



Future of the Oahu Community Correctional Center

Volume 13 - Progress Made in Preparing Draft EIS

July 2017

Hawaii Department of Public Safety

The Hawaii Department of Public Safety (PSD) operates the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) which acts as the local detention center for the First Circuit Court. Located within an approximately 16-acre property at 2199 Kamehameha Highway in Honolulu, OCCC is currently the largest jail facility in the State of Hawaii. From its beginning in 1975 as a part of the county-based community corrections system concept with 456 beds, the facility has been expanded to its current design capacity of 628 beds and an operational capacity of 954 beds and consistently operates above these capacities.

OCCC provides the customary jail function of managing both pre-trial detainees and locally-sentenced misdemeanor offenders and others with a sentence of one year or less as well as providing a pre-release preparation/transition function for prison system inmates when they reach less than a year until their scheduled release. It's important to note that the inmates housed at OCCC are under the jurisdiction of the Judiciary (courts) and not PSD. Detainees in jail can only be released, placed in outside programs or assigned to other alternatives to incarceration by the Judiciary (courts).

With increasingly aged and obsolete correctional facilities, PSD is proposing to improve its corrections infrastructure through modernization of existing facilities and construction of new institutions to replace others. Among its priority projects is the replacement of OCCC which, when constructed, will take advantage of the newest cost-savings technologies and improve correctional services and safety for inmates, staff and the public.

Environmental Impact Statement Moving Ahead

Over the past several months the OCCC team has been focused on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) which is being prepared pursuant to Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and Chapter 200, Title 11, State of Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) Administrative Rules. Before undertaking DEIS preparation, an EIS Preparation Notice (EISPN) was prepared and notice of its availability for public review was published in the September 23, 2016 issue of the State Office of Environmental Quality Control's *The Environmental Notice*. Written comments received concerning the EISPN, as well as written responses to those comments, will be included in the DEIS.

The DEIS, the assessment it presents, and the procedures by which the environmental investigations are conducted and incorporated in decision-making are parts of a process established by HRS 343 to ensure that the environmental consequences of state actions, such as development of a new OCCC, are adequately taken into account. The process is designed to ensure that public officials make decisions based on a full understanding of the environmental impacts of proposed actions and take all appropriate steps to protect, restore and enhance the environment.

Throughout DEIS preparation, the OCCC team has been receiving questions and comments concerning the proposed project along with other indications of interest or concern on the part of the public. Federal, state, and county officials and regulatory agencies are also being consulted in preparing the DEIS.



Biological Surveys Completed

As part of EIS preparation, natural resource investigations are underway for the four alternative OCCC sites as well as Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC). The effort includes desktop analysis, field investigations, and regulatory agency consultations to characterize natural resources within the five project sites and analyze potential project-related impacts to natural resources.

vegetation, wildlife, and threatened and endangered species observed at each project site. Site conditions were photographed and observations of natural resources present were recorded. Wetland delineation reports documenting site soils, vegetation, hydrology, and any demarcated wetland boundaries are being prepared for each site.

Consultations are also underway with regulatory agencies such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USFWS, and the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources to obtain regional and site-specific information and to ensure compliance with the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and state wildlife regulations.

All relevant information acquired through the desktop analysis, field investigations, and agency consultations will be used to analyze the potential impacts to natural resources as a result of the replacement of the existing OCCC. If adverse impacts to natural resources are identified, mitigation measures to avoid, minimize and compensate for impacts will be recommended. Mitigation measures may include design considerations to avoid disturbance to wetlands and minimize the clearing of native vegetation, as well as construction considerations to avoid artificial light impacts to shorebirds and seasonal restrictions to avoid impacting other species.



