

Sustaining a Culture of Collaboration and Community

The New O'ahu Jail Project

STATUS UPDATE

April 2026

Senate Committees on Public Safety
& Military Affairs and Hawaiian Affairs



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Topics

- **Before We Start: Jail vs Prison**
- **Project History**
- **Project Goals/Vision**
- **Accomplishments**
- **Current Activities**
- **Cost Implications**
- **Project Timeline**

Difference Between a Jail and a Prison



	Jail	Prison
Length of Stay:	< 12 months. Average stay for OCCC is 3 weeks.	> 12 months Average stay at Halawa Correctional is several years.



Jurisdiction:	Operated by local law enforcement agencies or by for-profit private companies through state contracts.	Operated by federal and state law enforcement or by for-profit private companies through state contracts.
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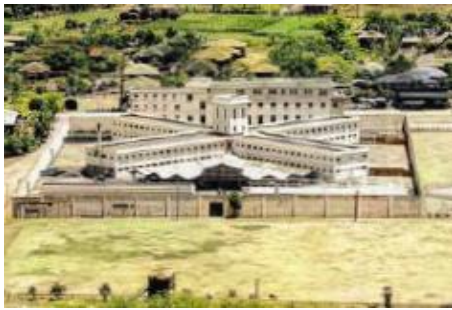
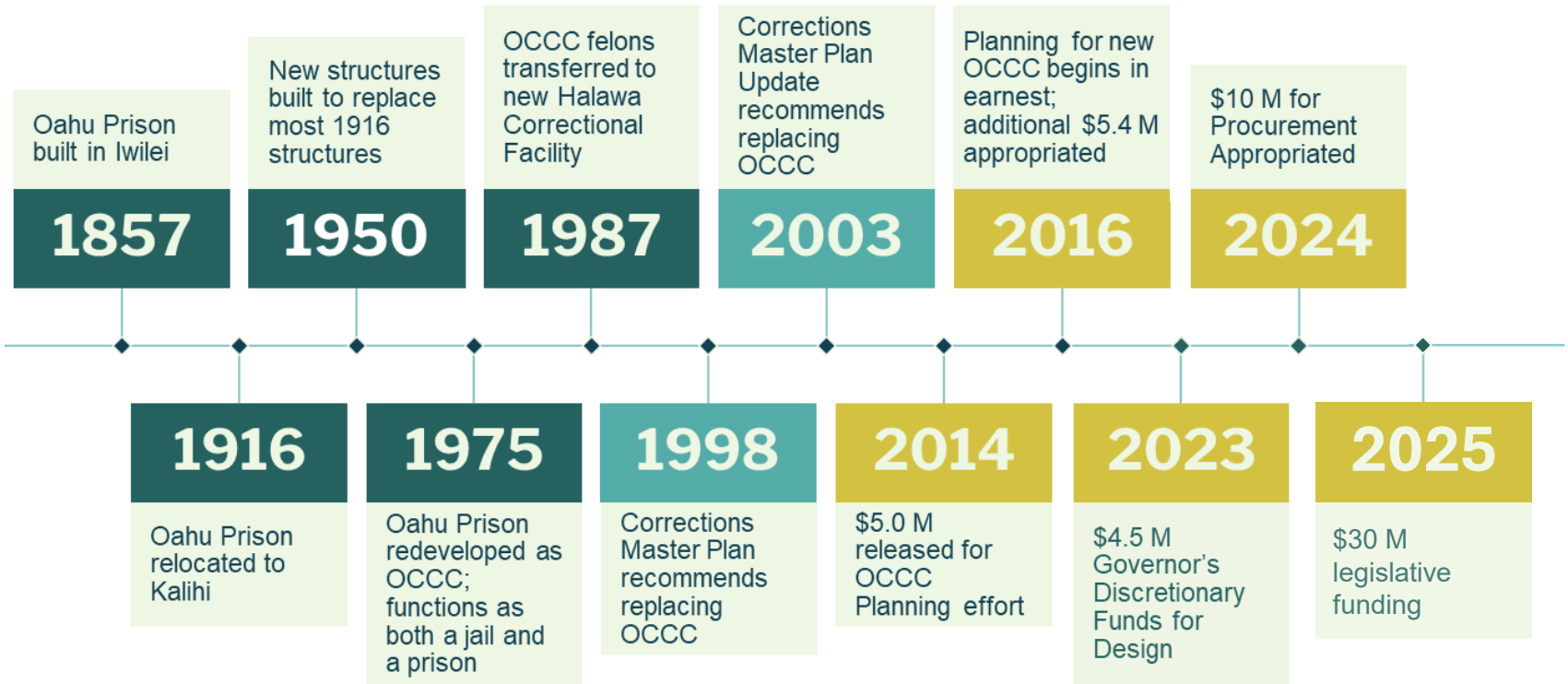


