

Future of the Oahu Community Correctional Center

Vol. 53 - What Purpose Do Jails Serve and How are They Different from Prisons?

June 2024



Hawaii Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

The Hawaii Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) 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 a private contracted facility 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.

DCR envisions a future when all its facilities provide safe, secure, healthy, and humane environments for those in custody. 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 DCR's ability to deliver such a vision and improving some facilities and replacing others are high priorities. Chief among those priorities is development of a new Oahu CCC (OCCC) at the Animal Quarantine Station (AQS) in Aiea. Assisting DCR with planning and development of a new OCCC is the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) and a team of experts and advisors (together the "OCCC Team").

Jails and Prisons Are Not the Same

When it comes to the criminal justice system in the United States, the terms jail and prison are often used interchangeably. However, they actually refer to two very different types of facilities where individuals are held during trial or after being convicted of a crime. Jails and prisons serve different purposes and function in different ways and depending on the type of crime one is convicted of and their sentence, that person could be incarcerated in a jail or prison.

When someone is accused of a crime and arrested, jail is usually the first stop in the criminal justice system. Jails serve as the booking and holding location for anyone who is placed under arrest. Some individuals remain in jail for a short while, minutes or hours, before being released. Others may be held longer before they are released or they may be transferred to another facility.

Jails provide the secure environment needed for the temporary detention of individuals accused of a crime but have not completed the trial process. Persons may also remain in jail if, according to the courts, they could not meet conditions for bail or may not have qualified for bail due to their likelihood to flee if released. Jails are also used to house individuals who have been convicted of a crime and received a short sentence of incarceration (typically less than one year) for low-level crimes such as misdemeanors. Jails are also typically operated by local law enforcement agencies (vs. state and federal agencies).

In addition to holding individuals, jails often oversee work release programs and some offer services such as substance abuse treatment, anger management and mental health services, and educational courses. The programs are designed to help the individuals change their behavior so they stand a better chance of avoiding a return stay.

Prisons, on the other hand, are facilities that are exclusively populated by individuals who have been convicted of a serious crime such as felonies and are serving an extended sentence – typically more than a year. At the most basic level, a prison's function is to segregate from society individuals who have been convicted of serious crimes.



Oahu Community Correctional Center ("Jail")
(Credit Honolulu Star Advertiser)

The fundamental difference between jail and prison is the length of time an individual is incarcerated. Think “short-term” and “long-term” with short-term applying to misdemeanor convictions while long-term applies to felony convictions.

Upon arrival at prison, individuals are classified according to criteria involving their criminal backgrounds, nature of offenses, length of sentence, propensity for violence, and other factors to ensure they are housed with the appropriate populations. Classification systems have proven effective to separate violent offenders from the rest of the jail population, keep the population in better balance, and make better use of available resources, while confining individuals in the appropriately secure environment.

By this time, individuals that have been diagnosed with a disorder may have begun a treatment program. Because the sentences are typically for longer term, a prison’s function and operation is more focused on rehabilitation, offering various programs and services aimed at helping individuals develop the skills and knowledge they need to successfully re-enter society upon their release. Programs offered may include training in a trade and education programs for helping individuals to acquire their GED or secondary degrees. There are also programs that utilize inmate skills and labor and with more outdoor recreation accommodations. Accordingly, many prisons operate on a ‘centralized services’ model where inmates move within the facility to a dining area, infirmary or classrooms. Unlike jails, prisons are commonly operated by state or federal government agencies or in some cases, private contractors.

Because jails are largely used for short-term stays, they are designed and constructed to house more transient populations. Conversely, prisons are used for long-term incarceration and so they are designed and constructed for the living needs of their populations. For individuals facing longer sentences, many prefer the prison environment given the greater availability of treatment, programs, and services. Prisons are also typically able to house larger populations and are designed and constructed differently from jails due to more extensive security measures.

In either facility, the individual in custody will have their basic rights respected. These include the right to visitation, to be treated humanely and free from sexual crimes or harassment, access to the court system, to medical care, and to not suffer racial discrimination. Although their rights are abridged compared to other citizens given their status as inmates, they also retain rights to free speech, possession of property, and other basic human rights.

