



Connecting on **The Road to Home**

INSTITUTIONAL RE-ENTRY AND HOUSING NEEDS
(OCTOBER 2022)



Housekeeping Reminders

**Please Mute Your Microphone.
Enter Questions in the Chat Box
or Raise Your Hand.**

A recording of this webinar and copies of the presentation materials will be available online at:

<https://homelessness.hawaii.gov/monthly-webinars/>



October 2022

Homelessness Awareness Month

Continuum of Care Updates

Housing Advocacy Updates

Homelessness Awareness Month

- The State of Hawaii has designated November as [Homelessness Awareness Month](#)
- The County of Hawaii has also designated November as [Housing Awareness Month](#)
- The week of November 12th - 20th is national [Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week](#)

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November Special Events

- November 15th - Public forum with delegates from Finland (Hilo)
- November 17th - "Aloha Helsinki" film screening and discussion (Oahu)
- November 19th - Forums and workshops about how lessons from Finland can apply to Hawaii (Oahu)

Locations and details available at:

<https://www.partnersincareoahu.org/2022-conference-special-events>

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November 19th Agenda

- 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. - Plenary: "How We Got Here: History of Hawai'i Land Use. Comparisons to Samiland."
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Plenary: "Finland is Ending Homelessness. How Hawai'i Can Do It."
- 1:45 - 3:00 p.m. - Breakout Sessions
 - Strategies for Affordable Housing in Hawai'i
 - Housing Stability through Rent Assistance and Mediation Support
- 3:15 - 4:30 p.m. - Breakout Sessions
 - Turning NIMBY into YIMBY - Affordable Housing in Every Neighborhood
 - Revenue Sources for Affordable Housing
- 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. - Pau Hana

Locations and details available at:

<https://www.partnersincareoahu.org/2022-conference-special-events>

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Continuum of Care Updates

- Both CoCs have submitted their FY2022 CoC NOFO and Special NOFO applications to HUD. *Mahalo to staff and key stakeholders who worked hard to meet these deadlines!*
- Bridging the Gap recently published two additional interactive dashboards for both adult and family homelessness on the neighbor islands. These dashboards may be viewed at <http://btghawaii.org>.

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Housing Advocacy Updates

Supportive Housing Work Group

- As the Supportive Housing Work Group wraps up, we will be working on a summary document to help make the case for more supportive housing.
- Please contact cheryl.a.bellisario@hawaii.gov if your agency is interested in participating.

PIC & BTG Joint Advocacy Group

- The group continues to meet on the 4th Fridays at 12 p.m.
- The 2023 Hawaii State Legislative Session is quickly approaching. Please join to help shape statewide advocacy priorities for next year!
- Please contact cheryl.a.bellisario@hawaii.gov if your agency is interested in participating.



Institutional Re-Entry and Housing Needs

Housing Instability and Justice Involvement: A Cyclical Relationship

1. Law enforcement policies and procedures that contribute to arrest for behaviors associated with experiencing homelessness

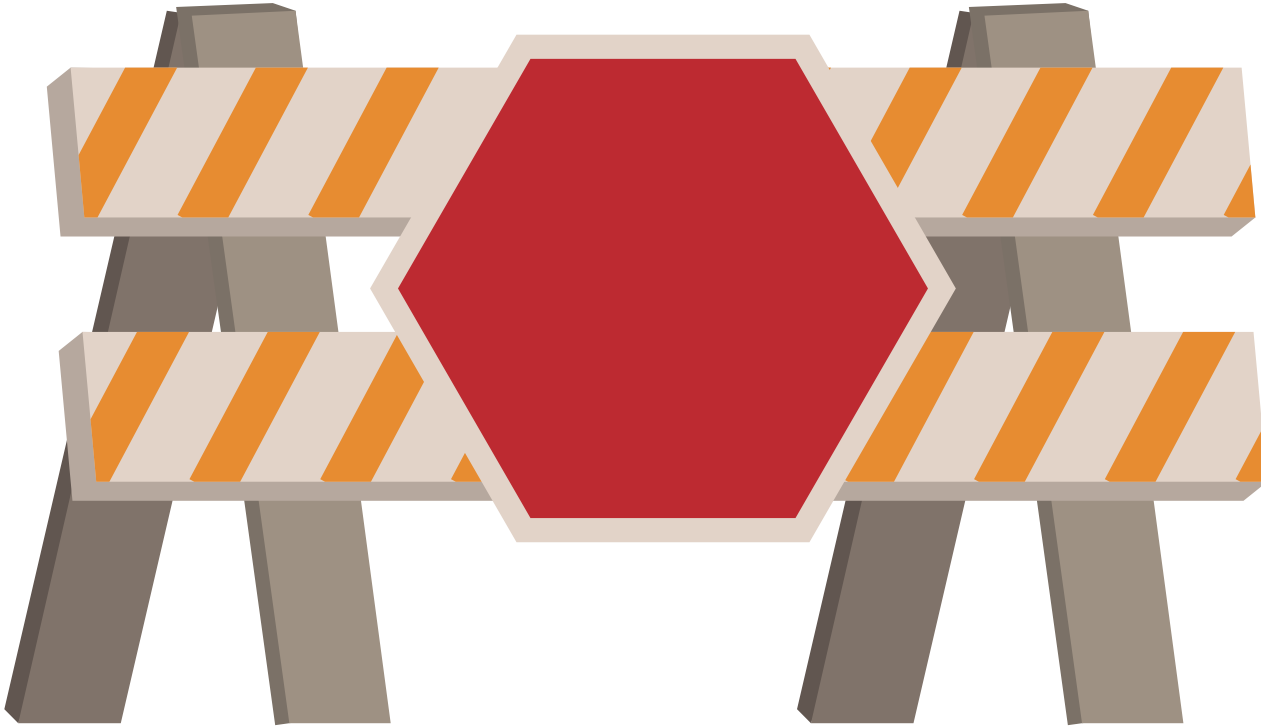
2. Lack of stable housing viewed as a risk factor and reduces courts' willingness to divert people from jail or prison



