



# Future of the Oahu Community Correctional Center

## More Frequently Asked Questions

May 19, 2017

Since 2016, the Hawaii Department of Public Safety (PSD) has strived to anticipate questions and concerns of the public, elected and appointed officials, stakeholder groups, and others involving the proposal to develop a new Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) to replace the aged and obsolete facility located in Kalihi. This “More Frequently Asked Questions”, builds upon the many questions and answers already published by PSD in October 2016 and February 2017 with over 35 additional questions and answers.

### What progress has been made in recent months involving planning for a new OCCC?

- » The Hawaii Department of Public Safety prepared an in-depth Progress Report that was submitted to the State Legislature (February 1, 2017) and posted on the OCCC website for public input. The Progress Report includes inmate population forecasts, conceptual OCCC development plans, a siting study, preliminary construction cost estimates, an initial staffing plan, and an analysis of estimated operating costs among other studies and information.
- » Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is underway with traffic studies, utility investigations, biological surveys, and historic and archaeological research initiated involving each of the alternative OCCC project sites. Studies to comply with various state and local regulations, such as preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement, have been initiated.
- » Considerable efforts have been devoted to informing and involving key decision-makers, community leaders, stakeholders and the public via one-on-one meetings and small group sessions, a public Scoping Meeting, various public information sessions, neighborhood meetings and presentations, an Island-wide Town Hall Meeting, in addition to 11 newsletters and numerous other documents and announcements posted on the OCCC website (<http://dps.hawaii.gov/occc-future-plans>).

### When was replacing OCCC first contemplated?

- » Replacing OCCC has been contemplated since publication of the 10-Year Master Plan Update report prepared for the Department of Public Safety by Carter Goble Associates in December 2003. See the Department’s website for the 10-Year Master Plan report (<http://dps.hawaii.gov/publications/ten-year-corrections-master-plan-update/>).
- » Years later, in 2008-2009, the Department developed a plan for a new facility including a study of potential locations for a new OCCC (including redevelopment at the current OCCC site).
- » The current effort to replace OCCC began in May 2016 and continues today.

## When did the Oahu Community Correctional Center in Kalihi open?

- » There has been a correctional facility occupying the OCCC property since the early 1900s. Photographs dating to 1939 depict a federal territorial prison on the property surrounded largely by vacant lands or lands in agricultural use.
- » The OCCC facility initially came under state control in 1975, when the facility was transferred from the City and County of Honolulu to the State of Hawaii at the time the State assumed responsibility for all aspects of incarceration. Construction of Annex 1 to the old jail was completed at the time of transfer.
- » The main jail building opened in 1980 and was fully occupied in 1982. From 1978 to 1987, OCCC served as both a local jail and a prison for the State, until 1987 when the Halawa Correctional Facility was developed, after which OCCC functioned primarily as a detention facility.

## How many of the persons held at OCCC are of Native Hawaiian ancestry?

- » Inmates currently housed at OCCC represent 13 categories of race and ethnic origin with Native Hawaiians constituting approximately 34% of the male inmate population and 36% of the female population. See OCCC Newsletter Vol. 10 (March 2017) for a complete breakdown of Age, Ethnicity, Security, Crime, Severity and Status Classification for all individuals held at OCCC available on the OCCC website: (<http://dps.hawaii.gov/occc-future-plans>).

## Does it make sense to locate the new OCCC facility adjacent to or in proximity to court houses?

- » Ideally, jails and the courthouses they serve would be co-located on a single parcel, located on adjoining parcels or otherwise located in close proximity to each other to allow for convenient and secure transport of offenders to and from court appointments. Properties located adjacent to or in close proximity to the First Circuit Courthouse in Honolulu have been developed, are currently being developed or are otherwise unavailable for OCCC development.

## Is the OCCC siting process considering sites smaller than 10 acres in size?

- » Yes, to ensure that no site was overlooked the site search was opened to any site 1 acre or larger.
- » The Site Offer Form was revised and re-issued to the real estate community, large landowners, and the general public to ensure no sites suitable for OCCC development have been overlooked.
- » The OCCC team also conducted an in-depth search of all state-owned lands within the Dept. of Land and Natural Resource's database greater than 1 acre. Each potential parcel of land was assessed to ensure that no viable state-owned lands were overlooked.

## Is the Department of Public Safety still soliciting sites from property owners and others for OCCC development?

- » Yes, the Department is open to considering an offer of a viable site to ensure no suitable land for OCCC development is overlooked. However, given the team's extensive communications with large private landowners and investigation of city, county, and state properties, it is unlikely that another suitable site will turn up. Therefore, the active site search process is expected to end in the near future as the Environmental Impact Statement process progresses for the four highly-ranked sites.

