Ending Mass Incarceration in Hawaiʻi

Unless otherwise noted charts and graphs were prepared by the Prison Policy Initiative and are available at www.prisonpolicy.org
Hawaii’s Mass Incarceration Problem

Since 1978 Hawaii’s prison and jail population has exploded from 727 to 5,804.

This is an **eightfold** increase in the prison and jail population.

What happened during the last 40 years?
Mass incarceration, a national locally-driven trend

State Policy Drives Mass Incarceration
(Number of people incarcerated per 100,000 population by level of government, 1925-2012)

Compiled by the Prison Policy Initiative. For detailed sourcing, see http://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/overtime.html
Some context

### Incarceration Rates
Among Founding NATO Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Incarceration Rate (per 100,000 population)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How many are in for what?

The United States locks up more people, per capita, than any other nation. But grappling with why requires us to first consider the many types of correctional facilities and the reasons that 2.3 million people are confined there.
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Incarceration is only a part of the big picture
Incarceration is only a part of the big picture.
Who are we incarcerating?

Gender disparities in prisons and jails
Men are still the majority of those behind bars, but the portion that is women is twice as large as in 1970.

Compiled from 2010 Census, Summary File 1, Tables P12 and P43.
Who are we incarcerating?

Racial and ethnic disparities in prisons and jails

Whites are underrepresented in the incarcerated population while Blacks are overrepresented.

Compiled from 2010 Census, Summary File 1.
Who are we incarcerating?

Distribution of annual incomes for incarcerated men prior to incarceration and non-incarcerated men, ages 27-42

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>Percent of incarcerated people</th>
<th>Percent of non-incarcerated people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;$22,500</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$22,500 - $37,499</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$37,500+</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hawai‘i is part of the national trend
Hawai‘i has a below average incarceration rate, but average correctional population

How many people are in Hawaii’s criminal justice system?

30,000 are behind bars or under criminal justice supervision.

- Probation: 21,000
- State Prisons: 5,900
- Federal Prisons: 1,400
- Parole: 1,500
- Youth: 80

Sources and data notes: See http://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/50statepis.html
About a quarter are incarcerated in a for-profit private prison in Arizona
It is far too easy to be a felon in Hawaiʻi

Source: Department of Public Safety
Disproportionally Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander

NATIVE HAWAIIANS/PACIFIC ISLANDERS ARE OVERREPRESENTED IN HAWAII PRISONS AND JAILS

Source: Calculated by the Prison Policy Initiative from U.S. Census 2010 Summary File 1. Incarcerated populations are all types of correctional facilities in a state, including federal and state prisons, local jails, halfway houses, etc.
Hawaii’s prisons and jails are overcrowded and underfunded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Design Bed Capacity</th>
<th>Head Count as of October 31, 2016</th>
<th>Percent Overcrowded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hawai’i Community Correctional Center (“HCCC”)</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>175%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Needs Facility (“SNF”)</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>134%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halawa Medium Security Facility (“HMSF”)</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>179%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kauai Community Correctional Center (“KCCC”)</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>170%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maui Community Correctional Center (“MCCC”)</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>204%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oahu Community Correctional Center (“OCCC”)</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>1182</td>
<td>188%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Community Correctional Center (“WCCC”)</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>116%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hawaii’s inhumane conditions of confinement

- Shelter is woefully inadequate.
- Overcrowding causes serious sanitation problems.
- Adequate medical care is missing.
- Safety and security are compromised.
The high cost of an unconstitutional system

• The Department of Public Safety’s FY 2017 budget is $271,109,264 or about $46,710 per prisoner.

• The Department of Education’s FY 2017 budget is $1,916,129,119 or about $10,000 per student.

• DPS’s budget does not include other costs such as policing, prosecution, and the cost of updating correctional facilities, but it includes $47,679,367 to a for-profit private prison in Arizona.

• Relocating OCCC could cost $650,000,000 or more.
Causes for Mass Incarceration

The incarceration rate is the result of only two factors: the number of people in jail and prison and how long incarcerated people stay there.

What accounts from Hawaii’s eightfold increase in its prison population during the last 40 years?
Violent crime rate is down from height of early 1990s
Violent crime rate has remained mostly flat

Source: Department of the Attorney General
Crime rate has declined

Source: Department of the Attorney General
Causes for Mass Incarceration

Causes include the War on Drugs, mandatory minimum sentences, proliferation of repeat offender statutes, longer and more strict parole and probation periods, crime classification statutes, bail setting practices, aggressive policing and prosecution of crimes too often with a racial and socio-economic bias, and a change in funding priorities from social programs to the criminal justice system.
Other states have cut crime while decreasing incarceration.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
-15% INCARCERATION
+10% INCARCERATION
+17% VIOLENT CRIME
+13% PROPERTY CRIME

MASSACHUSETTS
-16% VIOLENT CRIME
-18% PROPERTY CRIME

SAFER COMMUNITIES
FEWER PEOPLE BEHIND BARS

25
Other states have cut crime while decreasing incarceration
Other states have cut crime while decreasing incarceration.
Hawaii’s past efforts at reform have failed at reducing the incarcerated population

Past reforms have failed because:
• They have not been comprehensive.
• They have not been consistent.
• They have not really addressed the two factors driving mass incarceration: number of people incarcerated and for how long they are incarcerated.
## Comprehensive, evidence-based reform

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Change in policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>War on Drugs</td>
<td>Decriminalization and legalization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory minimum sentences, repeat offender statutes</td>
<td>Sentencing reform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felony threshold</td>
<td>Reclassification of crimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bail setting practices</td>
<td>Bail reform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longer and more strict parole and probation periods</td>
<td>Parole and probation reform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggressive and biased policing and prosecution</td>
<td>Alternatives to incarceration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overfunding of criminal justice system</td>
<td>Funding of social programs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What can you do?

Support comprehensive criminal justice reform by:

• Sign up for our legislative and event alerts
• Start a conversation and add your voice for sensible laws that keep us safe while reducing people in jail or prison.
• See this issue in the news? Write a letter to the editor or join the conversation when this issue appears in online reader forums.
Mahalo!
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