

Future of the O'ahu Community Correctional Center

Vol. 55 - DCR Officials Attend American Correctional Association Conference

October 2024



Hawai'i Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

The mission of the Hawai'i Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) is to provide a secure correctional environment for comprehensive rehabilitative, holistic, and wraparound re-entry services, including culturally based approaches, to persons sentenced to custody and care with professionalism, integrity, respect, and fairness. DCR's goal is to reduce recidivism and enhance the safety and security of Hawai'i's communities.

DCR carries out orders from the state courts to confine individuals in custody for a set period of time utilizing jails and prisons located within Hawai'i, at the Federal Detention Center in Honolulu, and in private contracted facilities on the continent. Jails, known in Hawai'i as Community Correctional Centers (CCCs), are located on the islands of Kaua'i, Maui, Hawai'i, and O'ahu 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 have less than a year until their scheduled release. While some individuals in custody 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 and staff. A future which is 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 Hawai'i. However, aged and obsolete jails have undermined DCR's ability to deliver such a vision so improving some facilities and replacing others are high priorities. Chief among those priorities is development of a new O'ahu jail on state-owned lands comprising the Animal Quarantine Station in 'Aiea. Assisting DCR with O'ahu jail planning and development is the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) along with experts and advisors that together with DCR and DAGS, comprise the "New O'ahu Jail Project Team."

The new O'ahu Community Correctional Center project has been referred to as either "OCCC" or by its full name. The project is also being referred to as the "New O'ahu Jail" or the "New O'ahu Jail Project" for the sake of clarity as well as to better position the project while efforts are currently underway and anticipated in the months ahead.

Industry turns out for New O'ahu Jail at American Correctional Association Conference

The State of Hawai'i is dedicated to transforming its unified correctional system into one that more effectively reduces recidivism and promotes safer communities. The centerpiece to that transformation is replacement of the O'ahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC), a facility that does not contribute to the rehabilitative, restorative, and reentry-focused system being sought by DCR.

From August 15 – 18, 2024, Project Team members shared plans for the new O'ahu jail at the 154th Congress of Corrections sponsored by the American Correctional Association (ACA) in Nashville, Tennessee. Attending ACA offered a unique opportunity to share information about DCR and the transformation taking place to Hawai'i's correctional system with a particular focus on the new O'ahu jail and DCR's efforts to create a healing facility that is grounded in the values of the island culture. Much was also learned from the experiences of others who have developed or are engaged in developing modern correctional facilities.

Team members attended workshops and panel discussions relevant to developing the new O'ahu jail. DCR also arranged for a booth in the exhibition hall where designers, constructors, financiers, product vendors and service providers could visit with our team. The booth proved to be popular with many conference attendees stopping by to inquire about the project and to share their own experiences and lessons learned in developing new facilities.



O'ahu Jail team members attend ACA Conference at Music City Convention Center in Nashville



New O'ahu Jail team at the DCR booth at ACA Conference



Libbie L. Miller, Ph.D., Manager of the Data Collection and Analytical Support Unit Research Unit for the Virginia Department of Corrections was the winner of the gift box of authentic local Hawaiian snacks from the company Mana Up that the Project Team raffled off during the conference. Congratulations Libbie!

New O'ahu Jail Team Visits Davidson County Criminal Justice Center

While attending the ACA conference, representatives from DCR, DAGS, AHL, Pineapple Tweed, and HOK, (the New O'ahu Jail Team) received a guided tour of Davidson County's new Criminal Justice Center in Nashville, Tennessee. The Center is the first stop for every arrestee in Davidson County and incorporates leading-edge technology to ensure the safety and security of staff and adults in custody.

Deputy Chief of Corrections, Tim Dial, and Behavioral Care Center Director, Lucy Easley, welcomed the new O'ahu Jail Team and provided a personalized and in-depth tour of the Detention Center and the Behavioral Care Center. Both facilities were designed by new O'ahu Jail Team member HOK, Inc. and Moody Nolan, Inc. and represent a mission-driven approach to detention, diversion and treatment. It is also an example of the type of modern, therapeutic and restorative facility being planned for O'ahu.



New O'ahu Jail team tours Davidson County Justice Center

Opened in 2020, the LEED-silver-certified facility is located on the site of the previous criminal justice center in downtown Nashville. The 416,000-square-foot center houses the Sheriff's Office in addition to 810 beds, 64 of which are part of a mental health wing. The Center's design combines security and treatment and includes a civic plaza and public garden that connects the building to the courthouse and City Hall and offers the public a new downtown gathering place.





