

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu*  
1177 Alakea Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
808-587-1288

**TOMMY JOHNSON**  
DIRECTOR

**Melanie Martin**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Sanna Muñoz**  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

**Mark Hanohano**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

December 14, 2023

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-second State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Thirty-second State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

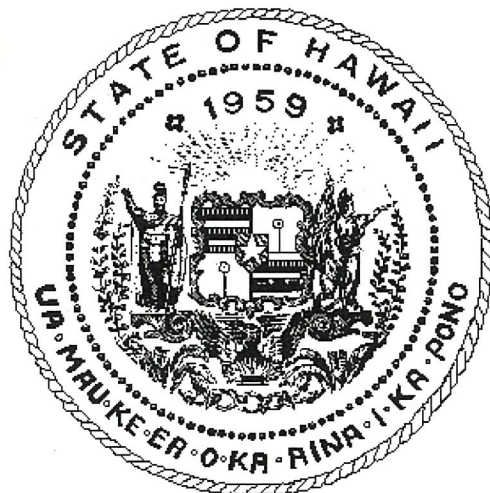
Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the **Report to the Legislature in Response to HRS 367D-008 Gender Responsive Community Based Programs for Women** as required by Act 212, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, §353H, Hawaii Revised Statutes. In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at: [Department of Public Safety | 2023 Reports to Legislature \(hawaii.gov\)](https://www.hawaii.gov/dps/reports-to-legislature/)

Sincerely,

  
Tommy Johnson  
Director

Enclosure



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
REPORT TO THE 2024 LEGISLATURE**

**IN RESPONSE TO HRS 367D-008  
GENDER RESPONSIVE COMMUNITY BASED  
PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN**

**December 2023**

The 2006 Hawaii State Legislature mandated through Hawaii Revised Statutes §367D-2 that the Department of Public Safety (PSD) foster a gender responsive environment by providing model gender-responsive programs for female offenders that are responsive to statewide needs and geographical areas and award contracts for programs subject to funding by the Legislature. The gender-responsive environment and programs were to:

- (1) Respond in a rehabilitative way to the type of offense female offenders generally commit and address pathways to crime;
- (2) Respond to the problems of female offenders with dependent children;
- (3) Respond to the importance of developing self-determination through independent living and marketable job skills;
- (4) Assist female offenders in overcoming their own extreme degree of dependency by developing and fostering strong and healthy relationships without losing self-esteem;
- (5) Respond appropriately to the specific health care needs of women, including but not limited to mental health and substance abuse services;
- (6) Offer transitional support for female offenders and their families to promote successful reentry into their families and communities; and
- (7) Offer technical assistance and training toward the implementation of other similar programs.

This report is being submitted in response to §367D-8, which requires PSD to report on the following areas: program descriptions, type and costs of contracts made, name of the private agency awarded each contract, and the success of each contract in meeting program specifications.

Important Note: Overall program completion numbers have experienced a decline as the after-effects of COVID-19 has resulted in significant staffing shortages, an increase in vacancies, and contractor availability. Achieving the targets proved difficult as programming for this high-risk, high-need population is greatly impacted. The Corrections Programs and Services Division continues to work diligently with the facilities, its contracted vendors, and the Department’s Personnel Branch’s Recruitment Branch to re-establish program services to the pre-COVID era.

### **Contracted Programs for Incarcerated Women Program Descriptions**

#### **Women’s Community Correctional Center**

**Culinary Arts Program** - The culinary training at the Women’s Community Correctional Center (WCCC) provides a quality education in culinary arts. It is a credited program. Women who finish the program in the facility may enroll in the culinary program at the Kapiolani Community College (KCC). The credits earned at WCCC are transferrable to KCC.

