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 (3/27/20)

HONOLULU – This is a Department of Public Safety (PSD) informational and procedural update for 3/27/20. No inmates have met PUI (Persons Under Investigation) criteria for COVID-19. (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.)

## Inmate Population Relief Efforts

The Department of Public Safety is well aware of the risks of over-population and crowding in our jails, especially during this pandemic. We are taking proactive measures with our criminal justice partners, including the Office of the Attorney General, the Judiciary, County Prosecutors, Office of the Public Defender, and the Hawai'i Paroling Authority, to find ways to temporarily reduce the number of people in our prisons and jails, while keeping the overall safety of the community our top priority. Those measures include the following:

1. To assist the Judiciary with their decision-making process, PSD submitted a list of those incarcerated as pre-trial and sentenced misdemeanants as well as those who are incarcerated as felony probationers.

2. The Department of Public Safety has been working with our Judicial partners to implement more video conferencing of arraignment and plea (A&P) proceedings and bail motions. The video conferencing at OCCC was

successfully increased to three days a week. We are looking at possibly expanding to additional days.

- Since February 24th there has been a substantial decrease in the jail population. This is due in part to the huge efforts being made by the Judiciary as they work with PSD to reduce the number of people in our jails.

| Jail Population Report | | | Population Decrease |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 24-Feb | 27-Mar | |
| HCCC | 418 | 356 | 62 |
| KCCC | 147 | 131 | 16 |
| MCCC | 449 | 378 | 71 |
| OCCC | 1231 | 1024 | 207 |
| TOTAL | 2245 | 1889 | 356 |

3. PSD identified 52 inmates at the Halawa Correctional Facility and 5 at the Women's Community Correctional Center who will be completing their full sentence between 3/28/20 – 6/30/20. A list has been sent to the Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) for its consideration.

4. The Hawaii Paroling Authority (HPA) is identifying all cases statewide that are approved for parole and pending a release date set by the HPA chair. HPA is working to expedite the verifications process for their approved release.

**Summary of previous update information issued through March:**

- HPA board suspended all parole hearings for two weeks. Hearings are tentatively scheduled to resume on 4/3/20.

- All inmate work furlough passes and Hawaii Correctional Industries (HCI) outside community service work lines are suspended until further notice.
- All non-essential programming is temporarily suspended. (Correctional services such as: security, health care, food service, and facility operations/maintenance will continue as scheduled. Essential medical specialist transports, hospital and emergency transports will continue as needed.)
- Enhanced screening is implemented at entry points, including no-touch temperature checks and verbal health screening questions.
- Correctional facility entry suspensions include volunteers, non-essential program staff and personal inmate visitors. (Attorneys and vendors/contractors providing inmate health and safety products and services are still allowed).

- Increased inmate phone accessibility – Inmates are afforded an unlimited number of pre-paid and collect 15-minute personal phone calls. The personal call duration has been increased to allow up to 30 minutes per call.
- Free phone calls – GlobalTel Link (GTL) is providing two, free, five-minute-long calls per week for the next four weeks.

Health care staff have had continuous, open dialogue with the Department of Health (DOH), and facility staff are being briefed on protocols as the situation changes day-by-day.

Staff have been reminded to frequently wash their hands and refrain from touching their faces, per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-recommended guidelines. Daily emails with the latest COVID-19 information, guidance and recommendations from the CDC and from DOH are being sent to all employees to keep everyone informed.

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.

The Public Safety Department also encourages everyone to visit the Hawai‘i COVID-19 webpage for resources and the most up-to-date information on the virus at https://HawaiiCovid19.com. You can also get connected through 2-1-1.

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