4. Lack of stable housing upon exit from jail contributes to supervision failure, increases risk of recidivism

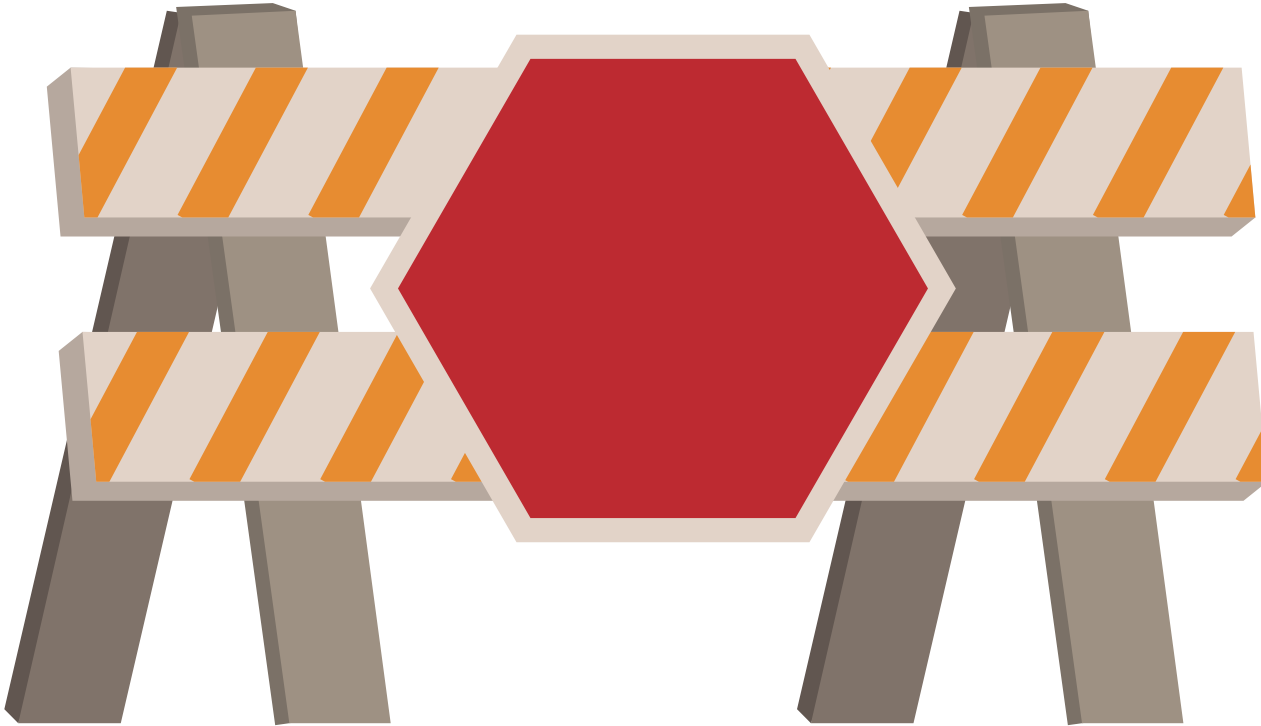
3. Criminal history serves as a barrier to housing, contributing to housing instability and homelessness

