



# A Note From the Director's Office

Thanks for taking the time to check out *Across PSD*, the official employee newsletter for the Department of Public Safety.

After a hiatus of several years, we felt it important to bring the newsletter back to re-emphasize that despite being spread out in divisions, units and branch offices statewide, we are one Ohana at PSD.

As we end our first year at the helm of this outstanding agency, we would like to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication.

Everything we do, all we have accomplished in the past, and will achieve in the future, depend on you. Despite the struggles and obstacles that confront us daily, we must always remember that the heart of our work lies in the men and women who provide for the safety of the public.

And when we succeed, we have a transformative and tremendously positive impact on people's lives.

To be sure, the road that lies ahead has no shortage of obstacles, but let us be revitalized in the progress and accomplishments we make each day.

We call on all of the caring, committed, devoted and hard-working departmental members to find strength in one another and to join forces to make the days ahead our best yet.

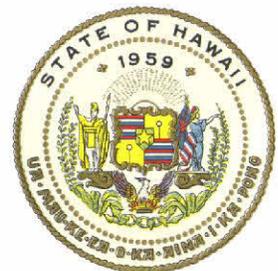
With the start of the legislative session looming, we now move forward to push a number of important changes and initiatives.

Through it all, our success depends on each of you.

Thank you for your commitment to PSD and the clients we serve.



**Jodie Maesaka-Hirata**  
PSD Director



**Keith Kamita**  
Deputy Director for  
Law Enforcement



**Joe Booker**  
Deputy Director for  
Corrections



**Martha Torney**  
Deputy Director for  
Administration

### Special points of interest:

- *NED Forensics Lab Gets Prestigious Accreditation*
- *Sheriff's New Booking/Receiving and Warrants Facility Opens*
- *The Latest Happenings in the Corrections Division*

## PSD Earns International Accreditation for Narcotics Lab

The state Public Safety Department (PSD) Narcotics Enforcement Division's (NED) forensic lab, located in the airport area, is now amongst the top NED labs in the world.

PSD Director Jodie Maesaka-Hirata accepted the international accreditation recognition from the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB).

The Department applied to the ASCLD/LAB for accreditation of its NED forensics lab in April 2011. On August 9, 2011, the Board officially awarded accreditation, under its International Testing Program, to the NED Forensic Laboratory.

"NED is one of only two forensic laboratories in Hawaii to achieve ASCLD/LAB International accreditation," said PSD Director Jodie Maesaka-Hirata. "Today, the NED Forensic Laboratory continues its commitment to professional excellence by providing reliable, timely and quality forensic laboratory services for agencies across the state."



Director Jodie Maesaka-Hirata, Dep. Dir. Keith Kamita accept accreditation from ASCLD/LAB for Narcotics Enforcement Division Lab

"The PSD's increased statewide law enforcement responsibilities contributed to a larger drug analysis load for NED," said PSD Deputy Director of Law Enforcement, Keith Kamita. "This lab has not only serviced that need but is also making other contributions on the justice system."

Accreditation by ASCLD/LAB is recognized by international and U.S. criminal justice systems as a means of determining that a laboratory has met a set of internationally recognized standards of operation for forensic laboratories.

Since it's opening, the forensic laboratory has conducted drug analyses for its own investigations and the Sheriff's Division, as well as assisted other agencies in their drug analytical needs.

In addition, the NED lab also routinely handles all of the Promoting Prison Contraband drug cases for Hawaii, which helps PSD crackdown on contraband entering the prisons.

## Women's Facility Health Care Section Gains Accreditation

The Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) Health Care Section received word in early December that they have achieved the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) accreditation again. This accreditation is a "feather in the caps" of all staff at WCCC.

The mission of the NCCHC is to improve the quality of health care in jails, prisons and juvenile confinement facilities. NCCHC's voluntary health services ac-

nity support. In many instances, accreditation reduces liability premiums and protects facilities from lawsuits related to health care. Accreditation also benefits the health of the public, staff and inmates by assuring that those incarcerated and released receive adequate and appropriate health care.

The staff in the WCCC Health Care Section extends their appreciation for all the support from security and other ancillary staff. It's this commitment and concern

for the ladies they serve that allows them to continue this work.

## Sheriffs' New Booking/Warrants Facility Helps Curb Processing Delays

After two years of planning and construction the new Sheriff Division Booking/Receiving and Warrants Facility on Keawe Street is open. The previous booking station was housed in Halawa Correctional Facility which made it difficult for people to voluntarily turn themselves in and resulted in delays in processing arrests due to transport and paperwork challenges.

"This new facility will help streamline operations for the Sheriff's Division as well as provide a valuable service to the surrounding community," said Governor Neil Abercrom-



Sheriff Shawn Tsuha, Gov. Neil Abercrombie, PSD Dir. Jodie Maesaka-Hirata unlocking shackles to formally open new booking and warrants facility.

bie. "I commend the Sheriff's Division for the work they do to ensure public safety on all levels."

