



Future of the Oahu Community Correctional Center

Volume 4 - Public and Stakeholder Questions and Concerns

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Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

The Hawaii Department of Public Safety (PSD) operates community correctional centers on the islands of Oahu, Maui, Hawaii and Kauai. Each CCC houses short-term sentenced (felons, probation, and misdemeanor), pretrial, other jurisdiction, and probation/parole violators. With increasingly aged and obsolete 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 development of a new Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC).

Diverse groups of elected officials, stakeholders, and the public-at-large has interest in the planning process for a new OCCC. Newsletter Volume 4 anticipates questions and concerns from among those groups and individuals in the form of "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)" and offers answers that accurately represent State of Hawaii and PSD positions and available project information. PSD, in a spirit of openness and to build trust with the public, offers the following FAQs and Answers. Public interest, input and trust is vital to the project's overall success and PSD is committed to encouraging meaningful public involvement opportunities throughout the planning process.

Why Develop a New Oahu Community Correctional Center?

Q: Why is the State of Hawaii planning to develop a new Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) to replace the existing OCCC?

- The current OCCC is out of date and inefficient and the outmoded design and layout make day-to-day operations more difficult, less secure, and more costly than necessary.
- The current OCCC is no longer meeting the requirements of the Hawaii Department of Public Safety (PSD) or the needs of the Oahu community.
- A new state-of-the-art OCCC will offer more services and programs to the inmates while improving safety and security for the inmates, staff and public.

Q: Why not upgrade or replace the current OCCC facility and keep it where it has been for over 50 years?

- Renovating/upgrading the existing OCCC facility will be more costly over the long-term than constructing and operating a new state-of-the-art facility.
- Modern OCCC design can reduce operating costs and lead to better outcomes for offenders by making better use of PSD staff.
- Developing the new facility at the current OCCC location is among the alternatives under consideration.

Q: Is planning for a new OCCC facility motivated by the potential to redevelop the 16-acre OCCC tract?

- The OCCC planning process is being driven solely by the need for a new facility and for improving the overall correctional system in Hawaii.
- The property is owned by the State of Hawaii and if OCCC is relocated, the property would be subject to all applicable state and local regulations, policies, and procedures governing land use and redevelopment actions.
- The only interests that will benefit if OCCC is relocated will be those of the residents of Hawaii.



The Proposed OCCC

Q: How large a replacement OCCC facility is being proposed?

- New population forecasts are currently being prepared that will provide accurate estimates of how many individuals will need to be accommodated within a new OCCC over the next 10 years. At the present time, a facility able to accommodate approximately 1,000 - 1,200 inmates is anticipated.
- Based on those forecasts, the amount of floor space along with land area requirements will be determined.

Q: What steps are being taken in the planning for a new OCCC facility?

- Currently, PSD is working with its consultants to forecast future inmate populations which will help determine the nature, scale and configuration of the proposed OCCC facility.
- Thereafter, studies that comply with state and local regulations, such as preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement, will be undertaken.
- Once all approvals have been acquired, design can commence, followed by construction.

Q: What is the schedule for designing and constructing the new OCCC?

- If all goes according to plan, design and construction of the new OCCC facility could begin in 2019- 2020.
- Design and construction is estimated to take approximately 3-4 years to complete.

Q: How much will a new OCCC cost to construct?

- Once architectural programming is complete and a conceptual space plan for the replacement facility is prepared, order of magnitude construction costs can be estimated. Precise construction cost estimates will be produced during later stages of planning and design.

Q: How will a new OCCC be financed? Is a public-private partnership to finance the proposed OCCC being considered?

- The least expensive source of financing is use of General Obligation (GO) bonds, however, other alternative financing arrangements are being investigated before a final decision is made.
- The pros and cons of the various financing alternatives, including public-private partnerships, will be explored before deciding on a preferred financing method.

Q: Can Hawaii afford to build a new OCCC while there are so many other pressing state-wide needs involving education, health care, infrastructure, etc.?

