

ISLAND SECURITY POLICY INSTITUTE

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POLICY BRIEF

Securing the Seat of Government

Physical Security Policy for Government Buildings in Small Island Jurisdictions

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Small island government jurisdictions are characterized by facility concentration — housing multiple government branches and functions in single structures — that creates compound security vulnerabilities with no continental analog.**
- **Federal facility security frameworks are designed for buildings housing single agencies, not the entire functioning apparatus of a small government in a single structure.**
- **A security incident at such a facility may constitute the disruption of governance itself — a continuity-of-government implication that standard physical security frameworks do not address.**

The courthouse serving a Pacific Island territory of 55,000 residents houses the territorial supreme court, the trial court, the legislature, and the governor's office — in a single building, because it is the only government building large enough to serve these functions. A single security incident would simultaneously disrupt the judicial, legislative, and executive functions of the territorial government.¹ No comparable government facility concentration exists in a continental state, and no security framework designed for continental government buildings adequately addresses this single-point-of-failure governance vulnerability.

Policy Recommendations

1. Develop small island jurisdiction government facility security standards accounting for facility concentration, compound vulnerability, and continuity-of-government implications.
2. Commission ISPI to develop practitioner-grounded physical security assessment protocols for small island government facilities integrating physical security, insider threat, emergency preparedness, and continuity-of-government planning.[FN]
3. Fund security hardening investments for critical small island government facilities through federal facility security programs with criteria calibrated for small island jurisdiction scale.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

ABOUT THE ISLAND SECURITY POLICY INSTITUTE

The Island Security Policy Institute (ISPI) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization based in Honolulu, Hawaii. ISPI produces practitioner-led research, policy analysis, training programs, and commissioned research on public safety, emergency preparedness, insider threat, and security policy for island and coastal communities worldwide. ISPI is registered as a federal contractor on SAM.gov under NAICS 541720. Warren Pulley, Founder & Executive Director.

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