How does the Department of Public Safety use videoconferencing at OCCC? How will this technology be used at the new facility?

- » Presently, videoconferencing is utilized for arraignments and pleas and some court hearings. It is the Department's intent to increase the use of the videoconferencing technology in the future. The proposed OCCC facility is expected to have appropriate and designated areas for the use of such technology.

What are the respective roles of the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Accounting and General Services in planning for the replacement of OCCC?

- » The Department of Public Safety is responsible for operation and maintenance of all state prisons and jails located within Hawaii and is leading the effort to plan and develop a new OCCC.
- » The Department of Accounting and General Services is providing support to the Department of Public Safety by overseeing the administration and management of the contract with the consultant team which is executing the technical studies in support of the proposed OCCC facility.
- » As state agencies, both are jointly collaborating and assisting with the technical studies and public outreach efforts underway in support of the planning for a new OCCC facility. Decisions concerning whether to replace and/or relocate OCCC, and where, are Department of Public Safety responsibilities.

What percentage of the OCCC population is being held for misdemeanor offenses? For felony offenses?

- » Severity of offense among the inmate population at OCCC is classified into one of seven categories: Felony A, Felony B, Felony C, Misdemeanor, Technical Offense, Petty Misdemeanor, and Violations.
- » Felony C offenses comprise 43% of the male inmate population, Misdemeanors account for 16%, Felony B offenses account for 13%, Technical offenses account for 12%, Petty misdemeanor account for 8%, Felony A offenses 6%, and Violations 2%.
- » Felony C offenses account for 41% of the female OCCC population, Petty Misdemeanor offenses account for 19%, Technical offenses account for 14%, Misdemeanors and Felony B offenses each account for 11%, Felony A accounts for 3% and Violations 1%.

What offenses are persons being held at OCCC?

- » Crime classifications for the OCCC inmate population encompass nine separate categories: Property crimes, Serious Drug offenses, Robbery, Major Violent crimes, Other Violent crimes, Revocation, Drug Paraphernalia, Sexual Assault, and All Other crimes. See also OCCC Newsletter Vol. 10 (March 2017) for characteristics of male and female populations held at OCCC.

What percentage of persons held at OCCC are mentally ill at any one time?

- » Approximately 9.5% to 12% of all OCCC inmates are deemed mentally ill.

What is the average and maximum number of times a given mentally ill person becomes incarcerated in a year?

- » Three is the average number of times a given mentally ill person becomes incarcerated in a year.
- » Eight is the maximum number of times a given mentally ill person becomes incarcerated in a year.

## How many mentally ill people have been incarcerated at OCCC over the past year?

- » A gross estimate based on the average daily census of Severe and Persistently Mentally Ill (SPMI) individuals is as follows: 2,088 admissions annually divided by the average annual admissions per person (3), equals approximately 696 individuals. In addition, there are about 450-600 people per year served on Suicide Watch.
- » There are also approximately 38 people who would be considered mentally ill, but not severe or persistent.
- » In addition to those diagnosed as SPMI, many among the OCCC population suffer from either Antisocial and/or Borderline Personality Disorders, combined with Substance Use and Abuse Disorders.

## Which programs are offered to those individuals housed at OCCC?

- » Programs offered at OCCC include: Psychosocial and therapeutic treatment groups for Severe and Persistently Mentally Ill (SPMI) inmates. Religious Services, Library Services i.e., Law Library and Recreational Library, Adult Basic Education, High School Equivalency Test, Graduate Equivalency Diploma, Yoga, Cognitive skills, Hawaiian Culture Classes, Creative Writing, Serve Safe, Academic classes, Independent studies, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Mental Health Services. Similar programs will be offered in the new OCCC facility.

## What actions could serve to decrease the number of individuals incarcerated?

- » For the mentally ill, the following actions would help decrease the incarcerated population:
  - » Expanded residential services programs, specifically those attending to individuals with co-occurring (Mental Illness and Substance Abuse) disorders. This would be the responsibility of the Department of Health (DOH), Adult Mental Health Division.
  - » Changes to the Forensic Examiner Statutes in DOH, requiring only one versus three examinations for fitness to proceed for felony crimes (this would make Hawaii consistent with most other states on the mainland). The effect would be to shorten the length of time people are incarcerated awaiting adjudication. This change actually effects more than the SPMI, as many other inmates are subject to Forensic Examinations, not just the SPMI. In fact, many drug affected inmates also wait for such evaluation to be completed.
  - » Stipulate in statute the amount of time allowed to complete Fitness Examination (30 days). Presently, felony fitness examinations can take up to four months.
- » The Department has already implemented a policy on electronic monitoring. The Legislative Branch can adopt laws and the Judiciary could utilize probation, supervised release, etc.