Pasture with monkeypod trees at the Animal Quarantine Facility (AQF) site

The desktop analysis includes a review of available resource mapping, previous reports, and species inventories to determine if there are documented natural resources within or adjacent to the sites, including wetlands, vegetation, wildlife, special status species, and critical habitats. Resources reviewed include U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory Maps, Natural Resource Conservation Service Soil Survey, State of Hawaii Office of Planning, Hawaii Statewide GIS Program, and aerial imagery. The desktop analysis was supplemented with field investigations to characterize any waterbodies or wetlands,



Grounds at the Halawa Correctional Facility

View of developable area at WCCC



View of Mililani Technology Park (MTP) site looking upslope



Pasture at the AQF site



Recreational field for Annex 2 at the OCCC site



Recreational field at the Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) site



Archaeological and Historic Research Nearing Completion

As part of the EIS process each of the proposed project sites is subjected to a preliminary investigation to determine if there are archaeological or architectural resources of significance on or near the five project locations. The conditions at the sites vary considerably from the urban density and modern development of the existing OCCC location to commercial/ industrial areas which largely surround the Animal Quarantine Facility and Halawa Correctional Facility sites, to areas that are less densely developed (WCCC) or were until recently, in agricultural use and has since been converted to light industrial use (Mililani Technology Park). Consequently, each location has a particular history that must be investigated and chronicled. After thorough research into the background of the locations, including extensive map and land use research and a review

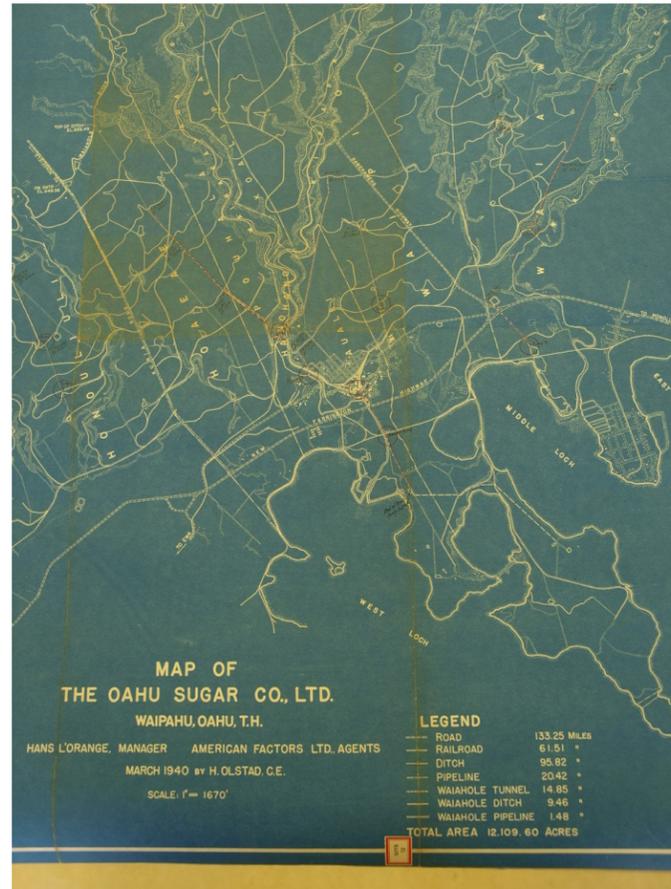
of prior reports on file at the State Historic Preservation Division offices, a task that is nearing completion, a report will be completed that helps to predict the likelihood of finding archaeological resources and acknowledges the existence of any historic structures, including the location of buildings that are no longer standing. Qualified archaeologists and architectural historians will soon visit each location to conduct pedestrian surveys of the sites to determine whether or not there might be significant archaeological or architectural resources at or near each proposed location. They will note the ground conditions, levels of prior land disturbance, and document buildings greater than 50 years of age. At locations where a high-rise structure is under consideration, the architectural investigation will extend off site to include areas from which the new OCCC building might be visible. The overall findings will be summarized in a report and the information will be incorporated within the EIS.