Jails and Prisons Serve Very Different Purposes, Functions and Populations

The difference between a jail and a prison may seem relatively minor on the surface, but there is a significant impact on the types of services that must be provided and how they are operated. Because much of the population in jail has not been convicted of an offense, they are not classified in the same way that they would be in a prison. For example, there may be an individual who is incarcerated on a relatively minor charge located in the same unit with another detainee accused of a serious crime.

These situations create challenges for the jail staff to maintain the safety and security for all occupants. It is also important that pre-trial detainees are kept separate from sentenced inmates as well. For these reasons, a jail is usually operated on a ‘distributed services’ model where individuals remain in their housing units and meals, treatment programs, counseling, and even minor medical treatments are delivered to them.

Another challenge for the operation of a jail is the unknown. Individuals may have a chemical dependency or suffer from an as yet undiagnosed mental health issue. In both cases, the individual may not be receiving treatment and it is the responsibility of the jail staff to provide a diagnosis and recommend the appropriate treatment program.



Length of Stay

Jails are short-term facilities used for temporary detention, while prisons are long-term facilities used for extended incarceration.



Jurisdiction

Jails are typically operated by local law enforcement agencies, while prisons are operated by state or federal agencies.



Type of Offense

Jails are used to hold individuals who have been arrested for minor crimes, while prisons are used to house individuals who have been convicted of serious crimes.



Level of Security

Prisons are generally more secure than jails, with higher staffing levels and more extensive security measures.



Programs and Services

Jails offer some programs and services, but prisons offer more programs and services aimed at helping inmates develop the skills and knowledge they need to successfully re-enter society after their release.

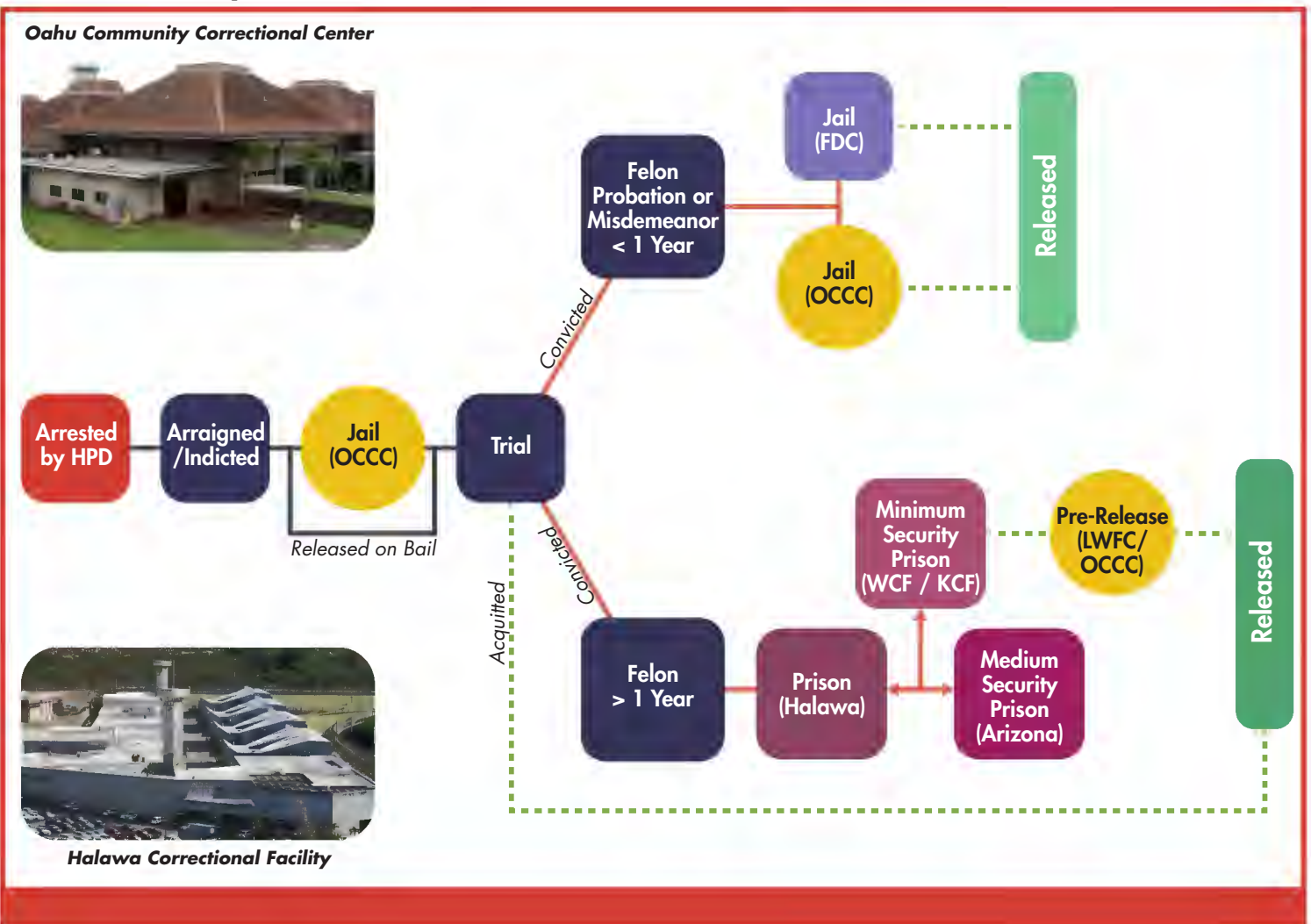
It's also important to know that the jail population in Hawaii is under the jurisdiction of the courts and individuals in jail can only be released, placed in outside programs, or assigned to other alternatives to incarceration by the courts. In contrast, a prison facility houses inmates that have been convicted and classified. Those who have been convicted of state offenses are usually sent to a state prison while those convicted of violating federal laws are typically sent to a federal prison located on the mainland.