The visit included a tour of typical housing modules, intake, staff support spaces, medical, and even back-of-house spaces to understand how the buildings' infrastructure was designed and constructed. The most impactful part of the tour was the Behavioral Care Center, a state-licensed adult supportive treatment facility providing trauma-informed care in a short-term residential setting as an alternative to jail. According to Lucy Easley, Director, the behavioral center was the vision of Sheriff Daron Hall, to create an option to divert offenders so as to treat their mental and medically-related issues, instead of automatically sending them to jail.

The Center contains a medical clinic designed to address today's complex correctional needs with exam, procedure, observation and negative-pressure isolation rooms, as well as a fully equipped dialysis center and a dental operatory. Also included is a mental health facility, intake and processing facilities, administrative and visitation spaces, a commercial kitchen, commercial laundry, sally port, and a 200-space underground parking garage. Locating the mental health unit for individuals with serious and persistent mental illness near the Center's booking area helps staff evaluate individuals' emotional and psychological needs at the initial stages of processing. The mental health facility has medical and program spaces for therapy and provides a pleasing environment for visits with family members and healthcare staff.

The tour served as an informative and inspirational model for the new O'ahu jail project. To learn more about the Davidson County Detention Center visit: <https://sheriff.nashville.gov/downtown-detention-center/>, and the Behavioral Care Center visit: (<https://sheriff.nashville.gov/behavioral-care-center-bcc/>).



Interior and exterior images courtesy of Bell Constructors and HOK, Inc.

Industry Networking Event Held at ACA

During the ACA conference AHL, HOK, and WSP hosted an Industry Networking Event where approximately 60 attendees representing a cross-section of the corrections industry met with team members and discussed plans for the new facility with DCR and DAGS leadership.



THANK YOU

for attending the ACA Industry Networking Event.
We look forward to continuing the conversation
about our new Oahu jail project.

To help us improve future events, please
visit our website NewOahuJail.hawaii.gov.
We'd appreciate your feedback and hope to
connect soon.

Sponsored by

ahl. wsp 

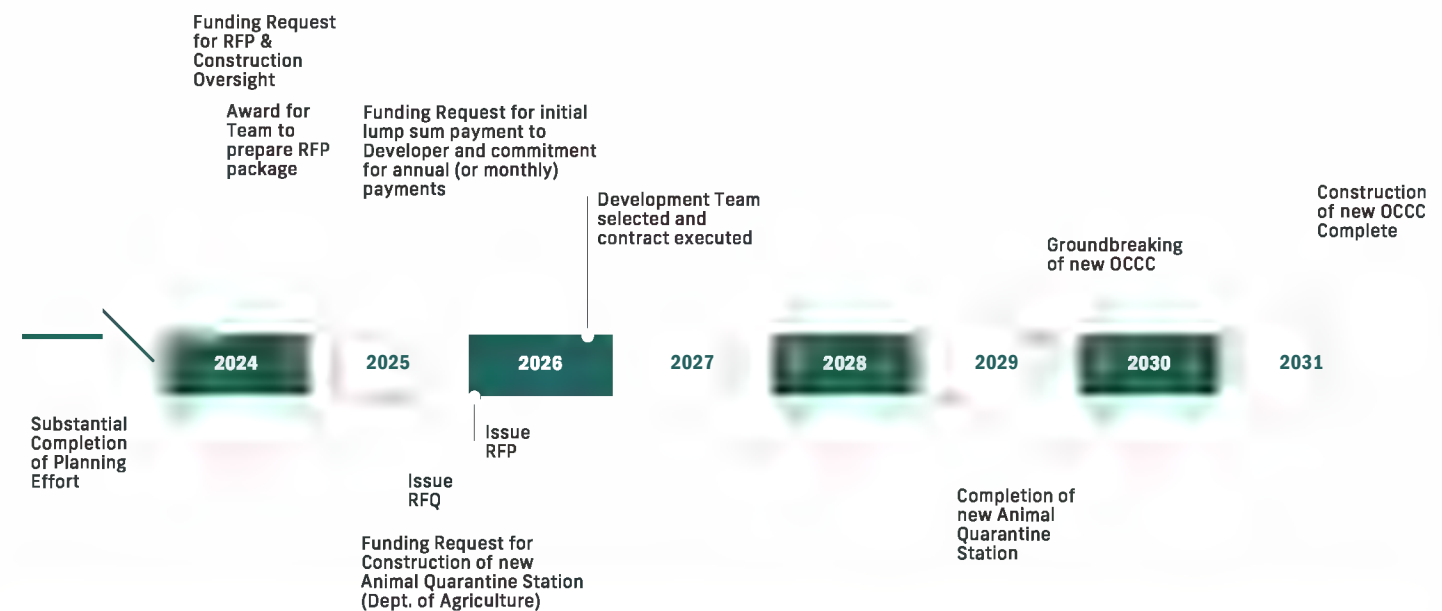


New O'ahu Jail - Current Timeline

During the initial stages of planning, the O'ahu jail team established preliminary timelines for project implementation based on Master Plan-level assumptions and expectations about funding. As the project advances through additional stages of program verification, design, financing, and delivery, new, more refined schedules will be prepared that address the full scope of O'ahu jail development.

