implement the therapeutic and rehabilitative approaches called for by prison reform groups which are unavailable at the current OCCC. Meanwhile offenders will continue to languish in an outmoded, dilapidated jail that is long past its prime.

At the same time, residents are growing increasingly concerned about the dramatic rise in violent crime and high-profile property crimes and are demanding stricter law enforcement and sentencing. This concern overlooks the reality that OCCC has been and is chronically overcrowded and will remain that way as the jail becomes increasingly less equipped to cope with the current population and future influx of inmates.

It is critical to continue the work to design and build a facility that addresses the needs of the inmate population with a physical environment and the tools to improve their lives. A new OCCC will allow for PSD to provide the modern approaches that can prepare inmates to successfully reintegrate into our communities and reduce recidivism, while still holding them accountable for their actions.

New Department of Law Enforcement Established

Governor David Ige signed HB2171 establishing a new Department of Law Enforcement (DLE). The new DLE includes PSD's Law Enforcement Division (State Sheriff Division and Narcotics Enforcement Division) and Internal Affairs Office, Department of Transportation Harbors Division, and the Department of the Attorney General's Criminal Investigative Division. The new DLE will also include the Department of Defense Office of Homeland Security and the Hawaii State Fusion Center. The consolidation will centralize command and control for the State's critical incident management, improve interoperable communications, the ability to handle complex multi-island investigations, and improve overall efficiency of statewide law enforcement operations. The last time a new department was formed in Hawaii was in 1989, with creation of the Department of Public Safety.



Gov. Ige signs HB2171 at State Capitol

The projected timeline for the transition is as follows:

- July 1, 2022: Transition team begins implementation with creation of framework and infrastructure for new DLE.
- July 1, 2023: DLE administrative infrastructure established and the process to fill all allocated positions begins.
- January 1, 2024: Transfer of Department of the Attorney General non-statutorily mandated investigative functions and related employees, Department of Transportation Harbors Division criminal law enforcement functions and related employees, and Department of Defense Office of Homeland Security, to include the Hawaii State Fusion Center. PSD renamed to Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and both departments become independent and fully operational.

“Once the conversion to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is complete, the Department will be able to focus on a single mission to administer the corrections, rehabilitation, and reentry of the inmate population,” said Max Otani, PSD Director.



Gov. Ige and future members of the Department of Law Enforcement

Construction Continues at Women's CCC

In the year since groundbreaking, steady progress has been achieved in constructing a new Housing Unit, Administration Building, and Visitation/Intake Building, along with other improvements at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) in Kailua. The new structures are the first major improvements at WCCC since it began housing female offenders in 1992. As the only women's prison in Hawaii, WCCC is being upgraded so female inmates currently housed in overcrowded and deteriorating facilities can be transferred to WCCC. The work at WCCC is currently PSD's largest capital improvement project and represents an important step towards improving the quality of life for female offenders held at WCCC. Current efforts are focused on constructing the exterior walls of the new housing unit that will define interior spaces (see below).



Rendering of New Housing Unit Interior (Pennell Consulting, Inc.)



Construction Progress Photos, September 2022 (Rider Levett Bucknall)



View of sunset from Kailua Beach Park.

Upcoming Activities

The following activities are anticipated in the months ahead.

September 2022	Architectural and Space Report for new OCCC completed. Development of updated site plan and new OCCC conceptual renderings begins. Construction continues at HCCC, MCCC, and WCCC. Public outreach, information, and engagement continues with attendance at Aiea Neighborhood Board #20, Aiea Community Association, and Hawaii Correctional Systems Oversight Commission meetings.
October 2022	Development of updated site plan and new OCCC conceptual renderings continues. Construction continues at HCCC, MCCC, and WCCC. Public outreach, information, and engagement continues with attendance at Aiea Neighborhood Board #20, Aiea Community Association, and Hawaii Correctional Systems Oversight Commission meetings.
November 2022	Development of updated site plan and new OCCC conceptual renderings continues. Construction continues at HCCC, MCCC, and WCCC. Public outreach, information, and engagement continues with attendance at Aiea Neighborhood Board #20, Aiea Community Association, and Hawaii Correctional Systems Oversight Commission meetings.

Join OCCC Email List

Add your name to the OCCC email list to receive announcements, newsletters, and other project-related materials by sending your name, affiliation (if any), and email address to: robert.nardi@wsp.com.

Interested in Learning More?

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

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