

# Future of the Oahu Community Correctional Center

## Vol. 54 - DCR Officials to Meet with Industry Representatives About New Oahu Jail

August 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").

In previous newsletters, the new Oahu Community Correctional Center project was referred to as either "OCCC" or by its full name. Beginning with this newsletter, the project will also be referred to as the "New Oahu Jail" or the "New Oahu Jail Project" for the sake of clarity as well as to position the project for the upcoming effort.

## New Oahu Jail Team to Attend ACA Conference

Aloha,

The Hawaii Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) is dedicated to transforming Hawaii's unified correctional system into a rehabilitative, restorative and reentry-focused system that gives new beginnings to those serving time in our facilities and by doing so, reduces recidivism and promotes safer communities. Fundamental to achieving that goal is development of a new Oahu Jail.

Over the past eight years, DCR, assisted by the Department of Accounting and General Services and AHL-led consultants (New Oahu Jail Project Team), has dedicated itself to advancing the planning and development of a new Oahu jail. To date, the Oahu Jail Team has successfully completed the initial phases of planning including facility siting, environmental studies, population forecasts, master planning, land entitlements, permitting, cost estimates, while partnering with key infrastructure agencies. However, many challenges remain.

Throughout this time, community outreach and engagement has been at the forefront of our efforts to provide interested groups and individuals opportunities to contribute their ideas and insight to the process. To ensure the best possible outcome, members of the local community, state and local government officials, supporting infrastructure agencies, among others have been part of a transparent, inclusive, and open communication and dialogue process, which will continue throughout design and construction.

At this time, plans for the New Oahu Jail call for a detention center and a separate, co-located Community Transition Center for individuals preparing to reenter our communities. The eventual design of the new jail will incorporate best practices and evidence-based opportunities for self-improvement such as education, vocational skills training, faith- and culture-based activities, a library, treatment for substance abuse, counseling, mental health therapy and re-entry with community linkages for housing, employment, social services, health care and transportation.

**We will be sharing our plans for the New Oahu Jail when members of my leadership team attend the 154th Congress of Correction sponsored by the American Correctional Association in Nashville, Tennessee (August 15 - 18, 2024).**

The State of Hawaii will be an exhibitor and I invite you to visit our booth (#1327) in the exhibition hall where team members will be available to discuss the current status of plans for the New Oahu Jail with attendees. This includes development and release of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in 2025 for this public-private partnership (P3) project as well as our work with state and government officials on project delivery methods, and financial and other commitments that may be needed to bring the New Oahu Jail to fruition. This is an opportunity to share your ideas with State of Hawaii officials, helping us learn from your experiences and create a healing facility that is grounded in the values of our island culture.

Mahalo,  
Tommy Johnson  
Director



**DCR Director Tommy Johnson**



In addition to the exhibit booth, an ACA Industry Social Hour will be held (details below) at which time attendees will be able to meet and discuss the New Oahu Jail project with DCR and DAGS leadership.

# YOU'RE INVITED!

Join Hawai'i officials for an  
ACA Industry Social Hour

Meet representatives of the  
**Hawai'i Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation**  
and learn about the New O'ahu Jail project

At Sidebar : 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM : Thursday, August 15, 2024  
401 President Ronald Reagan Way, Nashville, TN 37201

*Beer, wine and appetizers will be served.*

Please RSVP HERE by August 8.  
We look forward to seeing you there!



