

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND REHABILITATION**
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omalu Kalaima a
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No. _____

December 24, 2024

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

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

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

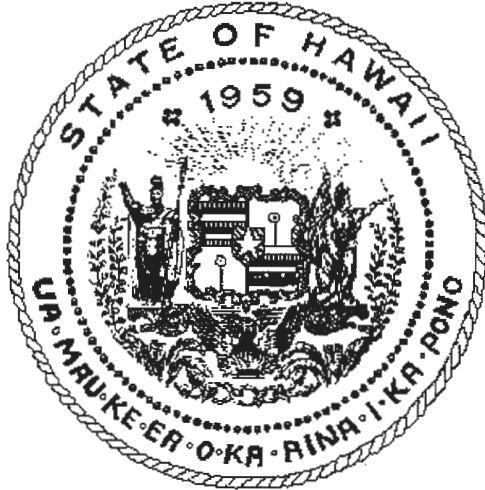
For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Annual Report on the Gender Responsive Community Based Programs for Women in response to HRS 367D-008. In accordance with Section 93-16, *Hawaii Revised Statutes*, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at: <https://dcr.hawaii.gov/2025-reports-to-legislature/>.

Should you have any questions regarding this report, please have your staff contact Teresita V. Fernandez, Business Management Officer, at 587-1236.

Sincerely,


Tommy Johnson
Director

Enclosure



**DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION
REPORT TO THE 2025 LEGISLATURE**

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

December 2024

The 2006 Hawaii State Legislature mandated through Hawaii Revised Statutes §367D-2 that the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) 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 DCR 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.

Corrections Program Services - Education Branch

The Corrections Program Services - Education (CPS-E) Branch provides learning opportunities through a holistic, Integrated Basic Education Skills Technical Training (IBESTT) program that focuses on preparing offenders with marketable skills in preparation for productive re-entry to the community. With the goal of fostering and maintaining a commitment to educational excellence, CPS-E Branch works toward maintaining a continuum of services that provides consistency in the development of the whole person throughout the period of incarceration.

Adult Literacy Classes — Emphasis is placed on training and education for those who do not have high school or high school equivalency diplomas. These classes are conducted by Corrections Education Specialists and by contract instructors through the Hawaii Department of Education–Adult Community School, particularly the McKinley Community School for Adults-Moanalua Campus.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Career and Technical Education involves active partnerships with various agencies that focus on the skills and knowledge required for specific jobs or fields of work.

Pre-Apprenticeship – Carpentry Pre-Apprenticeship cohort was made possible through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the Carpenter’s Union. For FY 24, 7 women completed the program.

Culinary Arts – Is a Post-Secondary Program through the Kapiolani Community College that allows women to earn 14 college credits upon completing the four Culinary Arts courses offered in the Women’s Community Correctional Center (WCCC). The Culinary Arts Program is made possible through a Memorandum of Agreement with Kapiolani Community College. For FY 24, 8 women earned their Certificate of Professional Development.

Pu‘uhonua Program - Windward Community College’s Pu‘uhonua Program serves incarcerated individuals through credit-bearing college coursework. The program actively engages students through rigorous coursework, skill building, and proactive counseling and support services. The program was funded by a grant through the U.S. Department of Education and subsequently by utilizing Second Chance Pell/Pell grant funding.

Post-Secondary Program - Windward Community College continued to offer college courses at WCCC. Tuition and fees were funded utilizing Second Chance Pell funding. 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.

Digital Literacy prepares participants to connect, learn, and create more promising professional success as well as to improve their livelihood by becoming discerning users of technology. Successful completion of this course earns participants a Digital Literacy Certificate of Professional Development and they gain the knowledge to effectively be prepared to use technology and the Internet confidently. In FY 24, 20 women completed the program.

Corrections Program Services – Library Services Branch

The Corrections Program Services Library Services Branch administers the Read-To-Me program as part of the recreational library services. The program is a significant rehabilitative outlet for the offender population that connects them to their families and loved ones, that allows the women to select books and record themselves reading aloud for their children. Read-to-Me International Hawaii Chapter, a non-profit organization, provides the resources. In FY 24, 480 women participated in the program.

Personal Development Programs

Cognitive Base Therapy

Cognitive Based Therapy (CBT) programs utilize an evidence-based curriculum designed to address criminal thinking, which includes introduction to key concepts of CBR, role modeling, role playing, and skill building activities that relate to criminogenic need.

The Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services delivered services to the general population at WCCC who were identified as Moderate to High Risk for recidivism. The contract was awarded from June 17, 2020 through March 31, 2024 for \$168,000.00.

