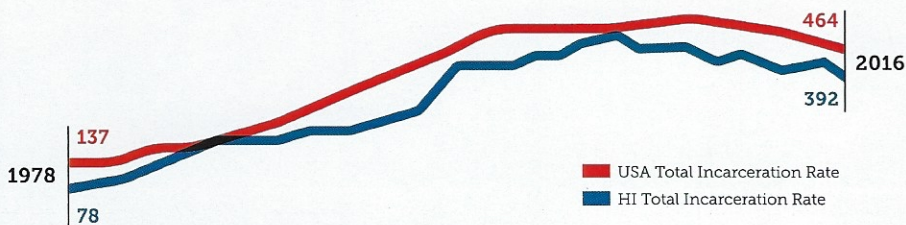


HAWAII'S INCARCERATION RATE INCREASED BY 403% FROM 1978 TO 2016.

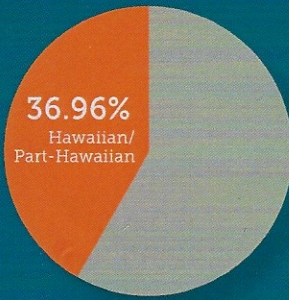


Carson, E. Ann. 2018. "Prisoners in 2016." U.S. Department of Justice. Last modified Aug 7, 2018. <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/p16.pdf>

Beginning in the 1970s, Hawaii enacted a series of "tough on crime" laws that resulted in a dramatic increase in our jail and prison populations. From 1978 to 2016, the combined jail and prison populations increased 670%, from 727 prisoners to 5,602.ⁱ Even accounting for the state population increase of 53% during the same period, our inmate population grew disproportionately.ⁱⁱ In 1978, 78 of every 100,000 Hawaii residents was imprisoned, but by 2016 this number jumped to 392, a 403% increase.ⁱⁱⁱ

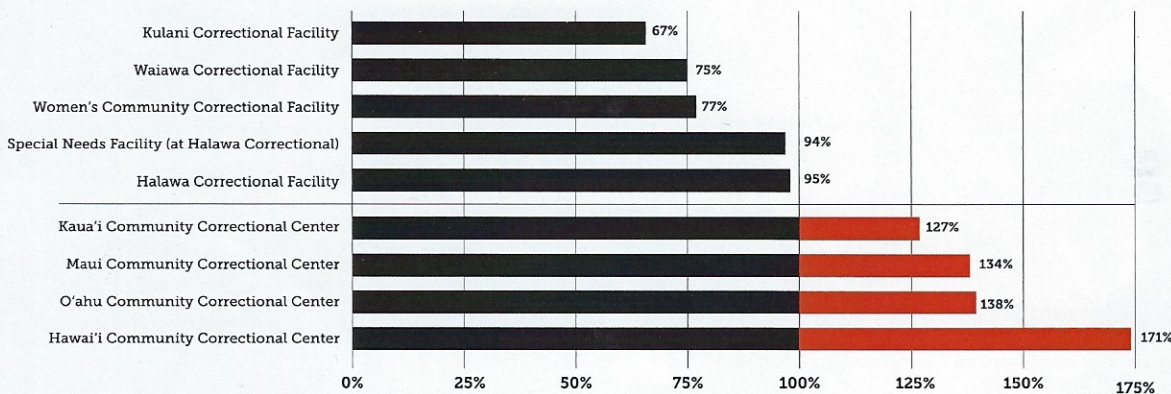
NATIVE HAWAIIANS CONTINUE TO BE DISPROPORTIONATELY INCARCERATED AND DISPARATELY IMPACTED.

The staggering growth of Hawaii's incarcerated population has affected all ethnic groups, but its impacts on Native Hawaiian families were devastating and include unique cultural trauma^{iv} and intergenerational incarceration.^v Native Hawaiians are overrepresented in our prison system, constituting just 18% of the State's adult population^{vi} but 37% of the incarcerated population.^{vii}



State of Hawaii. Department of Public Safety. System Wide End of Month Data. July 2018.

HAWAII JAILS AND PRISONS ARE SEVERELY OVERCROWDED. MANY HOLD POPULATIONS FAR EXCEEDING 100% OF THEIR OPERATIONAL CAPACITIES.



State of Hawaii. Department of Public Safety. System Wide End of Month Data. November 2018.

In 1995, Hawaii began sending prisoners to privately operated prisons on the Continental U.S. Hawaii currently has over 1,400 prisoners at the Saguaro Correctional Center in Arizona^{viii} and is one of only five states that has over 20% of its prisoners in private prisons.^{ix} The State also holds roughly 160 additional overflow prisoners at Hawaii's Federal Detention Center.^x Even with all this outsourcing, many of Hawaii's State-operated facilities are severely overcrowded, holding more prisoners than either their originally designed or modified operational capacities allow.^{xi}

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

CREATE A NEW VISION FOR CORRECTIONS IN HAWAII

Issue: Hawaii's correctional system is not producing acceptable, cost-effective, or sustainable outcomes, and it is not making our communities safe. The State spends over \$226 million a year on corrections but we have a recidivism rate of over 50% and more than 27,000 citizens under some form of correctional supervision.

Recommendations:

1. Transition to a more effective and sustainable correctional system that focuses on rehabilitation rather than punishment.
2. Create and fund an Implementation Commission and Transitional Coordinator position to ensure that the transition to a rehabilitative system takes place in a timely, efficient, and effective manner.
3. Create an Oversight Commission to immediately address prison suicides, sexual assaults, and other unacceptable and unlawful conditions in our prison system.
4. Create an Academy to train correctional workers at all levels in rehabilitative philosophy and practices.

REDUCE THE NUMBER OF NATIVE HAWAIIANS IN THE PRISON SYSTEM

Issue: Native Hawaiians make up about 21% of the general population, but 37% of the prison population. This overrepresentation has existed for decades and has led to intergenerational incarceration for some Native Hawaiian families.

Recommendations:

1. Develop evidence-based, early intervention strategies that are focused on diverting Hawaiian youth away from the criminal justice system and toward pathways for success.
2. Create cultural courts in the criminal justice system.
3. Expand in-prison Native Hawaiian educational and cultural programs.
4. Make culturally relevant reentry programs available to Native Hawaiians.
5. Implement the recommendations of the 2012 Native Hawaiian Justice Task Force consistent with best practices.

EVALUATE, IMPROVE, AND EXPAND EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS

Issue: Evidence-based programs are an essential part of the rehabilitation process and are a cost-effective way to reduce recidivism.

Recommendations:

1. Ensure that every prisoner is functionally literate by the time of release.
2. Expand opportunities for prisoners to take community college courses.
3. Create a prison to college pipeline.
4. Restore funding to the highly successful sex offender treatment program.
5. Prisoners should participate in at least three programs that address criminogenic factors.
6. Expand restorative justice programs.