DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY COVID-19 INFORMATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL UPDATES (4/17/20)

(HONOLULU) – There are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the prisons or jails.

Hawaii Paroling Authority Update

To assist in reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus and ensure the health and safety of Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) staff and those who visit HPA's offices statewide, the Authority has implemented the following updated safety protocols:

- Entry into HPA offices will be by appointment only. Appointments will only be scheduled for essential issues that must be addressed in person. All other matters will need to be addressed via the use of telephone and email.
- Those tentatively approved for appointment and entrance into any HPA office will be subject to on-site mandatory health, safety, and sanitation protocols to include a health screening questionnaire, no-touch temperature check, hand sanitizing, and use of a mask.
- All visitors will be escorted by HPA staff and required to remain in the conference room for the duration of the office visit.

Anyone who refuses to comply with HPA's mandatory health, safety, and sanitation protocols will be denied access.

Signs have been posted outside for parolees and inside for HPA staff with the latest scheduling and office updates. An information hotline was established with recorded updates for the general public. That number: (808) 253-1642.

Jail Population Report

- From March 2 to April 17 there has been a substantial decrease in the jail population. This is due to the huge efforts made by the State Judiciary, county police departments and PSD's Intake Service Division as they work together to limit the number of people requiring admittance into the jails. All decreases were pursuant to independently issued court orders.

Jail Population Report			Population Decrease
Facility (Operational Capacity)	2-Mar	17-Apr	
HCCC (226)	395	283	-112
KCCC (128)	143	93	-50
MCCC (301)	450	310	-140
OCCC (954)	1201	884	-317
TOTAL	2189	1570	-619

Inmate Population Relief Efforts

- The Department of Public Safety is following the petition from the Office of the Public Defender (OPD) to the Hawai'i Supreme Court requesting release of certain inmates due to concerns of possible spread of COVID-19 to the prisons and jails. On Wednesday, April 15, the Supreme Court agreed with Special Master Daniel Foley's initial recommendations and issued an interim order calling for the continued coordination between all parties involved, to submit a list by Monday, April 20 of select probation and pre-trial jail inmates for court considered release. Prosecutors have three days to submit motions to object. The courts will determine by April 28 who may be considered for release.
- Recently, the Department of Public Safety received an official response letter from the FDC Warden, agreeing to resume taking up to 100 PSD inmates, effective Monday, April 13, 2020. The process is currently underway.

Inmate testing

There are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the prisons or jails. The latest Inmate Testing Report can be found on our PSD COVID-19 information and resources webpage.

Inmate Sewing Program Mask Production Update

Inmates in the sewing program are sewing thousands of cloth face coverings for Public Safety Department staff, inmates and other state agencies as a way to prevent COVID-19 from spreading, and to give back something to the community.

This sewing project began on April 1 at the Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF) and Kulani Correctional Facility (KCF), with the assistance of the Hawaii Correctional Industries (HCI) which supplied the fabric, sewing supplies and sewing machines for the inmates. The program expanded on Wednesday and now includes a work line at the Hawaii Community Correctional Center (HCCC). Work lines that were sewing 600-700 masks a day last week are now producing 2,000 masks per day. By April 30, HCI anticipates manufacturing as many as 6,000 masks a day. With an anticipated increase in work line participants, sewing machines, fabric and sewing supplies, HCI is confidently estimating that it will be able to sew over 300,000 masks in the next 60 days.

The rollout to PSD's Corrections Division, Health Care Division, Law Enforcement Division, and Administrative Division staff has already begun. Once the orders for staff are complete, pending orders from the facilities for inmates will follow. The total order for the Department is currently 14,000 masks. Delivery is happening in phases and is estimated to be completed by the end of the month.

Once the PSD orders are complete, HCI will expand to include orders for cloth masks from other state agencies, and then open it up to the public.

There are currently 70 work line participants. HCI will have 120 inmates sewing masks by Monday. They have purchased an additional 17 sewing machines and have an order in for 20 more. They are still seeking continued donations from the public to meet the increased demand and their goal of expanding work lines to include more inmates waiting to get involved.

“When we made the announcement last week about needing donations, we weren’t sure what to expect. We are so grateful and thankful to the public and PSD employees who generously stepped up to donate over 100 yards of fabric in various prints and colors, 200 spools of thread, 2 sewing machines, many scissors and sewing machine needles, and even money for supplies,” said Shawntay Yasuda, HCI Operations Manager.

HCI is grateful to also be working with Hawaii Fabric Mart and Printex Fabrics, but the anticipated work line staffing and production increases means they need more sewing materials such as:

- sewing machines
- sewing machine needles
- new fabric by the yard (100% cotton or any poly cotton fabric)
- plastic tables
- irons w/ small tabletop ironing boards
- fabric scissors
- thread – all colors

The public can donate equipment and/or sewing supplies to Hawaii Correctional Industries by contacting them at 808-677-6638 or email psd.hawaiici@hawaii.gov.

Donations Received

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) would like to extend its thanks to Lieutenant Governor Josh Green for coordinating the donation of 6,000 surgical grade masks to PSD on Monday. Two thousand (2,000) masks were given to the Sheriff Division for distribution and the rest are being given to all correctional facilities statewide.

“This generous contribution will go a long way towards helping us in our efforts to safeguard our staff and the inmates under our care,” said Nolan Espinda, Public Safety Director. “I want to give a personal thank you to Lt. Governor Green for his assistance and look forward to our continued partnership as we all work together towards promoting public health and safety of the people of Hawaii during this unprecedented time.”

Lt. Governor Green says, “I’m incredibly proud of our community for supporting each other during this difficult time. Mahalo to Ohana Health which made this donation of 6,000 surgical masks possible. Our public safety team is doing tireless and oftentimes thankless work to keep everyone safe and healthy. We’re greatly appreciative of their dedication.”

Several facilities have also received generous donations from the public to include various types of masks, hand sanitizer, soap, plastic barrier building supplies, and even fresh produce. The Department of Public Safety thanks everyone for their generosity during this trying time.

For more information on PSD’s response to COVID-19 and information detailing the efforts we have made to safeguard the inmates, staff and public, visit our webpage at: http://dps.hawaii.gov/blog/2020/03/17/coronavirus-covid-19-information-and-resources/

Please sign up for PSD alerts and notifications through our AlertSense notification system by going to https://hawaiiPSD.myfreealerts.com. Residents can download the free AlertSense mobile app for Android and Apple devices, or text their zip code to 38276 to instantly sign up.

(Note: schedules and information included in this news release are subject to change at a moment's notice as the overall situation and the State's response to COVID-19 evolves day-by-day.)

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