Provided below is a representation of the workings of the criminal justice system in Hawaii. Starting with arrest by the Honolulu Police Department, then arraignment/indictment and trial, to conviction or acquittal; those acquitted are then released. For those convicted at trial, sentences may be served in either jail (OCCC or Federal Detention Center) or one of Hawaii's minimum, medium, or high-security prisons, and upon completion to their release.



Halawa Correctional Facility ("Prison")
(Credit: Honolulu Star Advertiser)

Chain of Custody Flow Chart



Modern Jail Design

Advances in technology, design, and philosophy have contributed to a change in how jails are designed and constructed. Technological innovation and advancement have allowed for more secure and efficient management of the offender population. Modern jail facilities' use state-of-the-art security and monitoring systems that eliminate the need for guard towers, perimeter security fencing, and other external security measures while improving the ability to continuously monitor the facility and inmate population. These advancements are not only more aesthetically pleasing but are also more effective from an operational and cost standpoint.

The configuration, design, and layout of modern jail facilities allow corrections staff to manage the population more securely, treat them more humanely, and prepare them more effectively for transition back into society. The facilities are also designed to integrate with the host community and often look more like a medical center or office building than the historic jails that were once common in the U.S. A typical example of how a modern jail can be integrated seamlessly into its surroundings is the Federal Detention Center, built in 2000 and located at Daniel K. Inouye International Airport in Honolulu. The new OCCC will be designed to look, feel, and function very differently from the current OCCC in order to improve the justice system in the state.



Conceptual Rendering of New OCCC (Rendering by Integrus)

We Want to Hear From You

DCR continually seeks input from community leaders and members about plans for the new OCCC and in response OCCC team representatives regularly attend of the Aiea Neighborhood Board #20, the Aiea Community Association, and the Hawaii Correctional Systems Oversight Commission (HCSOC) in addition to engaging with state and local officials, the media, and others. In addition reporting on progress and accomplishments in advancing plans for the new OCCC, these forums are opportunities for DCR to seek input, advice and guidance from officials, stakeholders and the public. Contact the City and County of Honolulu, Neighborhood Commission Office for information about how to participate at an upcoming Aiea Neighborhood Board meeting (Tel: 808-768-3710/email: nco@honolulu.gov); do the same for information about upcoming meeting of the Aiea Community Association and how to participate (<http://www.aieacommunity.org>).