- Hawaii can't afford not to make this investment for all the reasons described above. The correctional system is in critical need of improvement and developing a new OCCC will improve people's lives. The cost of not acting will cost the state more over the long run than acting on a new OCCC.

Alternative Locations for a New Oahu Community Correctional Center

Q: Where will the new OCCC be located?

- The process of identifying prospective alternative OCCC sites has begun and therefore no site has been selected at this time.
- PSD will accept sites for consideration anywhere on the island that meet its minimum site requirements.
- The current OCCC property and PSD-owned lands at the Halawa Correctional Facility are among the universe of sites under consideration for development of the new OCCC facility.

Q: Where on Oahu is the Department of Public Safety focusing its efforts in identifying potential sites for the new OCCC?

- PSD will accept sites for consideration anywhere on the island that meet its minimum site requirements. Minimum site requirements can be found under SITE OFFER FORM at the OCCC Future Plans page on the PSD website: <http://dps.hawaii.gov/occc-future-plans/>.
- There is a preference for prospective sites to be located within the Greater Honolulu and surrounding areas.
- PSD is soliciting interest from property owners, the real estate community, and local, state and federal agencies as part of its search for suitable alternative sites.

Q: Is there a frontrunner among the potential sites?

- There are no frontrunners sites at this time.

Q: If prospective sites haven't been identified yet, what is the timeframe for doing so?

- PSD expects to identify and screen potential sites for the new OCCC facility before the end of 2016.

Q: Why not construct the new OCCC facility in a remote location where it won't interfere with homes or businesses?

- Replacement of the current OCCC needs to be close to large population centers instead of a remote location for several reasons:
 - Most of individuals held at OCCC originate from the Greater Honolulu metropolitan area.
 - It's important that individuals being held at OCCC have access to family, friends, legal representatives, and services and programs offered by volunteer organizations.
 - PSD is seeking to retain as many current OCCC employees at the new facility as possible, and a move to a remote location could prevent that.
 - Individuals being held at OCCC need access to medical care and mental health and other treatment professionals; a move to a remote location could hinder such access.
 - The more remote a location, the more likely the need for substantial infrastructure investments which would increase the overall cost of developing the new OCCC.
 - Proximity to the First Circuit Court will allow for more efficient operation.

Q: Why not build the new OCCC at the location of the current OCCC?

- The current OCCC property is one of the sites being considered for developing the new facility.
- PSD will also consider other locations to ensure that wherever the new facility is located, it best serves the needs of the department and the state as a whole.

Q: Is the Halawa Correctional Facility or other PSD-owned properties under consideration as a site for the new OCCC?

- A portion of the property comprising the Halawa Correctional Facility is under consideration and the studies currently underway by PSD will determine the feasibility for doing so.
- The pros and cons of developing the new facility at the Halawa Correctional Facility will be compared against the pros and cons of other alternative locations.

Potential Effects on the Host Community

Q: How is public safety affected by having a new OCCC in a community?

- Public safety and institution security are PSD's highest priority.
- A new state-of-the-art OCCC facility will greatly improve safety and security for inmates, OCCC staff and the public.
- A new OCCC would also incorporate state-of-the-art security systems which are not available at the current facility.

Q: Are inmate families likely to relocate to be closer to the new OCCC?

- Given the relative confines of the island of Oahu and the network of federal, state and county roads that bisect the island, access to the new OCCC facility, if relocated, should not require inmate families to relocate from their homes to continue to visit their family member.

Q: Can a new OCCC be an asset to a community?

- Businesses need infrastructure and are not likely to relocate or expand to areas where infrastructure is lacking or in need of significant improvements or extensions. Many communities would like to attract new employment, but lack the resources to provide the water supply, wastewater treatment, energy and roadway infrastructure needed to do so.
- Developing a new OCCC may require investments in water supply, wastewater treatment, energy and roadway infrastructure at alternative locations. The area surrounding the new OCCC would benefit from any infrastructure improvements that may be necessary, and as infrastructure is upgraded, the area will become more attractive to other developers and businesses.