Incarceration Barriers



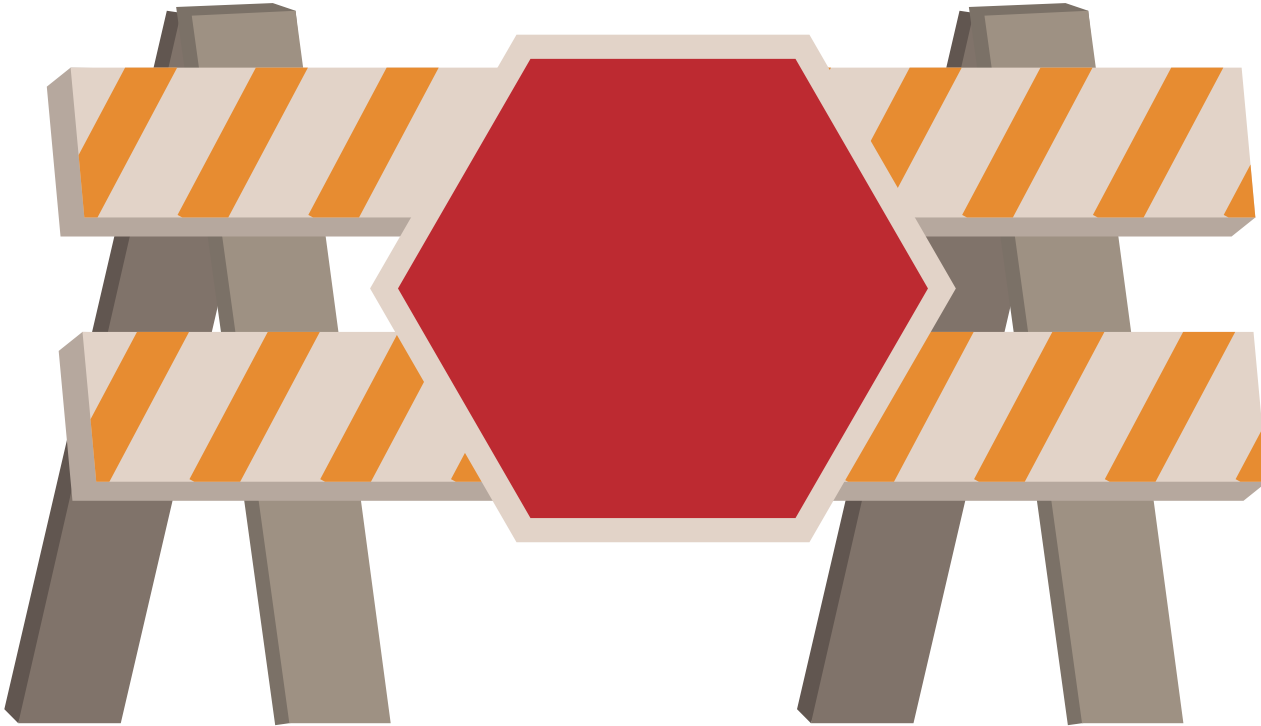
**People exiting
institutions after 90+
days no longer meet the
federal (HUD) definition
of "literally homeless"**

Incarceration Barriers



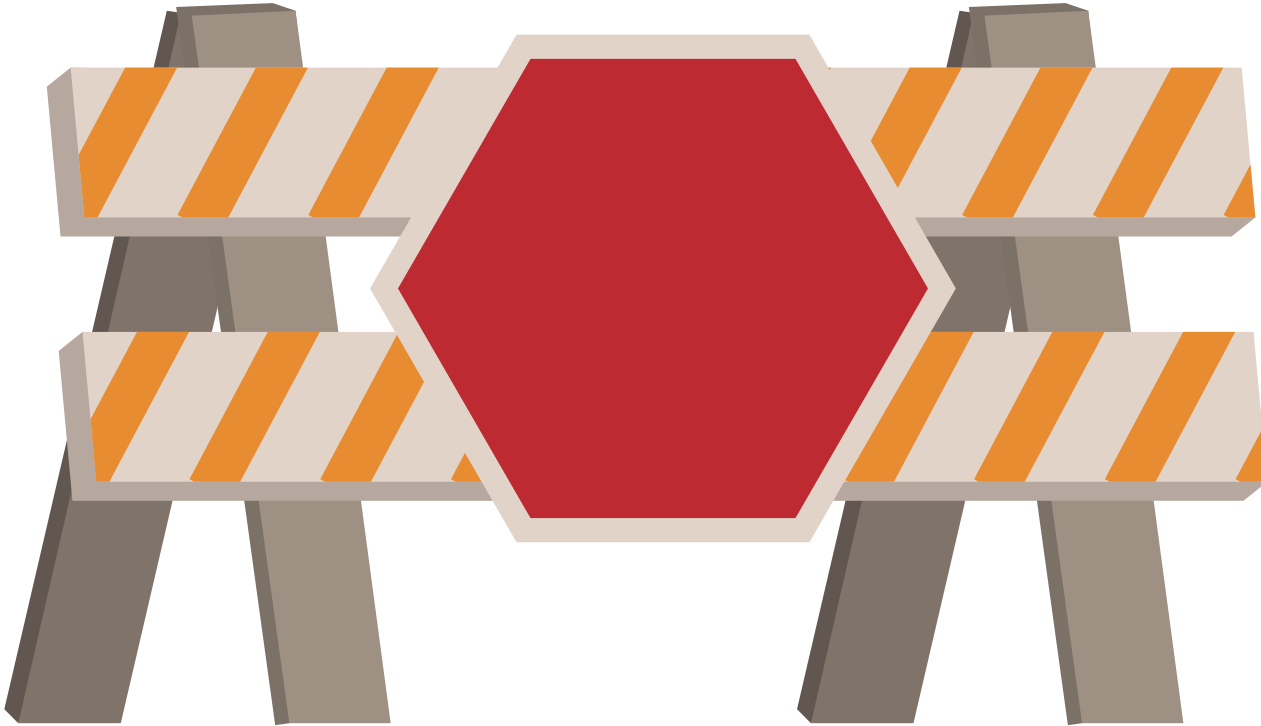
Extended absences from a subsidized housing unit (e.g. Section 8, public housing) may result in a loss of subsidy