Type of Offense:	Individuals who have been arrested and are awaiting trial or have been sentenced for minor crimes.	Individuals who have been sentenced for major crimes and felonies.
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Programs and Services:	Aimed at helping individuals successfully re-enter society upon release.	Offer a wider range of comprehensive programs due to longer incarceration periods.
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Project History



Existing OCCC Shortcomings

- Most buildings date from 1970s; some date back to 1930s
- Existing facility issues include:
 - Obsolete design is inefficient
 - Deteriorated physical plant
 - Overcrowding
 - Limited space restricts available activities
 - Non-productive environment: Dark and narrow corridors, poor acoustics, limited natural light, lack of privacy
 - Incapable of providing conditions that are therapeutic, curative, compassionate, humane, and offering hope
 - Individuals with mental illness, serious medical conditions, and in protective and maximum custody, housed with general population to detriment to all
 - Security electronics and management technologies are outdated
 - Not prepared to deal with today's new challenges such as pandemics

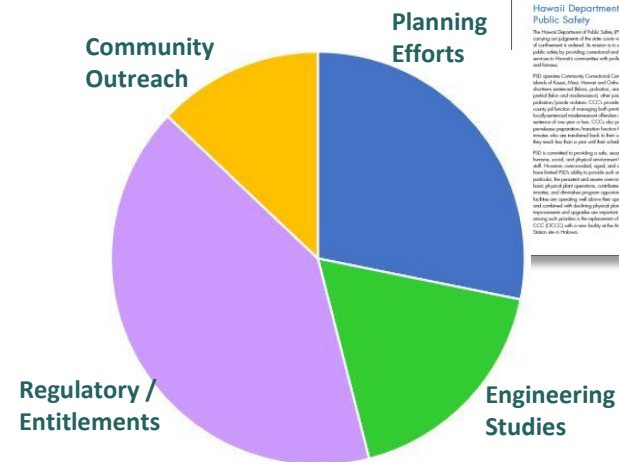
Project Goals and Vision

- Significantly improve how individuals are housed and treated at OCCC
- Eliminate need for costly temporary repairs that try to remedy obsolete physical plant and design
- Adopt new technologies, make more effective use of staff, and optimize cost efficiencies
- Expand number of transitional beds and treatment and program spaces to prepare inmates for successful community re-entry
- Ensure racial equity and provide therapeutic, rather than punitive, facilities and services
- Promote positive changes via new treatment programs, expanded medical and mental health services, and similar assistance
- Improve living and working conditions for occupants and staff
- Reduce recidivism

Phase 1 – Planning (2016 – 2020) \$5.3 Million

Completed

- Population forecast completed
- Public outreach and engagement program begins
- 12 alternative OCCC sites identified and evaluated
- Community Partnering Plan developed
- Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) accepted
- Governor Ige endorses new OCCC at Animal Quarantine Station site
- OCCC Master Plan completed
- Plan Review Use (PRU) application approved by City Council
- Boundary and topographic surveys completed



Current Animal Quarantine Station Site



Google Earth

OCCC Architectural Programming

- OCCC populations forecasted in 2016 for 10-year period
- 2021 forecast update shows a need for 1,012 beds for male detainees in 2024 declining to 911 beds in 2032

Year	OCCC (Males)			
	ADP	Peaking (5%)	Classification (10.6%)	Total Bed Need
2024	875	44	93	1012
2026	853	43	90	986
2028	831	42	88	960
2030	809	40	86	935
2032	788	39	84	911

