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HALAWA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY ASSESSING ELECTRONIC LOCKING SYSTEM POWER FAILURE IN ONE HOUSING MODULE

HONOLULU – An electronic locking system power failure occurred last night in one housing module at the Halawa Correctional Facility. The problem is related to a part malfunction in the 30-year old electronic locking system. The Department of Public Safety (PSD) is currently assessing whether or not the part can be fixed or needs to be replaced. In the meantime, the module doors and cells are being opened and closed by key.

“The facility is secure. The manual locking of the doors is a contingency plan that was built into our system and I can assure the public that there is no security risk or public safety issue,” said Nolan Espinda, Public Safety Director. “Our staff are trained for situations like these and reacted accordingly to maintain security and control in the module.”

In late 2014, part of the electronic locking system that affected a different housing module and the Special Holding Unit, failed due to a part malfunction in the old system. A temporary, \$235,000 fix was made to immediately address the issue until the new locking system, that was already planned, could be installed.

In August 2016, the \$9.8 million dollar electronic locking system upgrade work began. In February 2017, 248 inmates were transferred to the mainland, to clear one housing module, so upgrades could begin in the four housing areas. The module that failed is next in line for the upgrade.

“The old locking system is the original system that was installed in 1987 when Halawa was built. We had already started the process to replace it before the 2014 malfunction occurred. This system is on its last leg so the replacement project couldn’t come at a better time,” said Espinda.

The locking system upgrades are expected to be completed in December 2017.

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