Incarceration Barriers



**People residing in public
institutions cannot
receive public benefits**

Incarceration Barriers



**Criminal convictions can
be barriers to housing,
employment, and other
resources**

Additional re-entry housing considerations

- Residential stability
- Proximity to family members
- Access to positive social relationships
- Economic security

October 2022

Institutional Re-Entry and Housing Needs



**Nemesis Nichols, Efren Berrones,
and Melissa Waiters**

Residential Youth Services &
Empowerment and Kinai 'Eha

Les Estrella

Going Home Hawaii

**Tadia Rice, Zoe O'Brien, and
Momilani Cody**

Beyond Bars



Residential Youth Services & Empowerment

Diversion Program



rysehawaii.org

Who We Are



Our mission is to provide a continuum of support that empowers Hawaii's street youth to move beyond homelessness.

We envision a community where there is no youth homelessness.

Our Goal



Our goal is to provide safety and help youth get off the streets, so that they can live and thrive as healthy, happy young adults. We are committed to diverting youth from homelessness, incarceration and recidivism through wrap-around services.

RYSE Programs

Shelter/Housing

RYSE operates 2 emergency housing shelters and 3 housing programs for youth ages 14-24 on the island of Oahu.

Medical Clinic & Behavioral Health

RYSE helps youth with medical and mental health visits, COVID tests and vaccinations, family planning, HIV and HepC testing, treatment referrals, & more.

Diversion

In-reach to jails/ prisons/ medical institutions; provide transportation, court hearing advocacy, facilitating probation, and legal counsel

Access Center

RYSE's Kawaiiloa Access Center is open daily 8am-8pm, offering food, hot meals, showers, laundry, WiFi, hygiene supplies & more.

Outreach

We operate a mobile outreach team available 24/7 to reach youth where they are, when they need help.

Education & Employment

RYSE provides education and employment counseling, education services, driver license help, financial literacy courses, and more.

Diversion Program

RYSE is determined to partner with like-minded organizations, communities, Hawai'i State Judiciary, and Law enforcement to **divert youth from homelessness, incarceration and recidivism through wrap-around services.**



Partnership With Kinai 'Eha



KINAI 'EHA- TO EXTINGUISH PAIN

An alternative-education option to youth that are in need of, and seeking:

- Purpose
- Personal empowerment
- Education
- Hawaiian cultural identity & connection
- Workforce training (construction, trades)
- Community service
- Leadership

KinaiEha.org

RYSE & Kinai 'Eha Partnership



1

- **Conduct in-reach**
- Conduct assessments
- **Ensure client eligibility/ enrollment**
- Provide case management, referrals

2

- House conditional release clients
- Provide workforce opportunities
- Substance abuse classes
- **Provide letter of enrollment**

3

- Housing/shelter
- Receive case management, referrals
- Medical/behavioral healthcare
- Access Center

Which Clients Qualify?



LOW-BARRIER SUPPORT

Client must be:

1. Age 14-24
2. Homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless
3. Willing to engage with RYSE and receive services

Enrollment Process

What is needed for client:

1. TAY VI-SPDAT
2. Homeless Verification Letter
3. Proof of enrollment letter for court hearings



Questions?

RYSE 24/7 Mobile Crisis Outreach- call /text 808-861-6606



rysehawaii.org

Call or text 808-498-5180

**Nemesis Nichols, Outreach &
Diversion Program Manager
nnichols@rysehawaii.org**

Mahalo for your support.



