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. In addition to housing male offenders, OCCC currently houses pretrial female offenders, higher security female offenders, and female offenders eligible for Community Release. PSD plans to relocate female inmates from OCCC to the existing Women’s Community Correctional Center (WCCC) located in Kailua. WCCC is the only all-female facility in Hawaii and serves as the primary facility for sentenced felons that do not require high security. The current rated capacity for WCCC is 260 beds. The facility routinely operates at full capacity. This move will provide female inmates with greater access to rehabilitation programs and improved family visitation.

Over the past several months the OCCC team has been focused on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) which is being prepared pursuant to HRS 343. The DEIS is part of a process established by the State 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. 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. Preliminary plans for the development of WCCC are discussed on the other side of this handout.

PSD is developing plans for improving inmate housing and supporting infrastructure at WCCC in order to accommodate the additional female population to be relocated from OCCC. Improvements under consideration include renovation of the existing Ho’okipa Cottage and development of a new housing unit to provide up to 280 new rated beds. Support services will be upgraded and expanded (where necessary), including intake control and intake services, medical and mental health units, central control station, non-contact visiting room, outdoor recreation,
laundry, and other ancillary facilities. Other improvements being explored include replacing the dilapidated maintenance/warehouse building, constructing a new administrative office building, and new gatehouse, along with additional parking. Special care will be taken to avoid construction in areas of existing wetlands, on steeply sloped terrain, and near the adjacent residential neighborhoods to the west. Additional landscape screens between the new buildings and the residential areas will also be considered.

Among the unique features at WCCC are four large Monkeypod trees located along the southern property boundary. Designated as Exceptional Trees by the Arborist Advisory Committee of the City and County of Honolulu, these trees will be carefully considered and protected during any planned WCCC improvements so as to ensure their continued existence.

For more information, please visit: http://dps.hawaii.gov/occc-future-plans