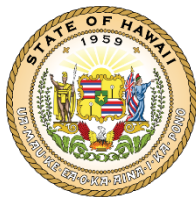


# OCCC Town Hall Meeting Summary

## Oahu Community Correctional Center

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## OCCC TOWN HALL MEETING SUMMARY

A hallmark of the planning and environmental study process has been the commitment to openness and inclusiveness; in keeping with that approach, PSD and DAGS hosted a Town Hall meeting concerning the proposed OCCC project and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Individuals representing agencies, organizations and neighborhoods throughout Oahu attended the Town Hall meeting held November 29, 2017 at the Aloha Stadium Hospitality Room. The meeting brought together leaders of PSD and DAGS and their consultants to present information to an audience interested in the future of OCCC. The meeting also provided the public with a forum from which to offer comments and input concerning the Draft EIS for the proposed OCCC project. An Open House preceded the formal public meeting where members of the public could interact with representatives of the OCCC Project Team to share information, receive answers to questions concerning the proposed project, and offer their thoughts and insights (Figure 1).



**FIGURE 1: Open House**



**FIGURE 2: Director Espinda**



**FIGURE 3: Comptroller Becker**

### Overview of Items Discussed

The Town Hall meeting began with introductory remarks by Tracey S. Wiltgen of the Mediation Center of the Pacific, who was the Moderator for the meeting. PSD Director Nolan P. Espinda then welcomed the audience and explained the urgent need to replace the outmoded, obsolete and inefficient OCCC (Figure 2). He also credited Governor David Ige with leading from the front on this project, beginning with the Governor's vision first expressed in his 2016 State of the State speech and continuing to his November 8, 2017 Press Conference announcing the Animal Quarantine Station as the preferred site for the new OCCC.

"A new OCCC at the Animal Quarantine Station site in Halawa, as proposed in the Draft EIS, would better meet the current and future needs of the State of Hawaii," said Public Safety Director Nolan Espinda. "The notion that we are trying to build a larger facility to expand and increase our incarcerated population is simply not true. It is critical that we build a more modern and efficient jail to house our current population in a safe, secure, clean and constitutionally compliant facility."

Following Director Espinda was State Comptroller Roderick K. Becker who described the role of DAGS in the important and much-needed OCCC project (Figure 3). DAGS is assisting PSD to oversee the planning process for the new facility and supporting PSD's efforts to improve all of Hawaii's jail facilities. DAGS and PSD have also a strong working relationship with the Consultant Team, who have partnered with the State of Hawaii to plan the new facility.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF OCCC  
Town Hall Meeting

**FIGURE 4:** Bettina Mehnert



Comptroller Becker also provided a brief overview of the purpose of the environmental review process which is to ensure that all environmental, economic, and technical concerns are given appropriate consideration in decision making. While there are several types of actions that can “trigger” the State’s environmental law, every State project is required to address this law in some form.

Consultant Team representatives followed next with information concerning the timeline for developing a new OCCC, the extensive public outreach undertaken since 2016, technical information about Draft EIS contents, how to view a copy of the document, and the process and deadline for submitting written comments to be addressed in the Final EIS.

Bettina Mehnert, Chief Executive Officer of AHL (the prime consultant) discussed the importance of the OCCC project (Figure 4). She reminded the audience that how we care for our inmates is a reflection of who we are as a society. Development of a new OCCC is expected to be a catalyst for change in Hawaii – that developing a modern OCCC will have a ripple effect because it means the facility can be designed to support programs tailored for Hawaii’s local and cultural context.

**FIGURE 5:** Olelo



Ms. Mehnert also described the project timeline; planning began in 2016 and will continue through the end of 2018, with approximately two years devoted to facility design (2019 - 2021). Actual construction will likely take a minimum of 2 years (2021–2023).

Bob Nardi, Senior Vice President with Louis Berger U.S., summarized the contents of the Draft EIS. The primary finding of the Draft EIS was the identification of the Animal Quarantine Station site as the #1 preferred location for OCCC development. With selection of the Animal Quarantine Station site for the new OCCC, two of the State’s pressing facility needs (a modern OCCC and a new Animal Quarantine Station) are being addressed.



**FIGURE 6:** Community Members

Vincent Shigekuni, Vice President of PBR Hawai’i & Associates, Inc., led the audience through the process of acquiring a copy of the Draft EIS and how to submit questions or comments.

The Town Hall meeting was filmed by Olelo (Figure 5) and broadcasted on television in December 2017. Around 80 members of the community attended the Town Hall to learn more about the DEIS and the OCCC project, and also to share their opinions with PSD (Figure 6 and Figure 9 on the subsequent page).



**FIGURE 7: Community Member**

## Public Offered Comments During Meeting

The primary purposes of the meeting were to offer members of the community an additional opportunity to make their voice heard by the OCCC Team and the island-wide community and to provide feedback directly to the team to be used as part of the Final EIS effort. Towards that end, the majority of the evening was given over to the public who offered verbal comments covering a wide variety of topics including the need for additional programs and services to help offenders reintegrate into their communities, the role of state-sponsored task forces and commissions studying approaches to reforming the criminal justice system in Hawaii, and concerns over the possible cost of developing a new OCCC among other issues and concerns (Figures 7 and 8). Those unable or unwilling to speak were offered comment cards to allow for written comments that were reviewed by the OCCC Team following the meeting for inclusion in the EIS process.



**FIGURE 8: Community Member**

After the last member of the public concluded her remarks, Director Nolan P. Espinda closed the meeting on behalf of PSD and DAGS by thanking all who attended for taking time to join the OCCC Team and others at the Town Hall meeting. “We appreciate your comments and will consider them going forward into the EIS process” said Espinda. He also encouraged the audience to visit the OCCC website periodically for the latest information on the project’s progress (<http://dps.hawaii.gov/occc-future-plans>).



**FIGURE 9: OCCC Town Hall Meeting**