



# Future of the Oahu Community Correctional Center

## Volume 3 - Public Outreach and Engagement

September 2016

### Hawaii Department of Public Safety

The Hawaii Department of Public Safety (PSD) operates community correctional centers (CCCs) on the islands of Oahu, Maui, Hawaii and Kauai. Each CCC houses short-term sentenced (felons, probation, and misdemeanor), pretrial (felon and misdemeanor), other jurisdiction, and probation/parole violators. CCC's provide the customary county jail function of managing both pre-trial detainees and locally-sentenced misdemeanor offenders and others with a sentence of one year or less. CCCs also provide an important pre-release preparation/transition function for prison system inmates who are transferred back to their county of origin when they reach less than a year until their scheduled release. Most of these former prison inmates are transferred to a dedicated work furlough unit where they are able to begin working in the community on supervised work crews or in individual placements as determined by needs and classification assessments and individualized pre-release plans.

With increasingly aged and obsolete correctional facilities, PSD has proposed improving its corrections infrastructure through modernization of its existing facilities and construction of new institutions to replace others. Among its priority projects is the replacement of Oahu CCC (OCCC). Additional information concerning PSD and plans for the future of OCCC can be found at: <http://dps.hawaii.gov/occc-future-plans>.

### Moving Forward

Selecting the best plan option for developing a new OCCC will ensure that Hawaii's criminal justice system in general and PSD in particular continues to function in a high quality manner while addressing the need for modern, efficient and cost effective institutions for current and future inmate populations. Development of a new facility to replace the existing OCCC will allow PSD to accomplish its mission, meet the needs of current and future inmate populations, and provide for the continued security of inmates, staff and nearby communities.



Existing OCCC

## Commitment to Public Outreach and Engagement

Accurate, timely, and effective communication is an essential element of all large-scale and complex undertaking. PSD recognizes the challenges it faces as it moves forward with planning, siting, and eventual design, construction, and activation of a new facility to replace the current OCCC. PSD also acknowledges the value and importance of communications between itself and elected officials, interest groups, and the public during the planning and decision-making process. When a project or action is of a scope or nature that has the potential to affect local and statewide interests, such as development of a new OCCC, communicating with community leaders, civic and business groups, regulatory agencies, and the public during the process can facilitate decision-making and help achieve approval and acceptance of the outcome.

PSD has initiated its public outreach and engagement activities involving elected and appointed officials, key stakeholder groups, the public, and others to:

- Provide current information about the proposed facility and alternative OCCC project sites,
- Frame the planning and decision-making process,
- Explain how the public can participate in the planning process, and
- Explain how public input will be integrated into the decision-making process.

PSD is committed to ensuring that the process of planning, siting and eventually developing a new OCCC facility is transparent and benefits from the input and involvement of all interested parties.

## Environmental Impact Statement

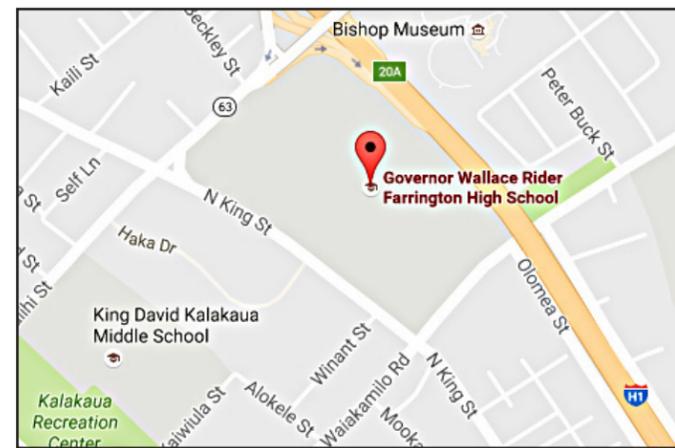
Undertaking the proposed OCCC project requires preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes and Chapter 200, Title 11, State of Hawai'i Department of Health Administrative Rules, based on the use of State funds and State lands. An EIS Preparation Notice (EISPN) will be published on September 23, 2016 to inform interested parties of the proposed project and to seek comments on issues that should be addressed in the forthcoming Draft EIS.

While not required under State law, a public Scoping Meeting will be held. Hosted by PSD, the EIS Scoping Meeting is an opportunity for interested parties to provide comments on the potential environmental issues that should be addressed in the Draft EIS. The meeting is held at the beginning of the EIS process and with the purpose to gather input on issues to be studied in the Draft EIS. In addition to a presentation that summarizes the objectives of the proposed OCCC project, attendees will be able to browse informational displays and speak with PSD staff and the consulting team. Information gathered will help focus the scope of technical studies and provides an opportunity to identify stakeholder groups as well as individuals that would like to comment on the Draft EIS.

The date, time and location of the Scoping Meeting is shown below:

**When:** 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, September 28, 2016  
**Where:** Farrington High School Cafeteria, 1564 North King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii

Question and Comment Forms would be available at the Scoping Meeting to generate feedback on project-related issues. For additional information, please visit: <http://dps.hawaii.gov/occc-future-plans/>.



