



The Senate

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MEDIA CONTACT: Caroline Julian/586-6261

LIHUE COURTHOUSE TO RECEIVE MAKEOVER

LIHUE, KAUAI -- The project to give Lihue Courthouse a makeover is now in the planning phase, according to the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS).

DAGS told the Senate Committee on Ways and Means at a briefing Thursday it will be asking the Legislature for funding approval on full renovations, which includes office space conversion and addresses hazardous material abatement.

If funds are appropriated, the project is expected to be completed in 2014.

When the renovations are complete, the State plans to move in agencies currently in commercial office leases.

“Occupying the building with some State agencies will save taxpayers money and greatly reduce what we spend on leasing space,” said Sen. Ronald Kouchi (District 7, Kauai and Niihau), who attended the WAM meeting. “We would be able to save about \$800-thousand in leasing office space to house various state departments every year.”

The building has been sitting empty for the past two years. It was used as a transitional shelter for homeless families from June 2007 to June 2009. The building was vacated five years ago when judiciary officials moved in to a new building.

The Lihue Courthouse is listed on the both the Hawaii and National Register of Historic Places, therefore renovations will follow historic guidelines.

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