The current stage involves verifying the Value for Money analysis initially prepared in 2019. It also includes working with state officials on project delivery methods and financial or other funding resources that may be available to supplement the developer's investment as part of a Public-Private Partnership (P3) arrangement. The current stage also continues DCR's commitment to robust public outreach and community engagement along with the transparency and inclusiveness it represents

While much has been accomplished, there is still much more to do to bring the new O'ahu jail project to fruition. In the next year, the Request for Proposal (RFP) process is expected to begin with issuance of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) during the 3rd quarter of 2025, issuance of the RFP during the first quarter of 2026, progressing through to project award later in 2026.



"More Frequently Asked Questions"

Since planning for a new O'ahu jail began, DCR has endeavored to anticipate questions and concerns of the public, elected and appointed officials, stakeholder groups, and others involving efforts to replace the aged and obsolete OCCC facility in Kalihi. This "More Frequently Asked Questions" builds upon the many Questions and Answers already published by DCR and addresses questions that have arisen recently.

- **What are the goals for the new O'ahu jail?** Hawaii's goal is to transform its unified correctional system into a rehabilitative, restorative, and reentry-focused system that reduces recidivism and promotes safer communities. DCR is also striving to keep those in custody connected to their individual cultural values, especially for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders who are disproportionately represented within Hawaii's jail population. This is considered critical in helping them successfully reintegrate into Hawaii's communities and to break the cycle of recidivism.
- **Is there anything distinctive about this new jail?** The new jail will incorporate current 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. DCR is also seeking to create a healing facility that is grounded in the values of our island culture.

- **Has the site received all the approvals necessary to move forward?** The new jail will be developed on state-owned land at the Animal Quarantine Station in 'Aiea based on community input and after careful consideration of other locations, including redevelopment of the current jail site in Kalihi. A majority of the planning and land entitlement issues have already been addressed.
- **Is the community onboard?** The 'Aiea community, state representatives, government officials, and supporting infrastructure agencies have all been part of a transparent, inclusive, and open communication and dialogue process, which will continue through to project completion. Everyone is in agreement on the importance of taking care of the jail population to ensure successful reintegration into our communities.
- **What is the current cost estimate for construction and when was the estimate done?** \$937 million as of 2023. It is estimated that the cost will also escalate by \$3.5 million per month between 2023 to 2027.
- **What is the project delivery method? If not decided, which ones are you considering?** The new O'ahu Jail team is looking at variations of the Design-Build-Finance-Maintain (DBFM) model where the selected development team will have responsibility for design, construction, financing, and maintaining the new facility.
- **Does the project have both administrative and legislative support?** The Hawai'i Legislature and Governor's office has been supporting development of a new O'ahu jail by appropriating funds beginning in 2014 (Act 122, Session Laws of Hawai'i (SLH) 2014). Those funds allowed for completion of critical planning and due diligence and was followed by an additional appropriation for the subsequent phase of due diligence (Act 124, SLH 2016). Resources from the Governor's discretionary funds in 2023 are helping to complete design while allowing to complete the procurement process (Act 230, SLH 2024). DCR is committed to working with the administration and the legislature during the 2025 legislative session to ensure that funds continue to be appropriated to bring the project to fruition.
- **Given priorities such as Maui fire recovery, is there room for a new jail at this time?** Recovery from the Maui fire is important; however, full recovery will occur over several decades. In the meantime, work to address the overall needs of the state must continue. There has been no change in the commitment to replace the current overcrowded and drastically outdated jail with a new modern, safe, secure and humane facility that provides rehabilitation, counseling, education and job training opportunities.
- **Will there be a need for additional funding and where would that come from?** To alleviate placing the full burden of initial funding on the state, the new O'ahu jail is being approached as a public-private project (P3), a long-term contract between the state and private entities to provide alternative sources of financing to supplement the state's first-cost funding commitment.
- **Is it the state's and DCR's goal to build a jail that ties in the local culture? If so, how is that being accomplished?** DCR is incorporating local and cultural considerations, specifically 'Aina (land), 'Ohana (family) and genealogy, around the expression and architecture of the planned facility. The goal is to deliver a new jail that incorporates leading-edge technology that provides for the safety and security of staff and adults in custody while embodying the values of Hawai'i and the local community.
- **Are there climate change implications for building at the Animal Quarantine Station site?** DCR is committed to addressing climate change and resiliency issues during project planning. One of the benefits to the Animal Quarantine Station site is that it is elevated above the tsunami zone with no anticipated sea level rise potential. The project will also incorporate the Governor's Net Zero goals, as well as sustainability features.
- **Were there cultural considerations in selecting the Animal Quarantine Station as the location of the new jail?** The site selection process took cultural impacts into consideration along with many other key factors. Subsequent to identification of this as the chosen site, archaeological, historic, and cultural surveys and studies of the selected site were conducted to State Historic Preservation Division's satisfaction.
- **Will OCCC's existing site in Kalihi be included as part of the project?** No.
- **Will the pre-release (reentry) center be included in the RFP?** Yes
- **What happens if the project does not move forward? Is there a Plan B?** At this time, the only alternative is the "do nothing" approach, which will have serious and long-lasting ill effects. The exponentially increased cost of deferred maintenance and upgrades; further decline in workforce retention and hiring; and increasingly negative humanitarian impact on occupants, staff and community are just a few of the dire effects of doing nothing.