Photo of the OCCC site circa 1959



Photo of OCCC site circa 1970



1940 map of Kalihi region

EIS Addressing Quarantine Facility Relocation

The Animal Quarantine Facility has been selected as one of four sites being evaluated within the EIS for possible OCCC development. However, if selected as the preferred project location, removal, relocation, and replacement of the Animal Quarantine Facility must first occur in order to utilize this site for OCCC purposes.

The Animal Quarantine Facility, located at 99-951 Halawa Valley Street in Halawa, is operated by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA). The 39.5-acre property is owned by the State of Hawaii, which acquired it in 1968 from the United States Navy. At present, the property contains the administrative building for the Division of Animal Husbandry, the State Veterinary Laboratory, the U.S. Army Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) Kennel Facility, and the Animal Quarantine Facility along with various other tenants which lease small portions of the overall property. The Animal Quarantine Facility itself utilizes approximately 50 percent of the property which includes approximately 1,700 dog kennels, 9 cat buildings, a livestock corral/loading facility, a pasture area, a maintenance facility, a caretaker's residence, and various employee and visitor parking areas.

As with the proposed OCCC project, the potential environmental impacts of relocating the Animal Quarantine Facility within the property must also be analyzed and addressed. To avoid segmenting the EIS process, the removal, relocation, and replacement of the Animal Quarantine Facility within the HDOA property and the associated impacts and mitigation to accommodate the new facility within the overall site are being addressed within the OCCC EIS.



Existing Animal Quarantine Facility

At this time, HDOA is proposing to replace the current, out-of-date facility with a modern version that supports Hawaii's current and future animal quarantine policies and needs. An initial concept plan, to test whether a new facility can be developed within the western-most portion of the property, has been prepared. This concept plan shows how the offices, employee and visitor parking, and required number of kennels for cats, dogs, and larger animals can be accommodated.

Animal Quarantine Facility Concept Plan



Oahu Community Correctional Center

WCCC Expansion Included in EIS

Pre-trial offenders, higher security female offenders, and female offenders eligible for Community Release on Oahu are currently housed at OCCC. However, the new OCCC is intended to house adult male offenders only with female inmates to be relocated to the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) located in Kailua. WCCC is the only all-female facility in Hawaii, providing for the long-term care and custody of female sentenced felons. The purpose for relocating females from OCCC to WCCC 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.

Located on the site of the former Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility, the original housing buildings along with most of the support infrastructure comprising WCCC were constructed in 1952 and adapted with minor renovations and construction of an additional cottage to house the female sentenced population between 1992 and 1999. To accommodate the additional female population, further upgrades and expansions to inmate housing and supporting infrastructure at WCCC are planned.

To avoid segmenting the EIS process, planned expansions and upgrades to WCCC and the associated impacts and mitigation to accommodate the improvements within the overall PSD property are being addressed within the OCCC EIS.



