



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
E HUIKALA A MA'EMA'E NŌ
235 S. Beretania Street, 16th Floor
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 587-4160

Meeting Minutes

The monthly Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission meeting is offered as a hybrid meeting where Commissioners and members of the public can participate in person, or via teleconference. Details for both options are noted below.

Time: Thursday, August 13, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Leiopapa A. Kamehameha Building
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 204
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Recording: [YouTube](https://youtu.be/UCvPZwjaQrg?si=PoqAbsw7RabgZ-Dr)
<https://youtu.be/UCvPZwjaQrg?si=PoqAbsw7RabgZ-Dr>

Transcript: [Meeting Transcript](#)

Items to be Discussed:

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

- Chair Mark Patterson
- Commissioner R. Mark Browning (virtual)
- Commissioner Ronald Ibarra
- Commissioner Martha Torney
- Commissioner Mike Town (virtual)

Quorum was established with all members present. Also present in person are Oversight Coordinator Christin Johnson and Special Assistant George Choe.

III. (0:02:30) Approval of Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2026

- Review of minutes by members. Motion by Chair Patterson to approve July 9, 2026, Open Session Meeting Minutes.
 - i. Motion moved by Commissioner Town and seconded by Commissioner Ibarra.
 - ii. Vote: Unanimous approval, motion passed, minutes approved.

IV. (0:03:40) Monthly Update from Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Director Tommy Johnson

- DCR is working with CoreCivic on [Act 292](#) to make sure the SHIP program becomes in compliance with the new law.
- 38 inmates transferred from Halawa Correctional Facility of general population to Tallahatchie, Mississippi in June 2026.
 - i. Initial thoughts were to transfer inmates who had mental health illnesses but were stable on medication, but better to transfer to Waiawa Correctional Facility due to environment. Planning stages currently with warden, mental health administrator, corrections healthcare administrator, and medical director.
 - ii. Director makes it clear that DCR have “transferred inmates to all our correctional facilities with mental health illnesses for decades,” provided they qualify stable on medication and meet qualifications.
 - iii. Waiawa is a minimum security facility, so those housed there would be minimum or community custody.
- Requesting \$130M funding to raise and rebuild Laumaka work furlough center this coming legislative session.
 - i. Plans to redesignate center as Laumaka Reentry and Reintegration center
 - ii. Plans to increase capacity to 240 from 120 currently.
 - iii. Will temporarily move inmates around at the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) to accommodate the current 60+ inmates currently at Laumaka.
- Reviewed OCCC plans and to reduce bed capacity from 1,000 to 800.
 - i. Looking to put infrastructure for entire 1,000 bed buildout but only put in the 800 beds.
 - ii. Will be working with the Federal Bureau of Prisons on increasing presence at the Federal Detention Center (FDC) as a result for the sentence felon population.
- Maui Community Correctional Center dormitory construction was halted temporarily due to underground cabling found and had to go back to Department of Planning and Permitting with the consultants and DAGS. Currently one year behind schedule but has resumed construction.
 - i. Will eliminate male inmates traversing through the female inmate dormitory to get to medical and will have a dedicated path.

Public Testimony

- Oral Testimony:
 - Kat Brady addresses concern of murder that occurred at OCCC of the transgender woman. Chair to remind that questions to be directed to the Commission on topic previously discussed on agenda.
 - McKenna Woodward, Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) asks question regarding transfers of 38 inmates in June to Mississippi. Seeking more clarification on this.
- Written Testimony: No previously submitted written testimony was received.

- Commission:
 - Chair Torney speaks on CoreCivic and the meeting about the restrictive housing and SHIP program and are required to abide by Hawaii law. Concerned what these meetings are about.
 1. Director responds that meetings are to make sure that the SHIP program complies with Act 292 with respect to out-of-cell time. Will discuss with Commission in closed door but not in open forum.
 2. Supports move of mental health individuals to Waiawa as they should be minimum security facility.
 - Commissioner Browning has questions regarding transfer of 38 inmates to Mississippi.
 1. How are they chosen, is there a criterion?
 - Criteria used on looking at intended parole date.
 - Program compliant?
 - Extraordinary medical needs that would prevent them from going to an outside facility?
 2. Normal criteria used if were sent to Saguaro, but don't have the room there.
 - Working with CoreCivic if Idaho or one of their other jurisdictions could be consolidated.
 3. How was Mississippi institution chosen?
 - Looking at mental health population, but decision to move mental health inmates to Waiawa to fill empty beds as that was one of the commission's concerns.

V. (0:20:30) Overview of Oversight Coordinator Report

- Deaths in Custody
 - i. Last reported death in custody was on June 28, 2026.
- Tours
 - i. No tours scheduled
- Events Attended
 - i. Going Home Hawai'i Consortium Meeting
 - ii. 2026 Webinar Series – AI Police Reports and Machine-Generated Evidence: What Civilian Oversight Needs to Know
 - iii. District Court Jail Diversion Program Graduation
- Complaints Received by the Commission
- Findings on Lack of Movement Throughout the Prison System
- Past Meetings

Public Testimony

- Oral Testimony:
 - Awapuhi Kalauli Robinson brings upon complaint and inquiry submitted to Ms. Johnson in 2024 of what happened to her from April 29 to May 6, 2024. Chair reminds that testimony to be directed on current agenda

item and will have opportunity to speak during public testimony on items not on the agenda.

- Kiki Walker, member of the Family Council for the Hawaii Disability Rights Center
- Michael Golojuch Jr., Chair of the Hawaii State LGBTQ+ community Commission and to discuss murder of Denise Foster and misgendering of her in the commission report. Ms. Johnson apologized and will correct error in report.
- Isis Usborne, law student at UH Richardson school of law and mentions Farmer v. Brennan federal case and similar situation of a transgender woman placed in a male maximum security institution.
- Carrie Ann Shiota mentions death in custody reports by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation website. Department is required to provide these reports within 48 hours. There should be a duty also to put this online so that the community is aware of what's occurring in prison and jails.
 1. Demographics of inmates who have died in custody from the beginning of the year until now, June, 8 persons have died (5 were elderly)
- Madeline, manager of The Kua'ana Project at the Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center makes statement mourning the loss of Denise Foster.
- Kat Brady, need to understand how different people are treated and everyone needs to be treated with dignity and respect and a tragedy of a transgendered woman.
- Written Testimony: No previously submitted written testimony was received.
- Commission:
 - Commissioner Torney makes comment on transgender individuals housed in the past and where to appropriately house them. No reason why we can't accommodate those type of people who need that kind of care.

VI. (0:59:30) [Overview of the Oahu Community Correctional Center Visit & Report](#)

Public Testimony

- Oral Testimony: None
- Written Testimony: None
- Commission: None

VII. (1:12:25) Public Comment

- Public comment on issues not on the agenda, for consideration for Commission's agenda at the next meeting.
 - i. Awapuhi Kalauli Robinson
 - ii. Nina "Ronin"
 - iii. Ronald Fujiyoshi, Ohana Ho'opakele

- iv. Kat Brady
- v. Nikos Leverenz
- vi. Michael Golojuch Jr., HRS 369
- vii. Isis Osborne
- viii. Carrie Ann Shirota

VIII. (1:43:45) Announcements and Scheduling of the Next Meeting

- Thursday, August 27, 2026
 - i. Facility Visit: Hawaii Community Correctional Center
- Thursday, September 10, 2026, 9:00 a.m.
 - i. Commission Meeting
 - ii. Facility Visit: Women's Community Correctional Center

IX. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
George Choe, Special Assistant to Oversight Coordinator
Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813