Residential Youth Services & Empowerment

rysehawaii.org





“NO NEW CRIMES, NO NEW VICTIMS”

Going Home Hawai`i Community Reintegration

“Embracing our culture as E Ho`okanaka, persons of worth, we as Hawai`i fulfill our promise of equity and inclusion to all who are justice involved, through pathways of health, healing and aloha.”

Going Home Hawai`i Vision Statement

MISSION

“To assist justice-involved Hawai`i Island men, women, and youth with reintegration into community life through employment, education, housing and appropriate services.”

Hawai`i Island Going Home Consortium

- ▶ Community commitment to dealing with issues faced by returning citizens dates back for more than two decades
- ▶ Formation of the Consortium in 2004
- ▶ Monthly meetings on second Tuesday of every month
- ▶ Organized and impactful
- ▶ Aimed at networking and leveraging mutual community resources
- ▶ Nonprofits, government agencies, mayor's office, state legislators and county council members, formerly justice involved persons and recovery community members, faith-based communities, criminal justice partners, homeless and housing providers, mental health and substance use treatment providers, educators, employers and employment specialists, and interested community members

**Going Home Hawai'i
503-C**

**Going Home Hawai'i
Consortium**

**Reintegration
Support**

Going Home Hawai`i

- ▶ 2015 Going Home Hawai`i is established as the 501c3 nonprofit branch and fiscal governing body of the Consortium
- ▶ Provides direct services: 100% Justice-Involved, Employment Centered
- ▶ Reentry & Recovery Housing Programs in Hilo and Kona
- ▶ Kona: 64 beds, 3 Apt Buildings (Reentry, PSH, contract with DPS)
- ▶ Hilo: 21 beds, 3 Houses (13 men, 8 women)
- ▶ 9-Months, Window of Hope Program (pregnant moms using or at-risk of using illegal substances) Currently serving 22 women
- ▶ Mentoring Program (supporting all programs) current 22 active mentors
- ▶ Sustainable Ag and Ag Technology (contract with Blueprint for Change)