ADP = Average Daily Population

OCCC Bed Types & Space Requirements

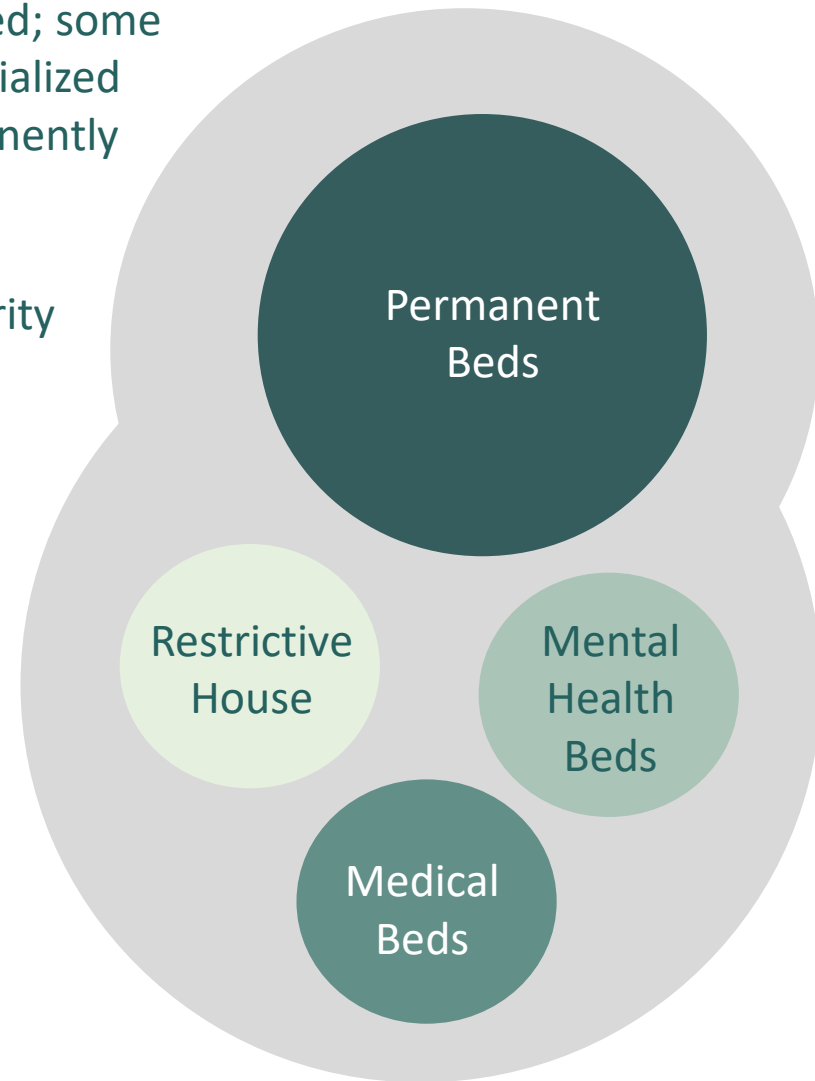
Inmates can't be assigned to just any bed; some types of beds need to be reserved for specialized treatment, either temporarily or permanently

1,000 (+/-) Permanent Beds

- Minimum, Medium, Maximum Security
- Mental Health Special Needs
- Medical Special Needs
- Special Management

Temporary Beds

- Mental Health Acute
- Mental Health Subacute
- Medical Skilled Nursing
- Restrictive Housing



Accomplishments and Current Activities

Phase 3 – Bridging Documents

Ongoing

- Planning – Completed
- Conceptual design - Completed
- Geotechnical/hazardous materials investigations – Completed
- Schematic design - *Underway*
- Market sounding and outreach – *Underway*
- New Animal Quarantine Station design – *Underway*
- Update OCCC development program – *Underway*
- Prepare Request for Qualifications – *Underway*
- Property entitlements – *Underway* Community outreach and engagement – *Underway*
- Community outreach and engagement – *Underway*