## Which policies can be changed, without the need for changes in laws, which can drive incarceration rates downward?

- » For those who are mentally ill, if locations or programs, other than OCCC, were available to which low-level misdemeanors (trespass, violating park rules, urinating in the park, disturbing the peace, etc.) could be diverted.
- » Departmental policies do not drive incarceration rates; it is the Judiciary which decides who is incarcerated and their length of incarceration.

## What is being done in the way of diversion to reduce the number of individuals ending up in jail?

- » Department officials are working with members of the Judiciary, the Corrections Population Management Commission, and others to seek solutions to reduce the number of persons under supervision.

## What efforts are being made to reduce recidivism?

- » Evidence Based Practices have been implemented and an Office of Reentry has been established within the Department of Public Safety to assist in the development of appropriate services and programs for those who are being released.
- » The Department is also working closely with the DOH, Adult Mental Health Division for continuum of care for offenders in need of mental health services upon release.
- » The Department has procured contracted job placement training and services in addition to supporting the Honolulu County Offender Reentry Program (HCORP), a three-year demonstration project which is helping over 150 sentenced felon probationers improve reentry success. This partnership with the University of Hawaii, Social Sciences Research Institute provides “in-reach” services in OCCC and coordinates comprehensive services for 12 months after release; clients with behavioral health issues are given priority. HCORP also provides technical assistance to community providers and is collecting and analyzing data to better understand predictors of recidivism and improve community tenure.

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

- » Investing in 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 inmates, staff and public.
- » A new, modern OCCC will help Hawaii move away from a “lock-em-up” approach to one that emphasizes rehabilitation programming, mental health treatment, and similar services since the vast majority of all inmates will eventually be released back into the community.

## How are OCCC inmates connected to their local communities?

- » Via support services, secular and non-secular programming, family visits, involving offenders with community requests such as lei making for Veteran’s Day, making ribbon packets for the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), etc.
- » Allowing offenders to speak to At-risk adolescents within the Department of Education.
- » The Department provides special events such as Taiko drumming and concerts in addition to access to television, radio, telephone, and print publications.

## What is being planned for females held at OCCC?

- » Pretrial offenders, higher security female offenders and female offenders eligible for Community Release on Oahu are currently housed at OCCC. It is intended to relocate female inmates from the new OCCC (when constructed) to the Women’s Community Correctional Center (WCCC) located in Kailua.
- » The plan to relocate females to WCCC following development of the new OCCC is to provide greater access to rehabilitation programs and improved family visitation although females would continue to receive intake services in the future at the new OCCC.

## What screening tools and risk assessments are used by the Department of Public Safety?

- » All inmates receive an initial intake screening for medical, mental health and dental issues. There are threshold questions imbedded in the screening tool that trigger automatic referrals to mental health staff for a further assessment (Post-Admission Mental Health Assessment [PAMHA]) and for safety assessments (Suicide Risk Evaluations [SRE]).
- » PAMHA's must be completed within 14 days if the inmate moves to General Population, but within one business day, if the inmate is moved to a mental health module.
- » If individuals are found to have Severe and Persistent Mental Illnesses (SPMI), and remain on a mental health module, then a more in-depth Mental Health Evaluation is conducted within 14 days, resulting in a Comprehensive Treatment Plan.
- » If the individual is SPMI, but determined not to require acute or rehab level of care, they are transferred to General Population and receive a Preliminary/Outpatient Treatment Plan.
- » Additional or specialized testing or assessments are performed as needed. These may include tests for cognitive functioning, malingering, and risk for violence, etc. SRE's are conducted on any inmate presenting as a clinical safety or suicide risk either upon initiation of Suicide or Safety Watch, upon step-down from Suicide Watch to Safety Watch and at discharge from Suicide or Safety Watch.
- » Level of Services Inventory Revised (LSIR), Adult Substance Use Survey (ASUS) Static-99, Stable, and Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) Pre-Trial are among other tools and risk assessments employed by the department.

## What efforts are being made to break the cycle of those who re-enter the criminal justice system?

- » Diversion programs are utilized when appropriate. Assessment-based needs are provided in collaboration with community services. If diversion is appropriate, programming is provided within the institution.

## What community-based alternatives exist?

- » Jail inmate placement in community-based alternatives is primarily a Judiciary function. Supervised Release is granted by the courts and the Intake Service Centers Division provides supervision with the exception of HRS 353-23, where the Director of the Department of Public Safety can release a Misdemeanant or Petty Misdemeanant.

