



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General
Phone: (808) 586-1500
Fax: (808) 586-1239

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**FIRST MONITOR'S REPORT ISSUED REGARDING
HAWAII YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

A court monitor has found the State to be in “partial compliance” with 77 percent of key provisions identified to improve conditions at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility. While a report issued this week identifies the state’s progress in addressing issues at the facility, the State says there is still much work to be done and will continue to move forward.

As announced several months ago, the State and the United States Department of Justice agreed that a monitor, Russell Van Vleet, would assess, review and issue written reports regarding the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) and the State’s compliance with a three-year agreement with the Department of Justice. The Monitor’s first report was issued this week. Monitor Van Vleet issued a lengthy report detailing his assessment of fifty-three (53) substantive provisions in the Agreement. The report finds that the State is in “partial compliance” as to a majority of the areas assessed. In particular, of the fifty-three (53) provisions of the agreement, the State was found to be in “partial compliance” as to forty-one (41) of those provisions. Sub-provisions were also assessed. Under the Agreement, the State has three years to reach “substantial compliance” with the provisions.

The report covers the period from March 1, 2006 through June 26, 2006, and it is based on two site visits by the Monitor, in March and May 2006. The Monitor also based his assessment on interviews with staff at all levels, youth incarcerated at the facility, and a review of extensive materials related to the operation of the facility. As noted in the report, the Department of Justice participated in the two site visits earlier this year and has also been extensively involved in the review of the facility’s operation. The Monitor and the DOJ have actively reviewed and provided assistance with regard to the policies and procedures for HYCF.

The State appreciates the work of Mr. Van Vleet and his staff, as well as the input by the DOJ. While the Monitor's report highlights the State's extensive efforts to improve conditions at the facility, the State recognizes that significant challenges remain. The State will continue to work cooperatively with the Monitor and the DOJ in its ongoing efforts to improve HYCF.

Attorney General Mark Bennett stated, "The Monitor's thorough report details areas of significant progress, and areas where significant improvement is still needed. The State is committed to fully complying with the Agreement and to helping the youth confined at the HYCF."

[For a copy of the Monitor's report, please contact the Department of the Attorney General at 586-1500]

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For more information, contact:
Lisa Ginoza
First Deputy Attorney General
(808) 586-1500
hawaiiag@hawaii.gov