Module 1: Introduction to Culinary Industry (CULN111)	6 of 6	(100%) completion
Module 2: Food Safety and Sanitation (CULN 112)	6 of 10	(60%) completion
Module 3: Fundamentals of Cookery (CULN 120)	5 of 10	(50%) completion
Module 4: Intermediate Cookery (CULN 130).	4 of 5	(80%) completion

Women who completed Module 2 –Safety and Sanitation, received the Serv-Safe Certificate, a national certification. Four (4) women who completed and passed all four modules earned 14

college credits from Kapiolani Community College. They also earned a Certificate of Professional Development.

The Culinary Arts Program offering was provided through a Memorandum of Agreement with Kapiolani Community College. The total cost for the Culinary Arts Program was \$92,000.00 for delivery, materials and supplies for the 4 course modules.

**Domestic Violence (DVI), Domestic Violence Anger Management (DVAM), Parenting After Violence (PAV), Victim Support Services** – is designed to provide participants at WCCC individual, group, and family sessions as they transition back to their families and communities. Keiki O Ka`Aina Family Learning Center began its first cohort in FY 23 (October 2023).

**Explorations** – is designed to prepare participants at WCCC to enter the workforce with the tools and skills needed to make good work-related decisions and to build successful careers. It aims to provide practical, sound advice that will enable the participants to secure employment and succeed on the job. It is meant to empower inmates to take control of their long-term careers. The program cost \$7,910.00 per cohort. WCCC ran two cohorts of this program in FY 23, of the 16 students enrolled, a total of 13 completed, with an 81 percent completion rate, much improved from the previous year.

**Lifestiles for Women** – is a comprehensive transition skills training program planned to provide assessments, cognitive skills, job development, job placement, transition services, and intensive re-entry services. The program uses social education and skills training to assist inmates to recognize behavior patterns so the making of errors and unintended consequences are minimized. This training covers Cognitive Skills Training, Life Skills Training, Self-directed Job Search and Personal Transition Planning: 27 enrolled, and 20, or 74% completed in FY 23.

The program is delivered by Worknet, Inc. together with comparable programs for men at the Halawa Correctional Facility and Waiawa Correctional Facility. The programs at the three facilities have been funded by City & County grants.

**Digital Literacy** – This program is designed to prepare participants to connect, learn, and create more promising professional success as well as overall improve their livelihood by becoming discerning users of technology. Upon successful completion of this course, participants will earn a Digital Literacy Certificate of Professional Development and gain the knowledge to effectively be prepared to use technology and the Internet confidently. 14 enrolled and 10 or 71% completed.

**General Education Development (GED) Diploma Program** - GED program provides high school equivalency diploma. Courses were taught either by the CPS Corrections Education Specialist or by part time teachers (PTT) through the McKinley Community School for Adults-Moanalua Campus. During FY23 peer tutors were funded by the Hawaii Friends of Restorative Justice through Windward Community College and assisted students preparing for the GED. 6 graduates earned their GED.

**Post-Secondary Program** - Inmates at WCCC were offered college courses through Windward Community College. Tuition and other fees were funded by the college's Pu'uhoua Grant, a federal grant for at risk women, as well as Second Chance Pell funding upon completion of the Pu'uhoua Grant. There were 106 women who participated in college courses. Some of the courses included in this program are: Intro to College, Psychology, Sociology, and Community Health Worker, Human Development and Family Studies, and Business 122.

**Yoga** – is designed to improve health and well-being and cope with the stress of prison life. Through this training program, participants at WCCC will be instructed in cognitive reasoning, attention and intellectual awareness and mindfulness for dealing with frustration, depression, anger, and ill-health through techniques of mindfulness and meditation as a key element of yoga practice training. For FY23, 43 enrolled, 21 completed or 49% completion rate.

### **Outpatient Treatment Services (OTS-Level 2.0)**

Through a Purchase of Service Contract with the Salvation Army, PSD provides a cognitive-behavioral treatment component lasting between 40 and 60 hours. Groups meet at least once per week and utilize evidence-based cognitive-behavioral therapy curriculum. Eligibility for OTS services are for females that score at lower risk for criminal conduct and meet diagnostic criteria for substance use disorders. Women receiving services in this modality of treatment have had minimal disruption in their psychosocial or vocational functioning attributed to substance use.