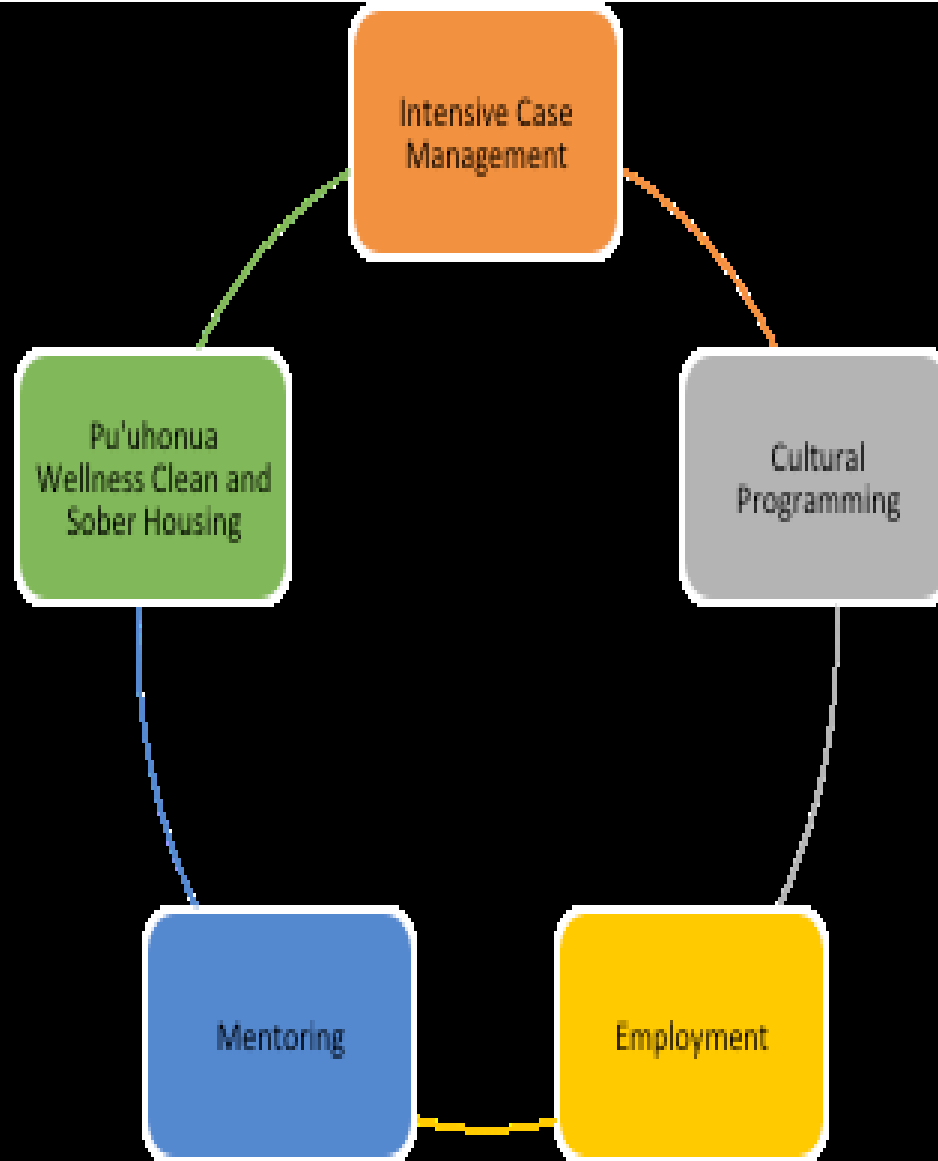
Intensive Case
Management

Pu'uhonua
Wellness Clean and
Sober Housing

Cultural
Programming

Mentoring

Employment



Reentry and Homelessness

- ▶ 2017 Touchpoints of Homelessness Report
- ▶ Estimated 25 to 50% of homeless have a history of incarceration
- ▶ Homelessness is 7.5 to 11.3 times more common among jail inmates
- ▶ Barriers trying to escape homelessness are multiplied for those with criminal records
- ▶ Significant barriers contribute to criminal activities to meet basic needs and perpetuating cycle of homelessness and incarceration
- ▶ 90 days or longer in jail/prison are not eligible for homeless services and housing resources unless certified homeless on streets for 24 hours

Hawai`i Island

- ▶ October 10, 2022, head count of 277 with operational capacity of 226. HCCC is currently at occupancy capacity of **122.6%**
- ▶ Hawai`i Correctional Oversight Commission September 2022, report on inhumane conditions at HCCC
- ▶ <https://hcsoc.hawaii.gov>
- ▶ **Much of this population are homeless and/or have a mental health diagnosis**
- ▶ Estimated 30% are homeless cycling through HCCC
- ▶ 2017 survey in East and West Hawai`i of 263 homeless persons:
Total of 4,106 days incarcerated in last 12 months
@ **\$219.00 per day = \$899,214.00**

Program Data

Oct 2018-Mar 2022

- ▶ Referred: 630
- ▶ Enrolled/Accepted: 311
- ▶ Success Rate: 80.2% Recidivism Rate: 19.8%
- ▶ Employed: 87.8% and Maintained Employment (6 mo.): 86.4%
- ▶ Education/Training: 61.2%
- ▶ Transitioned to Higher LOC: 14.3%
- ▶ Independent Housing: 84.4%
- ▶ Medicaid Eligible and Enrolled: 100%
- ▶ Received Substance/Mental Health Treatment: 89.8% (95% report history of SUD)
- ▶ Experienced Homelessness (prior to program admission): 78.2%
- ▶ Native Hawaiian: 54.8%
- ▶ Males: 77.8%
- ▶ Females: 22.2%

Seeking Solutions

- ▶ Increase opportunities to divert people from the criminal justice system with best-practices alternatives
- ▶ Housing and program services in the community such as:
- ▶ Reentry/Recovery Housing (supportive)
- ▶ Substance and Mental Health Treatment
- ▶ Better pre-release discharge planning and coordination of community services prior to release
- ▶ Medicaid Waivers: Reframe reentry as a major health event
- ▶ Address Disparities: People who are incarcerated are disproportionately poor and, in Hawai`i, Native Hawaiian

Looking Ahead

- ▶ **POLICY:** Formulate effective policies across the State. Educate legislators and the public about community reintegration and justice issues.
- ▶ **ADVOCACY:** Eliminate the stigmatism of justice-involved persons who are mainly men and women who have low rates of education and employment. Successful transformation works when the community offers them a second chance to succeed.
- ▶ **PUBLIC HEALTH AND REINTEGRATION:** Poor health, substance use disorders, mental illness and chronic health conditions impact a person's ability to work, maintain sobriety, carry out family responsibilities, and, importantly, avoid crime. Connecting people to healthcare and other needed services, reduces the burden on the judicial and public safety systems, and improves the health and safety of people and communities.

SUCCESSFUL REINTEGRATION FOR THE JUSTICE-INVOLVED PERSON IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CRIME-PREVENTION TOOLS OUR COMMUNITIES HAVE.

WITH SUPPORT, THESE MEN, WOMEN AND YOUTH CAN AND DO BECOME PRODUCTIVE AND CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY.