"We expect the number of people who voluntarily turn themselves in to increase because of this move to a new location," said State Sheriff Shawn Tsuha. "The relocated facility is ideally located to service members of the public and better support our law enforcement partners".

The \$1.2 million facility opened last month. The number of bookings has... (cont. pg. 3)

# Corrections Division Happenings

## Justice Reinvestment Initiative

Since August of last year PSD has been working with the Justice system, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and community partners to find ways to make Hawaii's criminal justice system more efficient and effective without compromising public safety. This landmark joint effort has gone a long way in producing useable data that will help us find ways to tweak our system with minimal cost. Our efforts are being noticed by the news media too! The Star Advertiser thinks JRI is a big deal ... big enough to run front page stories on Sunday, December 18 and Tuesday, December 27th. Check them out when you get a chance. As more people take notice, we look forward to what the future holds with this new joint venture.

## Women's Facility Programs

The ladies at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) have been busy this year providing much needed services for the surrounding community.

The Crochet Club of the Total Life Recovery Program has been hard at work crocheting items for those in need. The program serves two purposes. It allows the women to give back to others and it allows them the ability to plan and work as a team as they teach others in the program how to crochet.



*Booties and Hats crocheted by the WCCC Crochet Club for babies at Castle Medical Center.*



*Before and After Picture: Road leading into Waiawa Correctional Facility is repaired.*



*Waiawa inmate farm provides produce for Waiawa and Halawa Correctional Facility.*

This year the Club made baby hats and booties for the birthing program at Castle Medical Center, lap blankets, hats, footies and lap blankets for the elderly. They have also made 50 hats for the Veterans beds at Tripler.

## Waiawa Correctional Facility

After years of broken shocks, lost bumpers and misalignment issues due to a bad road at Waiawa, it's time to celebrate! Waiawa Correctional Facility Warden Scott Harrington thanks CIP and the Department for the money and assistance to finally get the new road they so badly needed.

We also want to thank all our prison farms for their efforts to continue hydroponics/aquaponics farming in our facilities. The programs teach the inmates about farming and teamwork, and helps to provide produce to several facilities.

## Energy Efficiency Goals

PSD has been working to contribute to the State's energy savings goal by transforming several of our facilities into energy efficient facilities. Water, light, heat, air conditioning and ventilation upgrades are projected to save the state millions of dollars in energy costs. The collaborations with various agencies and departments will also help to address the deferred repair and maintenance backlog of projects without Capitol Improvement Projects funding.

## Sheriffs' New Facility (Continued from page 2)

...nearly doubled from 74 in November 2010 to 155 in November of this year. Bookings increased from 38 in December 2010 as compared to 74 as of December 13, 2011.

The Public Safety Department (PSD) worked diligently with federal officials, contractors, designers, and utility companies to ensure the facility was ready to support State Law Enforcement mission areas during the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

Legislators along with the Hawaii Community

Development Authority (HCDA) were also instrumental in working with PSD to make this happen. PSD is allowed to use the land at no cost in return for the added security of patrolling the Kakaako area.

"There was a recognized need for law enforcement in the Kakaako area," said Jodie Maesaka-Hirata, Director of the Department of Public Safety. "Without their support, projects like this wouldn't move forward. We hope public/private partnerships like this one will be a model for the future."

PSD's Sheriff Division is working to reach out to other stakeholders and organizations in an effort to think "outside the box" in addressing law enforcement.

Contractor T. Lida Contracting, Ltd., designer Mitsunaga and Associates, the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division, Hawaiian TELCOM, Oceanic Cable and Hawaiian Electric Company all contributed to the completion of the Sheriff's new booking/receiving and warrants facility.



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***ACROSS PSD is a publication  
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The *ACROSS PSD* Employee Newsletter is intended to be a newsletter of, for, and about the Department of Public Safety and the people who work so hard at promoting and keeping the public safe. Somewhere along the line the Newsletter got lost in the shuffle and the hustle of the daily grind that make this Department such a challenging and rewarding place to work. So we are especially pleased to resurrect *ACROSS PSD* as a means to bring the PSD Ohana closer together, to share our victories, and to document our struggles.

However, in order to truly make the Newsletter yours, we need YOUR help. If you know of something wonderful going on in the department, a colleague deserving of special recognition, a story that needs to be told, send us a line!

A full article is not necessary. A quick email, even as bullet points will do.

You can find me in the Director's Office at 587-1358 or by email at Toni.E.Schwartz@dhs.hawaii.gov.

Mahalo for your kokua in this effort, and mahalo for all your efforts every day on behalf of PSD and the clients we

## Employees Aid Colleagues by Donating Leave Time



Director Maesaka-Hirata thanks our PSD employees for helping colleagues who had exhausted their paid leave and other wage loss replacement benefits due to a major illness or other serious condition.

Last year approximately 121 employees donated about 400 vacation leave days to colleagues during their time in need.

Donors have the option of designating their vacation leave to help specific employees or to help employees in general through PSD's Leave Share Bank.

This year's total amount of days donated will be available in the next newsletter. Mahalo!