The Journey to Pono, LLC delivered services to women who completed the Reception, Assessment, and Diagnostic (RAD) process at WCCC who were identified as Moderate to High Risk for recidivism, to include those who have violated their parole. The program include decision making and anger/stress management with an emphasis is on re-entry

(transitioning to community, family, work) for women on furlough. The contract is awarded from March 1, 2024 through February 28, 2025 for \$240,000.00.

Keiki O Ka`Aina Family Learning Center delivered Domestic Violence, Domestic Violence Anger Management, Parenting After Violence, Victim Support Services at WCCC that focused on assisting women with successfully transitioning back to their families and communities, to include issues relating to pregnancy and single parenthood. The contract is awarded from September 18, 2023 through September 18, 2026 for \$662,247.00.

Yoga is designed to improve health and well-being and cope with the stress of prison life. Through this training program, participants at WCCC are 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. The contract was awarded to Natalie Gooding, LLC from March 1, 2020 through February 28, 2024 for \$49,920.00. In FY24, 9 women completed the program.

Corrections Program Services - Substance Abuse Treatment Services

The Corrections Program Services - Substance Abuse Treatment Services (CPS-SA) Branch is committed to evidence-based practices in providing program services for sentenced women who have been diagnosed with substance use disorders and criminal behaviors. Offender substance use and criminality issues that stem from maladaptive patterns of thinking, emotional instability, and antisocial behavior are addressed at every level of treatment. The *responsivity principle* is applied to meet the specific, individual needs of the offenders who are recommended for one of the following three primary treatment modalities while incarcerated:

Outpatient Level of Treatment services are contracted through the Salvation Army Addition Treatment Services (SAATS), targeting women identified as 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. Groups meet at least once per week and utilize evidence-based CBT curriculum totaling 40 to 60 hours. The contract is awarded from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2024 for \$550,000.00. In FY 24, 28 women were enrolled with 13 completing the program.

Intensive Outpatient Level of Treatment services are contracted through SAATS, targeting women identified as moderate risk for criminal conduct and meet diagnostic criteria for substance use disorder. This modality of treatment consists of group sessions lasting approximately two to three hours, four days a week with accompanying individual counseling sessions. Participants work through gender-specific, evidenced-based 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. The contract is awarded from December 1, 2022 through November 30, 2024 for \$248,400.00. In FY 24, 15 women were enrolled with 11 completing the program.

Residential Level of Treatment services, also known as Ke Alaula Therapeutic Community, consist of 25 beds [reduced from 50 due to COVID-19 protocols] with services contracted through Hina Mauka. 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. CBT and Social Learning Theory combine to address criminal thinking and behavior. As the Ke Alaula 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. The contract is awarded from November 1, 2021 through October 31, 2024 for \$422,000.00. In FY 24, there were 31 new admissions and 16 successful completions.

Bridge Program is a residential substance abuse reentry administered by CPS-SA staff and is incorporated with the work furlough program for women who are identified as moderate to high risk for recidivism and have completed Intensive Outpatient or Residential Level of 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. Federal funding via the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) grant of \$201,935.00, continues to provide the primary funding of the Bridge program. In FY 24, there were 15 women who participated and 9 successfully completed the program.

Transition Services and Community Housing Programs

Women's Furlough Community Housing services is contracted through the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) Oahu at Fernhurst. Also known as Ka Hale Ho'Ala Hou No Na Wahine (Home of Re-awakening for Women), the program provides up to 14 beds per month for the purpose of providing housing for women 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. The contract is awarded from October 1, 2020 through August 15, 2024 for \$450,045.00. In FY 24, there were 11 women who participated of which 7 successfully completed the program.

Lifestyles for Women is a comprehensive transition skills training program through Worknet, Inc, that provides 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. Worknet is funded by City & County grants.

Women in Need (WIN) provides clean and sober housing for women on furlough and parole. Participants are given the tools for healing and empowerment. WIN provides intensive case management, stabilizing courses in parenting, understanding and awareness of domestic violence, self-esteem, job readiness, basic life skills and mentorship. WIN is a non-profit organization contracted for services from February 1, 2023 through January 31, 2025 for \$190,000.00.

Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc. provides job readiness services that include assessments and individualized service plans, vocational training, employment and reentry support, job placement, and job maintenance/re-assessment. Contracted through DCR Re-entry Office for women on furlough and parole. Contracted March 1, 2024 through February 28, 2025 for \$150,000.00.

Ka Wehena O Ke Ao is a comprehensive, culturally based, reintegration preparation service that assists women in the reparation or establishment of relationships with their families or other close relationships. This allows women to make amends for their misdeeds, offenses, etc. through western practices or traditional (Native Hawaiian) practices such as “ho`o-ku`u-ka-hewa” a cultural process of addressing grievances, similar to ho`oponopono. Contracted from April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025 for \$180,000.00.