WCCC grounds



WCCC stream



One of several "Exceptional Trees" at WCCC



WCCC site aerial

OCCC Siting Study Update Report Available

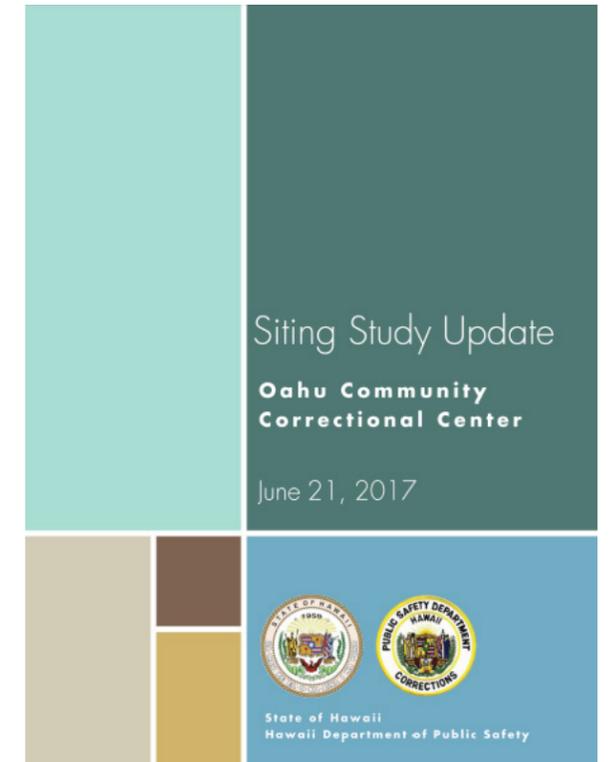
As part of PSD's efforts to replace the current OCCC, various studies have been performed and others are currently underway to determine the nature, scale, location, and range of costs associated with developing a new OCCC. Among these studies is a Siting Study report which evaluated 11 prospective sites for possible OCCC use, assessed the 11 sites, and scored and ranked each based on well-defined siting criteria. On February 1, 2017, the four highest ranked sites (Animal Quarantine Facility site, existing OCCC site, Halawa Correctional Facility site, and Milani Technology Park site) were selected for evaluation in the form of an EIS and seven sites were eliminated from consideration.

To ensure that no site suitable for OCCC development has been overlooked, the OCCC Team continued to seek out potential sites in the event others more suitable than the four selected could be made available. In doing so the Team reissued its "Site Offer Form - 2017" in February 2017 to Oahu's real estate community seeking information about other properties listed or under consideration for sale. The form was also reissued with the minimum site size reduced from the original 10 acres to one acre to ensure all sites receive equal consideration.

In April 2017, the OCCC Team was contacted about a property currently being marketed for sale as a possible OCCC development site. Two parcels, comprising 9.585 acres and known collectively as the Campbell Industrial Park site, are located at 91-150 Hanua Street in Kapolei, Hawaii. The OCCC Team has completed its evaluation of this 12th site; with a point score of 43.5 (of 100 possible points), the Campbell Industrial Park Site is ranked 8th among the 12 total sites. The addition of the Campbell Industrial Park does not change the ranking of the four highest ranked sites which are continuing through the EIS process. The results of this effort are described in a Siting Study Update report, available at <http://dps.hawaii.gov/occc-future-plans>.

Since February 2017, the OCCC Team has also examined additional sites recommended by the public, elected officials, and others to ensure no prospective sites, equal to or more suitable than the four currently under consideration, were overlooked. The results of these efforts are also described in the Siting Study Update report. The report documents the efforts undertaken by the OCCC Team to identify the best available sites for development of the new OCCC facility and at this

time, PSD is concluding its active search for additional sites and will continue to focus its efforts on the EIS. The OCCC Team is confident that the process followed has been rational, thorough, and defensible and provides the State of Hawaii with viable alternative locations at which to develop the new OCCC facility.





Upcoming Activities

The OCCC planning process is moving forward with these activities in the months ahead:

August 2017	<p>Continue detailed studies of four alternative OCCC sites and the Women's CCC via the Environmental Impact Statement process.</p> <p>Initiate "Community Partnering" with the Kailua community concerning WCCC improvements in accordance with HRS 353-16.37.</p> <p>Continue information distribution and engagement process; look to the OCCC website for upcoming announcements, events and related activities.</p> <p>Publish OCCC Newsletter Vol. 14.</p>
September 2017	<p>Continue detailed studies of four alternative OCCC sites and WCCC via the Environmental Impact Statement process.</p> <p>Continue public outreach, education, and engagement process; look to the OCCC website for upcoming announcements, events and related activities.</p>
October 2017	<p>Continue detailed studies of four alternative OCCC sites and WCCC via the Environmental Impact Statement process.</p> <p>Continue public outreach, education, and engagement process; look to the OCCC website for upcoming announcements, events and related activities.</p> <p>Publish OCCC Newsletter Vol. 15.</p>

Interested in Learning More?

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

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