Q: Won't developing the new OCCC in a new location drive businesses away?

- Proximity to a community correctional center does not by itself deter business activity. The existence of such a facility is unlikely to be a major consideration for businesses that are considering relocating or expanding.
- Using the Halawa Correctional Facility as an example, numerous commercial and industrial businesses have established their operations along the border of the Halawa Industrial Park since it opened in 1987. The same is true of the current OCCC and its predecessor facilities which have occupied its currently location for nearly 100 years.
- Businesses are not likely to relocate or expand to areas where infrastructure is lacking or in need of significant improvements or extensions. Many communities are seeking to attract new employers to their area, but lack the funds to provide the necessary infrastructure improvements.

Q: How will development of a new OCCC affect the market value of nearby homes and businesses?

- Property values are not determined solely by proximity to a detention or correctional facility and are usually determined by factors of greater importance including:
 - Values and marketability of properties in the area prior to construction;
 - Interest rates, income growth, and unemployment rates;
 - Proximity to infrastructure (road, water, wastewater, power and telecom systems); and
 - Proximity to quality schools, public transportation service, recreational and cultural amenities, and shopping centers among others.

Q: How does operating a new OCCC in a new location affect traffic on local roadways?

- Operation of a new OCCC facility would result in a redistribution of traffic away from roads leading to the current OCCC site and towards federal, state and/or local roads leading to the new OCCC site.
- Commuting trips by PSD staff would be distributed across three shifts over each 24-hour period.
- Studying capacities of current roads and the possible need for improvements is part of the planning and site evaluation process and will factor into the final site recommendation.

Q: How will local police, fire protection and emergency response services be affected in the surrounding community?

- PSD is responsible for overall institution security and as such demands for assistance from all emergency responders are expected to be minimal.
- Modern CCC facilities are largely self-contained and rarely require public safety services from outside agencies. Such facilities are designed and constructed with the latest in effective inmate management technology and practices including cameras, sensors, lights, and direct supervision by staff as well as smoke/fire detectors, sprinkler systems, etc.
- The new OCCC will include a medical unit to handle the health care needs of the inmates. Treatments not available at OCCC will be handled via contracts with medical centers and health care professionals with no adverse impact to local health care facilities and services.
- The new OCCC will employ several hundred sworn officers which will provide an additional security presence in the surrounding community.



Appearance and Design of the New OCCC Facility

Q: What will the new OCCC look like?

- Although the design phase is still several years away, the new OCCC facility will be similar in scale and appearance to a large secondary school complex with spaces devoted to administration, inmate housing, dining/food services, health care, among others. Visitor and employee parking will be situated near the facility entrance. Wherever it is built, the design and appearance of the new OCCC will be very different from the current facility.
- Modern community correctional centers are designed to conform to the community, using building materials, design features, and colors that reflect local surroundings. When designed, the new facility is expected to have an exterior appearance more in common with a community college or medical campus than the buildings, security fences, and guard towers that comprise the current OCCC.
- The Federal Detention Center, constructed in the early 2000's and located on Elliott Street near Honolulu International Airport, is an example of modern jail design and construction practices.

Q: What are some of the features that will be considered in the design of the new OCCC?

- Use of 24/7 electronic surveillance systems, inside and out, instead of multiple guard towers.
- Low-mast, low-glare lighting fixtures instead of high-mast lighting that spreads light over neighboring areas.
- Few windows on exterior walls with natural light provided by courtyards and interior light wells.

- Quieter sliding doors and security glass instead of steel bars and noisy security doors.
- A more appealing exterior look akin to schools, community colleges, municipal centers and office buildings and designed to blend into its surroundings with use of natural colors and materials.

Q: What are some of the features that will be eliminated from the design of the new OCCC?

- New community correctional centers rely upon the building envelope, state-of-the-art security and monitoring systems, along with operating policies and procedures to ensure overall security and by doing so can eliminate older prison and jail security features.
- At this time there is no plan to include guard towers, razor wire fencing, search lights and similar traditional security features in the design for the new OCCC facility.