## Hawaii Revised Statute 353 – Community Partnering

To address the unique aspects of developing or expanding in-state correctional facilities, the Hawaii State Legislature enacted HRS 353-16.37 to provide for community partnering. Enacted in 1998, the statute is intended to involve potential host communities in the planning process. The proposed OCCC project will be the first undertaken by PSD subject to HRS 353-16.37 requirements. Community partnering can take many forms and will closely mirror the overall public outreach efforts underway by PSD. It will consist of in-person meetings with key community leaders and stakeholders to establish a dialogue about community partnering, gain insight into potential project-related impacts and mitigation measures, while building relationships during the planning, siting, and EIS study processes.

## Prison vs. Jail – Important Differences

OCCC acts as the local jail for the First Circuit Court on Oahu and houses both males and females on pretrial, sentenced and community release status. It also provides transition and re-entry housing and programs for inmates returning from in-state or mainland correctional facilities. OCCC is the largest jail in Hawaii and is in need of immediate replacement.



Oahu Community Correctional Center (Jail)

Many people use the terms "jail" and "prison" interchangeably; however, in purpose and operation the two types of facilities are substantially different. On the most basic level, a jail such as OCCC is where individuals (detainees) are held for trial. These may be persons who either could not meet their bail or may not have qualified for bail according to the courts. In certain cases, a jail may also house individuals who have been to court, convicted, and sentenced to short term incarceration – usually less than a year. On the other hand, a prison or correctional facility is exclusively populated by individuals who have been convicted of a crime and are serving an extended sentence – typically a year or more.



Federal Detention Center, Honolulu (Jail)

The difference between a jail and a prison may seem minor on the surface, but there is a significant impact on the types of services the facilities must provide and how they are operated. With a jail, because much of the population 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 a detainee who is incarcerated on a relatively minor charge located in the same unit with another detainee accused of a serious crime. This situation

creates challenges for the staff to maintain the safety and security for all detainees. It is also important that pre-trial detainees are kept separate from sentenced inmates as well. For these reasons, a jail is usually operated so that detainees or inmates remain in their housing units and meals, drug treatment, counseling, and even minor medical treatments are delivered to them.

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



Halawa Correctional Facility (Prison)

The jail population is under the jurisdiction of the Judiciary (courts) and not the Department of Public Safety. Detainees in jail can only be released, placed in outside programs or assigned to other alternatives to incarceration by the Judiciary (courts).



Halawa Correctional Facility (Prison)

In contrast, a prison facility houses inmates that have been convicted and classified. Upon their arrival at the facility, inmates are housed with the appropriate populations. By this time, inmates have also been diagnosed and likely have begun a treatment program. Because of the longer term of the sentences in a prison, its operation has a focus on rehabilitation. Programs offered may include training in a trade and education programs for helping inmates to acquire their GED or secondary degrees. Accordingly, many prisons operate where inmates will be allowed to move within the facility to a dining area, infirmary or classrooms.



## OCCC Replacement - Progress to Date

At the onset of the siting process, PSD and its consultants engaged in meetings with local and state government officials, real estate industry representatives, planning and development officials and others to explain the siting process and solicit interest and potential sites that could accommodate OCCC development. In addition, consideration is being given to developing the OCCC replacement facility at the current location or co-locating the facility on lands comprising the Halawa Correctional Facility. Other alternative sites will also be considered. All sites will undergo an initial evaluation to determine suitability relying upon information provided by property owners, from various published data sources and via limited field inspections. Sites that most closely address PSD's siting criteria will be subjected to in-depth study that will eliminate less suitable sites until only the most suitable sites remain for PSD consideration.

## Upcoming Activities

PSD is moving ahead with the OCCC planning process with these activities planned in the months ahead.

<b>September 2016</b>	<p>Continue notifying key officials, regulatory agencies, stakeholder groups and the public about the purpose and need for the proposed OCCC facility and the planning process and schedule.</p> <p>Continue developing an inventory of prospective sites to supplement existing OCCC and Halawa Correctional Facility sites.</p> <p>Publish EA/EIS Preparation Notice and host public scoping meeting.</p>
<b>October 2016</b>	<p>Finalize OCCC facility needs based on future inmate population projections and program requirements, identify specific space needs, floor space requirements, and conceptual site development plans.</p> <p>Screen prospective sites using site identification and evaluation criteria to identify sites best meeting requirements.</p> <p>Initiate draft environmental impact statement process.</p> <p>Continue public outreach and engagement process.</p>
<b>November 2016</b>	<p>Continue screening prospective sites to identify those best meeting OCCC requirements.</p> <p>Continue environmental impact statement process.</p> <p>Continue public outreach and engagement process.</p>

## Interested in Learning More?

For additional information about PSD, visit <http://dps.hawaii.gov/occc-future-plans> or contact:

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