Jails and Prisons are not the same!

While the terms “jail” and “prison” are often used interchangeably, they actually refer to two very different types of facilities that serve different purposes and function in different ways. When someone is accused of a crime and arrested, JAIL is usually the first stop in the criminal justice system, serving as the booking and holding location. 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 they could not meet conditions for bail or may not have qualified for bail. While 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 transferred to another facility.

JAILS are also used to house individuals who have been convicted of a low-level crime and received a short sentence (typically less than one year). Individuals convicted of a serious crime and received an extended sentence (more than one year) are incarcerated in a prison. Think “short-term” and “long-term” with JAIL applying to short-term misdemeanor convictions and prison applying to long-term felony convictions.

In Hawai'i, the jail population 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. JAILS may oversee work release programs and some offer services designed to help the individuals change their behavior so they stand a better chance of avoiding a return stay. 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.



Length of Stay: Jails are used primarily for short-term detention.



Jurisdiction: Jails are typically operated by local law enforcement agencies.



Type of Offense: Jails are commonly used to hold individuals who have been arrested and are awaiting trial or have been sentenced for minor crimes.



Programs and Services: Jails offer some programs and services aimed at helping individuals successfully re-enter society upon release.

We Want to Hear From You

DCR continually seeks input from community leaders and members about plans for the new O'ahu jail and in response Project Team representatives attend meetings of the 'Aiea Neighborhood Board #20, the 'Aiea Community Association, and the Hawai'i Correctional Systems Oversight Commission as well as engaging with state and local officials, the media, and others. In addition to reporting progress and accomplishments in advancing plans for the new O'ahu 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 meetings of the 'Aiea Community Association and how to participate (<http://www.aieacommunity.org>).

In addition to distributing 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 new O'ahu jail website providing access to project-related materials, documents outreach efforts, and facilitates the public's ability to offer ideas and suggestions or ask questions: NewOahuJail.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.



Industry members meet at ACA Exhibition Hall

Upcoming Activities

The following activities are anticipated in the months ahead.

October 2024	<p>Construction continues at Hawai'i CCC and Maui CCC.</p> <p>Public outreach and engagement continues with attendance at 'Aiea Neighborhood Board, 'Aiea Community Association, and Hawai'i Correctional Systems Oversight Commission meetings.</p>
November 2024	<p>Construction continues at Maui CCC.</p> <p>Public outreach and engagement continues with attendance at 'Aiea Neighborhood Board, 'Aiea Community Association and Hawai'i Correctional Systems Oversight Commission meetings.</p> <p>Department of Agriculture prepares request for funds to construct the new Animal Quarantine Station.</p>
December 2024	<p>Construction continues at Maui CCC.</p> <p>Public outreach and engagement continues with attendance at 'Aiea Neighborhood Board, 'Aiea Community Association and Hawai'i Correctional Systems Oversight Commission meetings.</p>

Interested in Learning more?

DCR distributes newsletters to more than 1,500 elected and appointed officials, government agencies, media outlets, volunteer groups, and members of the public. For the latest information about the new O'ahu Jail project, including project-related materials and FAQs, go to: NewOahuJail.hawaii.gov. To receive (via email) future announcements, newsletters, and other notifications, please submit your contact information (name, affiliation if any, and email address) to:

robert.nardi@wsp.com

Rosemarie Bernardo, Public Information Officer

Hawaii Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Tel: 808-587-1358

Email: Rosemarie.Bernardo@hawaii.gov

Robert J. Nardi, Senior Vice President

WSP USA, Inc.

Tel: 973-407-1681

Email: robert.nardi@wsp.com