Q: Why is it important to have a modern OCCC?

- Design of detention and correctional facilities has been greatly affected by changes in corrections philosophy, including:
 - The majority of all inmates are eventually released, so conditions within OCCC should support their successful re-entry into society.
 - Security has changed from an "outside-in" model — guard towers, razor wire — to an "inside-out" model — video surveillance, motion detectors - that makes such facilities more secure, which makes the community more secure.



View of OCCC from Puuhale Road

OCCC Staff, Visitors, and Volunteers

Q: How will PSD staff who currently work at OCCC be affected if the facility is relocated?

- The planned search area encompasses areas of Oahu which would provide reasonable access for nearly 80% of the current OCCC staff. This area also encompasses large population centers on Oahu and would be expected to be accessible to any facility location. Most potential replacement facility locations within this area would also be accessible to public transit, court facilities and other institutional facilities providing for administrative support to OCCC.

Q: How will family members who visit inmates be affected if the facility is relocated?

- Visitation at the new OCCC will remain a high priority consistent with current policies and procedures. Regardless of its location, the quality of visitation should increase by improving visitation rooms, integrating greater use of technology, etc.
- PSD prefers that the selected site be located within the Greater Honolulu and surrounding areas which encompasses the largest population center on Oahu and has access to public transit (bus and future rail) services.

- Development of a new OCCC facility within the Greater Honolulu and surrounding areas should have only minor impacts to family members visiting OCCC with some having a shorter drive distance/drive times and others longer drive distances/drive times to arrive at the facility.
- Given the extensive network of federal, state and county roads, access to the new OCCC facility should be relatively easy for family members and other visitors.

Q: How will volunteers and the work they perform at OCCC be affected if the facility is relocated?

- The proposed OCCC facility will also incorporate more counseling, training, and educational spaces than available at the current OCCC, allowing for increased participation by volunteers and volunteer organizations.
- The siting process recognizes the importance of maintaining the relationships with volunteers and volunteer organizations.

Criminal Justice Reform and a New OCCC

Q: How will the investment in a new OCCC improve/enhance inmate rehabilitation?

- Development of a new OCCC would enhance the ability of the state to respond to the needs of the OCCC inmate population with a modern facility that can offer more services and programs to the inmates while improving safety and security for the inmates, staff and public.
- A new, modern OCCC will help Hawaii move away from a “lock-them-up” approach to one that emphasizes rehabilitation programming, mental health treatment, and similar services since the majority of all inmates will eventually be released back into the community.

Q: Does the Hawaii State Legislature support developing a new OCCC?

- The Legislature has provided considerable resources to plan for a new OCCC and it is hoped that the Legislature will continue to support the effort during subsequent design and construction phases.

Q: Does the Governor of Hawaii support developing a new OCCC?

- Governor Ige has expressed his support for developing a

modern, state-of-the-art OCCC facility and it is hoped that his support will continue during subsequent design and construction phases.

Q: How can elected officials, stakeholders and the public learn more about the proposed OCCC project and be kept informed of PSD’s efforts and progress?

- Information will be provided via group meetings and information sessions to be held with business groups, community leaders, elected officials, and the public.
- The planning process will include public outreach in the form of public meetings and hearings during various stages of the project.
- Information is also regularly updated and posted to the PSD project website which is accessible at the OCCC Future Plans page on the PSD website: <http://dps.hawaii.gov/occc-future-plans/>.
- Interest individuals can inquire or comment about the proposed project by contacting PSD at INQUIRIES at: <http://dps.hawaii.gov/occc-future-plans/>.



Aerial view of OCCC



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 and various published data sources. 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.

October 2016	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. Screen prospective sites using site identification and evaluation criteria to identify sites best meeting requirements. Continue environmental impact statement process. Continue public outreach and engagement process.
November 2016	Continue screening prospective sites to identify those best meeting OCCC requirements. Continue environmental impact statement process. Continue public outreach and engagement process.
December 2016	Continue environmental impact statement process. Continue public outreach and engagement process.

Interested in Learning More?

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

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