

Aloha, my name is Michael Rice and I am writing to voice my **opposition** to the recommendation to delay construction of the new OCCC facility.

I have been led to believe that the desire to delay construction is to reduce the number of inmates that can be housed at the facility. I think this reasoning is flawed, as currently OCCC is already overcrowded and many inmates have been released early from their sentences in efforts to reduce that and most have reoffended after release. This isn't even to mention how many are not prosecuted for crimes they commit and it would appear prosecutors are doing so in attempts to alleviate overcrowding.

If anything, the capacity should be increased to what is more than currently needed or expected. This would allow other, outdated facilities to transfer prisoners to newer, cleaner facilities in the hopes that the older facilities can be brought up to modern standards. This would also hopefully lessen what many citizens are viewing as incompetence on the state to deal with prisoners, lessening the likelihood they would take the law into their own hands.

Inmates need someplace to be securely housed, regardless if they are undergoing programs in the hopes that they will become reformed. The ability to house more criminals securely does not counteract the ability to reform them through social programs.

Thank you for your time.

Mike Rice