FY 2023 data indicates 13 women enrolled into outpatient programming with none of the women completing programming *during the reporting period*. Staffing has been a challenge over the course of the fiscal year.

### **Intensive Outpatient Treatment Services (IOP-Level 2.5)**

PSD provides IOP substance abuse treatment services to the female offenders located at WCCC, procured via purchase of service contract with the Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services (ATS). During this fiscal year, ATS reported challenges stemming from the after-effects of COVID-19. Recruitment and retention of staff proved difficult and impacted programming at WCCC. The IOP treatment modality consists of group sessions lasting approximately two to three hours, four days a week with accompanying individual counseling sessions. IOP services are for female inmates who are at moderate risk for criminal conduct and meet diagnostic criteria for substance use disorder.

The female participants in IOP work through gender-specific, evidenced based Residential Drug Abuse Program interactive journals purchased through The Change Companies. These journals allow the participants to address gender-specific situations to develop and practice the skill sets necessary for a successful transition back into the community. The gender-specific curriculum is important as statistics indicate that female offenders are 50% more likely to recidivate as their male counterparts when considering risk factors such as family/marital, vocational, as well mental health matters. The duration of the program is approximately 9 months to completion. Each group is a closed ended group with a maximum of 15 women per group. Assessment and treatment planning, individual and family counseling, including continuing care services are

provided for each participant.

For FY 2023, 40 participants were enrolled into programming while completing 16.

### **Residential Treatment Services (RES- Level 3)**

**Ke Alaula** Therapeutic Community (TC): 50 beds.

The program is operated by Hina Mauka through a purchase of service agreement with PSD and is located within the WCCC. The program is an intensive long-term, 9 to 12-month therapeutic community. In response to more complex cases, the duration of the program may be extended to meet the individual's needs. COVID protocols at WCCC has capped program capacity to 25 participants until further notice.

Cognitive Behavioral Treatment and Social Learning Theory combine to address criminal thinking and behavior. As the TC residents live and work together separated from the general population, they hold each other accountable to practice recovery skills and change their criminal thinking and behavior. Specialized services were also provided in sexual and physical abuse, domestic violence, criminality, and other types of gender responsive issues.

Between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, data indicates there were 41 new admissions and 21 successful completions.

### **Reintegration Services – Oahu Community Correctional Center / Laumaka Work Furlough Center & the Women's Community Correctional Center Bridge Programs**

The Department also provides substance abuse specific reentry services for inmates transitioning from the institution setting and back into the community through Bridge work furlough programs at Laumaka Work Furlough Center (LWFC) and the Women's Community Correctional Center. The Bridge program's focus is to successfully re-integrate both male and female offenders back into the community by capitalizing on the offender's completion of primary treatment and providing a continuum of care to build off past successes. Programming is enhanced at this juncture with job development services, life skills, and family education, therapy, and re-unification opportunities. Offenders pursue work in the community while in Bridge continuing to work on substance abuse issues and criminogenic areas.

Family Education and Therapy is available to offenders participating in the Bridge programs through contracted services within the community. Offenders are introduced to educational group components using evidence-based curriculum for five sessions lasting up to two hours. The focus of these services is to increase awareness for offenders of the benefits that family counseling may have when attempting to reunify with family in the community. Further sessions are available for the offender past the initial five sessions by request and can include the offender's family in the community.

Federal funding via the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) grant, continues to provide the primary funding of both Bridge programs. The Bridge Program currently provides up to 64 beds at OCCC and 15 beds at WCCC to serve the reentry and furlough populations.

**The Bridge Program** is a residential substance abuse reentry, work furlough program operated by PSD for inmates who are of moderate to high risk for recidivism and have completed IOP, or residential substance abuse treatment while incarcerated. The program provides opportunities to up to 15 women at a time to practice social learning, cognitive, and recovery skills in treatment while transitioning to the community.