HO`I HOU I KA MOLE
“RETURN TO THE ROOT”

CONTACT US

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facebook.com/goinghomehawaii



[@goinghomehawaii](https://www.instagram.com/goinghomehawaii)



www.goinghomehawaii.org

BEYOND BARS QUESTIONNAIRE AUGUST 1, 2022: IN-PRISON EXPERIENCE

1. *What was the most difficult thing when you were released from WCCC (housing, medical, information)?*
2. *Did WCCC provide your ID, bus pass, any housing, medical, or support information? If so, what?*
3. *What do you feel are the three most important needs upon release?*
4. *If you could change anything at WCCC what would it be?*
5. *Were you in lockdown (how many times, for what, for how long)?*
6. *Did WCCC prepare you for successful release? If so how?*
7. *What was the worst part of your prison experience?*
8. *How many suicides are you aware of (whether while you were in or not)?*
9. *Were you ever threatened while in WCCC, and if so, by whom and how?.*
10. *Were you sexually violated at any time in WCCC? Was it reported? What was the outcome?*

RESPONSE FROM ZOE O'BRIEN
Date of Incarceration: 2014-2020



BEYOND BARS INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

RESPONSE FROM ZOE O'BRIEN

Date of Incarceration: 2014-2020

1. What was the most difficult thing when you were released from WCCC (housing, medical, information)?

I was fortunate to have a wonderful counselor at one of the Women in Need Houses. She helped me get everything I needed to start my new life. The only thing that was difficult was when I was trying to find my own place. There is a program called Rent to Work that will not only help you find a place that will rent to someone with a criminal record, they will also help you pay your rent. You pay only one third of your monthly income and they cover the rest. The only caveat is that they will not help you if you have any kind of Meth charges. Murder charges, no problem. Violent crimes, they'll help you out. Any other kind of drug charges, totally ok. I guess they're belief is that people with Meth charges don't deserve a second chance.

2. Did WCCC provide your ID, bus pass, any housing, medical, or support information? If so what?

WCCC did not provide anything. Thankfully my OSA worker helped me get into the WIN house where my first six months rent was paid for by the Hawaii Paroling Authority. That allowed me to save enough to get my own place by the time the six months was up. It also alleviated a lot of the stress that comes with starting all over again from scratch.
things.

RESPONSE FROM ZOE O'BRIEN

Date of Incarceration: 2014-2020

3. What do you feel are the three most important needs upon release?

Six months free housing was one of the things that helped me the most. Health insurance/EBT for the first year. The Medical inside WCCC is a tragedy and the food is so unhealthy. It was so nice to be able to eat fresh, healthy food and be seen by a doctor who actually cared about my well-being. A good counselor/social worker to help you find access to all those things.

4. If you could change anything at WCCC what would it be?

More accredited classes. Especially with vocational training. If you're going to be there for any length of time, you should have the option of leaving there with a marketable skill. That way you can more easily overcome the obstacles that block many convicts from getting the kinds of jobs that will keep them from re-offending.

BEYOND BARS
BEHIND BARS
BETWEEN BARS
BETTER BARS
BETTER QUESTIONS
BETTER ANSWERS

RESPONSE FROM ZOE O'BRIEN

Date of Incarceration: 2014-2020

5. Were you in lockdown (how many times, for what, for how long)?

Crochet crimes. (No joke) I didn't have the updated memo for the crochet tools that I had. Which brings me to the topic of why arts and crafts aren't allowed at WCCC. Arts and crafts better mental well-being, lessen anxiety and promote prosocial behavior. I was one of a select few that was allowed to crochet. There were less than ten of us out of a population nearing 300. Many guards didn't like that we had this small creative freedom and after locking me down for not having an updated memo they did away with all the crochet. You can also go to lockdown for making collages or having colored pencils that aren't one of the eight approved colors. You are also not allowed to have coloring books or even plain white paper to draw on unless you are able to get a memo from your mental health worker.

6. Did WCCC prepare you for successful release? If so how?

The only way WCCC prepares you for release is by making your time there so horrible, that you do everything in your power to get out. If you're lucky and get a good OSA worker (like Eric Chung) they can actually provide you help figuring out the exodus protocols.

RESPONSE FROM ZOE O'BRIEN

Date of Incarceration: 2014-2020

7. What was the worst part of your prison experience?

It always felt to me like that place and 90% of the ACOs existed purely to keep you down. There are not very many people or programs there to uplift you in any way. Towards the end of my time there some college classes became available, but not enough of them and not nearly enough vocational training. The only avenues in education were social work or culinary. The culinary program is amazing and I'm using that degree today at a job I love. The only downside is that it's available to only about 10 women a year. I cannot stress enough how important more vocational training is needed.

8. How many suicides are you aware of (whether while you were in or not)?

So many. There was one year that it got very bad. There was at least one attempted suicide every week. There were three deaths that year. All of them happened while the women were in lockdown. After that they changed some lockdown procedures. They let you have your radio and if they felt you were suicidal they took away all of your bedding and clothing, underwear included.