In addition to distributing OCCC Newsletters to over 1,500 elected and appointed officials, government agencies, media outlets, volunteer groups, and members of the public among others, DCR maintains the OCCC Future Plans website dedicated to planning the new OCCC. This website provides access to project-related materials, documents outreach efforts, and facilitates the public's ability to offer ideas and suggestions or ask questions: <https://dcr.hawaii.gov>. Interested parties can also request to receive (via email) future announcements and notifications by submitting your contact information (name, affiliation if any, and email address) to: robert.nardi@wsp.com.

The new OCCC project, as well as several other large upcoming projects in Hawaii, will require consideration of various funding sources and methods available to determine the best financing alternative. This workshop will provide a platform to learn about and discuss some of the available options. While the workshop has no direct connection to the OCCC project, it may be of interest to those of you who are interested in the project and following this newsletter.

Building a Better Hawaii: Leverage Alternative Project Delivery Methods for Smarter Infrastructure Development

Networking Lunch & Workshop

Speakers



Kalbert Young
VP for Budget &
Finance / CFO,
University of Hawaii



Chris Kinimaka
Special Project
Manager, Department
of Accounting &
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(DAGS), State of
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Lester Kao
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Holley Morgan
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Real Estate Advisory,
WT Partnership



Craig Covil
P3 and Alternative
Project Delivery
Advisor, C2 Consulting



Brandon Tessier
Business Development
Director (AMER),
Ansarada Procure

Bring order to your major infrastructure projects in Hawaii and leverage the power of Alternative Delivery Methods (ADMs).

Join us for a FREE workshop to gain valuable insights from a distinguished panel of experts representing agencies, advisors, developers, financiers, and technology leaders specializing in ADM.

This workshop will equip you with the knowledge to:

- Navigate the intricacies of current alternative delivery legislation in Hawaii
- Understand the dynamics of developers and local unionized labor (Building & Trades 1030)
- Demystify financial agreements associated with ADMs
- Ensure compliance with procurement laws
- Explore the differences, benefits, and challenges of P3s and other ADM options
- Learn how to incorporate the Inflation Reduction Act into your P3 strategy

This workshop is ideal for:

- Government officials
- Project managers
- Infrastructure advisors
- Developers
- Financiers
- Legal professionals
- Anyone interested in optimizing Hawaii's infrastructure projects

Space is limited! Register to secure your spot.

Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your knowledge and build valuable connections in Hawaii's infrastructure sector.

Register at:

[Building a Better Hawaii: Leverage Alternative Project Delivery Methods for Smarter Infrastructure Development | June 28, 2024 eventcreate.com](https://www.eventcreate.com)

Location

Conference Center,
Pacific Guardian Center,
Makai Tower,
733 Bishop Street, Honolulu

Date & Time

Friday, June 28, 2024
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM



Kilauea volcano erupts on June 3, 2024 (Credit: YouTube)

Upcoming Activities

The following activities are anticipated in the months ahead.

June 2024	Construction continues at HCCC, MCCC, and WCCC. Public outreach and engagement continues with attendance at Aiea Community Association and Hawaii Correctional Systems Oversight Commission meetings.
July 2024	Construction continues at HCCC, MCCC, and WCCC. Public outreach and engagement continues with attendance at Aiea Neighborhood Board , Aiea Community Association and Hawaii Correctional Systems Oversight Commission meetings.
August 2024	Industry outreach for OCCC Replacement Facility at ACA Conference (Nashville, TN). Construction continues at HCCC, MCCC, and WCCC. Public outreach and engagement continues with attendance at Aiea Neighborhood Board, 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://dcr.hawaii.gov/occc-future-plans> or contact:

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