Participants work through evidence based, interactive journals focused on transitional issues that may arise, and the development of skills to work through those issues effectively. Family Therapy services are offered via POS contract through Salvation Army Services as the inmate re-connects with family and community resources. Goodwill Industries also contracted with the Department to provide educational and vocational services.

Fiscal year 2023, data indicate that 14 *female offenders* participated in the Bridge furlough program (up 366% from last FY) of which 16 offenders or 114% successfully completed programming. High completion percentage is due to participant carryover from the previous fiscal reporting year.

### **Women's Furlough Community Housing Program:**

The Department has contracted with the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) Oahu at Fernhurst. The program is currently called Ka Hale Ho'Ala Hou No Na Wahine (Home of Re-awakening for Women) and provides up to 14 beds per month. The contract focus is to provide housing for female offenders on furlough as they transition and re-integrate back into the community. This program provides access to many support and referral services including but not limited to job development, money management, life skills, anger management, and domestic-violence, and relapse prevention within the community. The program has been a long-time partner of the Department often filling gaps in services for the female population.

Fiscal year 2023 data show that a total of 11 female offenders participated in the female furlough housing program of which 7 offenders or 64% successfully completed the program.

## **Volunteer Programs for Incarcerated Women Program Descriptions**

### **Women's Community Correctional Center**

#### **Read-To-Me International**

Under the CPS-Library Branch, this program is a read-aloud program for offenders at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC). Inmates select children's books and record themselves reading aloud for their children while sharing the joy of reading to their children. Read-to-Me International Hawaii Chapter, a non-profit organization, provides these services.

**Women in Need** – This program provides offenders at WCCC with the tools for healing and empowerment. It provides intensive case management, stabilizing courses in parenting, understanding and awareness of domestic violence, self-esteem, job readiness, basic life skills and mentorship. Women in Need (WIN), non-profit organization, provides these contracted services under the Department's Re-entry Branch.

## **Hilo Community Correctional Center (HCCC)**

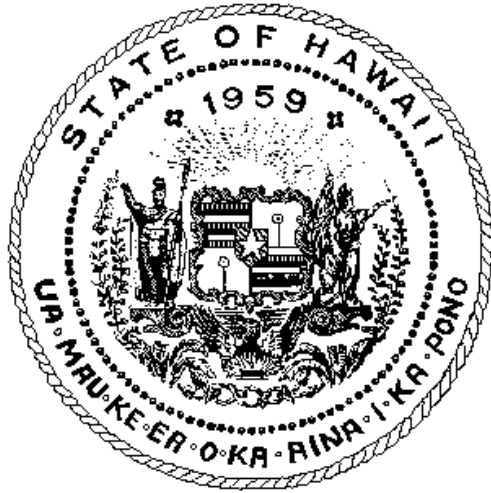
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**Victim Impact** – is a program developed by the U.S. Office of Justice Programs/Office of Victims of Crime to help students develop empathy and understanding of the impact of crimes on the victims. The program is delivered in cooperation with HCCC and the Office of the Hawaii County Prosecuting Attorney. Since the class was introduced, we have had approximately 75 women offenders enroll, with better than 50% completing the class, and those completing have been tracked by the prosecutor's office with a 33% reduction in recidivism (which tracks with a study conducted in Delaware to include both males/female offenders).

## **CONCLUSION**

The 2006 Hawaii State Legislature passed §367-2, Gender Responsive Community Based Programs for Women. The initial appropriation assisted PSD in establishing an Intensive Re-entry Program for high-risk women offenders in need of specialized services in transitioning into employment and pro-social lifestyles in the community. By the end of FY 2010, PSD was required to reduce correctional programs strictly to constitutionally or legally mandated (core) programs due to budgetary issues. Most of PSD's contracted vocational and self-development programs were, therefore, discontinued because of budget reductions. Since FY2015 and up to FY 2023, PSD continues to offer more vocational and self-development programs.





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## **CONCLUSION**

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