9. Were you ever threatened while in WCCC, and if so, by whom and how?

I am a white girl that grew up on the Big Island in the 80s and 90's. I learned how to avoid fights and have always strove to try and be on good terms with all people.

RESPONSE FROM ZOE O'BRIEN

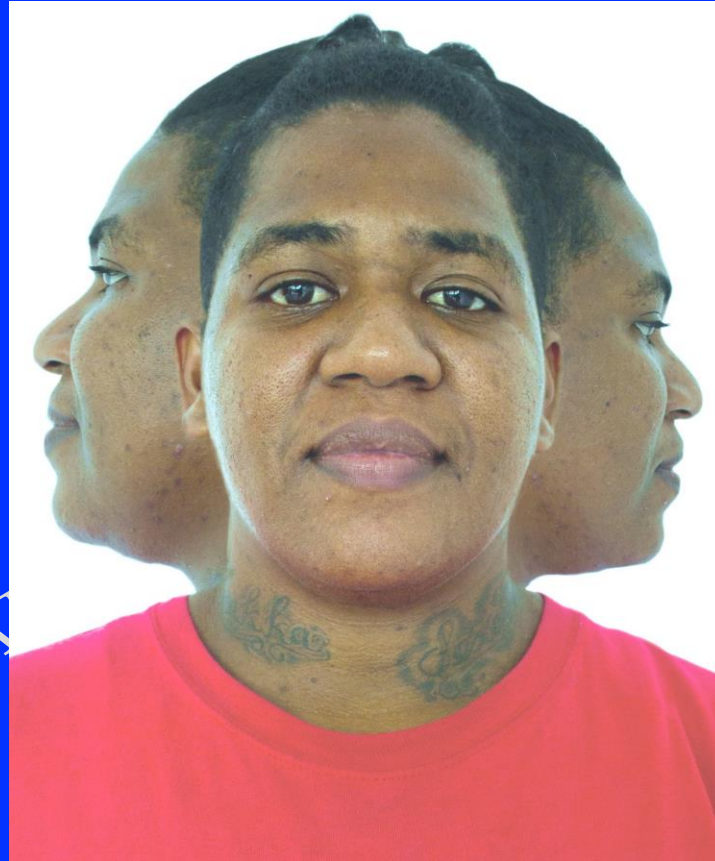
Date of Incarceration: 2014-2020

10. Were you sexually violated at any time in WCCC? Was it reported? What was the outcome?

It is my observation and opinion that the only women who got sexually violated at WCCC were the ones who actively sought out that kind of attention. The whole "sex for snacks" scandal was really just some lonely women who were tired of paying ridiculously high commissary prices for the same crappy snacks and hygiene's. I'm not trying to make light of this situation at all. I just had the opportunity to see it from the inside and have real conversations with some of the women involved.

BEYOND BARS RE-ENTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

RESPONSE FROM MOMILANI CODY
Date of Incarceration: 2015-Mid-2022



BEYOND BARRIERS

QUESTIONNAIRE

RESPONSE FROM MOMILANI CODY

Date of Incarceration: 2015-Mid-2022

1. What was the most difficult thing when you were released from WCCC (housing, medical, information)?

Finding a place to stay and figuring out how I was going to get the things I needed.

When I first got out I tried to get financial help through welfare but they denied denied me.

2. Did WCCC provide your ID, bus pass, any housing, medical, or support information? If so, what?

WCCC did not provide me any ID or assistance.

3. What do you feel are the three most important needs upon release?

Housing, financial support, and positive support because the transition is harder enough, especially for those who are coming out after a long stretch.

4. If you could change anything at WCCC what would it be?

Physical and cultural activities and more emphasis on education.

RESPONSE FROM MOMILANI CODY

Date of Incarceration: 2015-Mid-2022

7. What was the worst part of your prison experience?

Being sent back to solitary for talking to my wife, having to wait forever to get married my wife, the constant changing of rules, favoritism, a lot of inconsistencies in ACO rules, some officers genuinely cared but only a few.

8. How many suicides are you aware of (whether while you were in or not)?
I'm only aware of 22 but I've heard of others.

9. Were you ever threatened while in WCCC, and if so, by whom and how?
Another inmate named Ruth what happened ibes we fought & went to lock.

10. Were you sexually violated at any time in WCCC? Was it reported? What was the outcome?

Absolutely not.

BEYOND BARS RE-ENTRY QUESTIONNAIRE

Stay In Touch

All webinar recordings are
available on our website at
<http://homelessness.hawaii.gov>.





2022 Schedule

See you at the Statewide
Homelessness Awareness &
Housing Solutions
Conference!

An aerial night view of a city street, showing light trails from cars and surrounding buildings. A large blue rectangular overlay with a thin light blue border is centered on the image.

Mahalo!