*Disclaimer: Attendees must be 21+.  
Please drink responsibly.*



# Construction at Women's CCC Nears Completion



New Housing Unit A



New Visitation/Intake Building

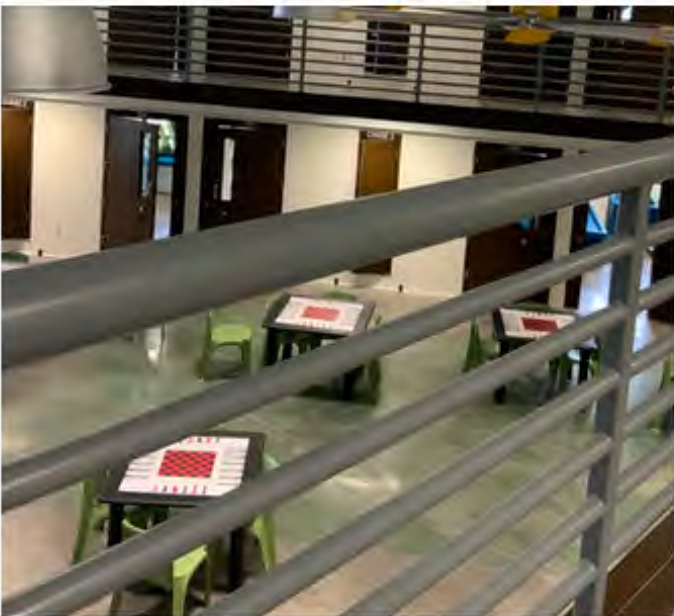
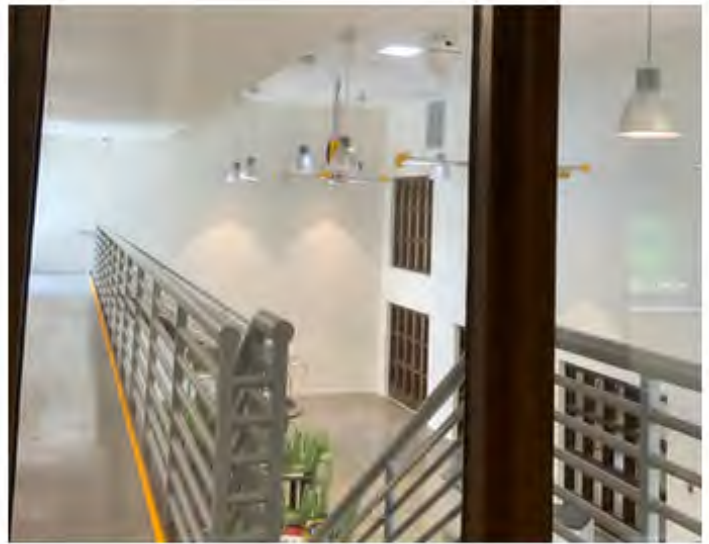
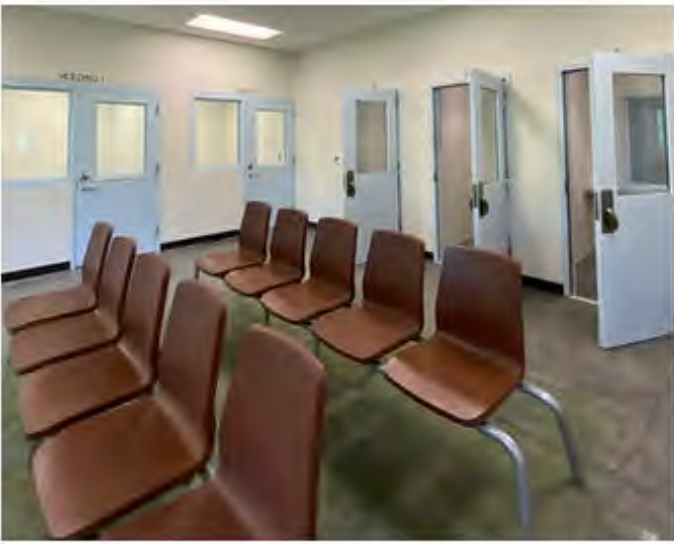


New Administration Building

With aged in-state jail facilities, DCR is working to improve and/or replace its corrections infrastructure. In addition to plans for replacing the obsolete Oahu jail, improvements are nearing completion at the (Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) involving a new Administration Building, Visitation/Intake Building, and Housing Unit. The new housing unit will improve living conditions and be a substantial improvement over current conditions with natural daylight, improved acoustics, thermal comfort, and adequate space, all of which have been shown to enhance the feeling of safety. These features are also known to lower stress levels among adults in custody and staff and have a positive effect on overall institution safety and security. Progress includes interior finishes, furniture, landscaping, signage, lighting, and paving, among other elements. Once completed, women held at OCCC will be relocated to WCCC which will also perform intake functions for all women, while making available a housing module at OCCC.

Renderings by CGL Companies





**Photo Credit: Rider Levett Bucknal, July 2024**

## We Want to Hear From You

DCR continually seeks input from community leaders and members about plans for the new OCCC and in response New Oahu Jail Team representatives attend meetings 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 Oahu Jail, 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 a 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](mailto:robert.nardi@wsp.com).



**Kalo (*Colocasia esculenta*) is the Hawaiian word for taro and the official state plant. Credit: PictureLake**

## Upcoming Activities

The following activities are anticipated in the months ahead.

<b>August 2024</b>	<p>Oahu Jail Team reaches out to industry at American Correctional Association Conference (August 15 – 18, 2024).</p> <p>Construction continues at Hawaii Community Correctional Center (HCCC), Maui Community Correctional Center (MCCC), and Women’s Community Correctional Center (WCCC).</p> <p>Public outreach and engagement continues with attendance at Aiea Neighborhood Board, Aiea Community Association, and Hawaii Correctional Systems Oversight Commission meetings.</p>
<b>September 2024</b>	<p>Construction continues at HCCC, MCCC, and WCCC.</p> <p>Public outreach and engagement continues with attendance at Aiea Neighborhood Board , Aiea Community Association and Hawaii Correctional Systems Oversight Commission meetings.</p>
<b>October 2024</b>	<p>Construction continues at MCCC.</p> <p>Public outreach and engagement continues with attendance at Aiea Neighborhood Board, Aiea Community Association and Hawaii Correctional Systems Oversight Commission meetings.</p>

## Join OCCC Email List

Add your name to the 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](mailto: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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