Current Animal Quarantine Station Site



Conceptual Rendering



Conceptual Rendering



Conceptual Rendering



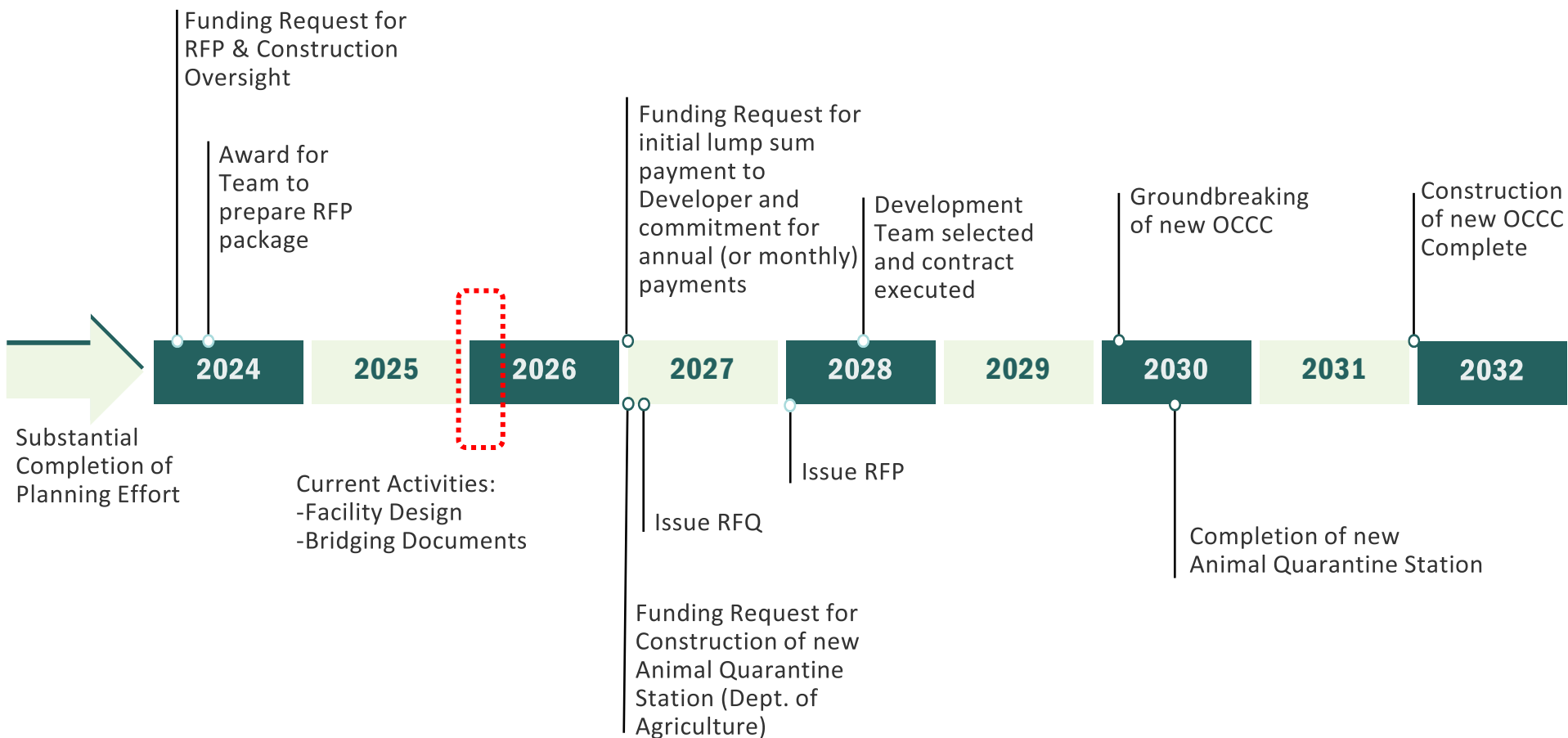
Current Animal Quarantine Station Site



Exterior Material Board



Project Schedule



Mālama ia Hawai'i
caring for and protecting our island community

THE NEW O'AHU JAIL

newoahujail.hawaii.gov

Mahalo



<https://newoahujail.hawaii.gov/>