## What programs are available to various inmates?

- » Mental Health staff is required to deliver 20 hours a week of groups and activities to patients residing on Mental Health Modules: approximately 60 SPMI patients at OCCC, 10 at WCCC and 45 at Halawa Correctional Facility (CF).
- » In addition, outpatient supportive counseling (minimally once per month) is delivered to SPMI patients at all facilities (46 at Hawaii CCC, 46 at Maui CCC, 30 at Kauai CCC, 6 at Kulani CF, 83 at OCCC, 62 at WCCC and 160 at Halawa CF). Note: These counts are as of April 20-24, 2017, and fluctuate daily.
- » Women held at OCCC have a discreet mental health module where programming is delivered.

## How is cultural pride and positive identity developed in OCCC?

- » Hawaiian Cultural Classes are offered, offenders can request for Hawaiian practitioners, cognitive restructuring and self-development courses to develop self-worth are offered, and family visits are encouraged.

## What assistance is provided to those transitioning out of jail?

- » For mental health SPMI, the Department's mental health staff create discharge plans that link or re-link inmates to the DOH (AMHD) and/or Department of Human Services (Medicaid) system of care.
- » The Department's Reentry Office is in the process of establishing a system where offenders, prior to release, are put in touch with various agencies, service providers and faith-based organizations, based on their needs, so that upon release, there is no lag time for securing housing, medical and mental health coverage, proper identification, etc.

## Which education and work training programs are offered to help eliminate barriers for released jail inmates?

- » The Department helps eliminate barriers for released jail inmates by providing classes to assist them in obtaining their high school equivalency diploma and soft skills training. Cognitive classes are also provided along with self-development.
- » The Department has contracted for job development and placement for jail offenders. The Department also provides limited job training within the institution as well as giving offenders real work experience through participation on work lines.

## Can the Department of Public Safety move incarcerated people between various state community correctional centers?

- » Community Correctional Centers located on the islands of Oahu, Maui, Kauai and Hawaii are operating well above their design capacity and moving incarcerated people between these facilities only exacerbates the overcrowding at the receiving facility.
- » Moving offenders between islands considerably reduces opportunities for visitation by family, friends and legal representatives. For these and other reasons such movements are avoided when possible. For mental health, SPMI inmates whose needs exceed outpatient level of care, are moved to OCCC for evaluation and treatment. Additionally, individuals presenting as protracted clinical safety risks, also are moved to OCCC for Suicide/Safety Watch.

## What efforts have been made to inform and involve members of the Hawaii State Legislature, City Council, Neighborhood Boards and the public in the OCCC planning and decision-making process?

- » The Department of Public Safety recognizes the importance of effective communications between the project team and elected and appointed officials, interest groups, the media, and the public during the planning and decision-making process. From the outset, the Department has been committed to ensuring that the process of planning and developing a new OCCC is transparent, defensible, and includes the input and involvement of all interested parties.
- » The Department has undertaken an extensive public outreach and engagement effort to provide information about the proposed OCCC facility, frame the planning and decision-making process, offer citizens a variety of means to participate in the planning process, and explain how public input will be considered in the decision-making process.
- » Meetings were held with Hawaii Senate and House members, city council members, numerous state and city agency officials and staff, in addition to participating at 20 Neighborhood Board meetings and information sessions, an island-wide town hall meeting, and with countless stakeholders, interest groups, volunteers and volunteer organizations, and others.



## How does the proposed OCCC facility help advance the goal of returning to Hawaii inmates who are currently being housed in Arizona?

- » Approximately 1,500 State of Hawaii inmates are housed in mainland prisons and can only return when sufficient bed space becomes available in Hawaii by reductions in the number of prison inmates held in Hawaii, construction of additional prison beds in Hawaii, or a combination of both.
- » The proposal to develop a new facility to replace OCCC will have no effect on the number of Hawaii's prison inmates held in mainland prisons.

## How and when can the public offer its input, ideas and comments concerning plans for a new OCCC?

- » The Department of Public Safety welcomes public comment and input during every phase of planning, siting, EIS, and permitting processes. This is evidenced by the numerous neighborhood board meetings, community meeting, Town Hall meeting, and open house/information sessions held across Oahu and attended by the OCCC team to date to present information and to discuss the proposed OCCC project.
- » The Department has also established an OCCC project website to post technical reports, a calendar of events and meetings; monthly newsletters, its Progress Report to the Hawaii Legislature, team member contact information, and other project-related information in an effort to solicit public comments and input.

## What is the schedule for completing the Environmental Impact Statement process?

- » Publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected to occur prior to the end of 2017 with publication of the Final Environmental Impact Statement expected to occur in 2018.

## What type of community benefits are being discussed with respect to HRS 353?

- » With preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement underway, the nature, scale and scope of potential impacts from OCCC development will be identified. The community benefits package, mandated by HRS 353, will be based in large measure on the potential environmental impacts to be identified.
- » Plans are being formulated to work with community representatives within the respective jurisdictions to address an eventual community benefits package.

## Interested in Learning More?

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

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