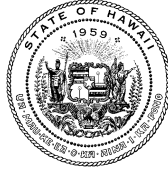


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

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DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
CURT T. OTAGURO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020, 2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 309, STATE CAPITOL

H.B. 2466 HD1

RELATING TO CAPITAL DISTRICT BUILDINGS

Chair Cullen, Vice Chair Nakashima, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 2466 HD1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports this bill to establish a pilot project for childcare facilities at a capital district building as well as appropriate funds.

DAGS realizes the importance of child care and community need to address the shortage of additional Pre-K facilities to accommodate our young parents and younger generation entering the workplace environment. Having Pre-K facilities on State property can also benefit State employees and offer benefits to working at the State and having the State be a progressive employer. DAGS needs to work with other State agencies including DHS as lead to better understand the philosophy and program parameters before selecting physical locations. Other

considerations and criteria have to be incorporated into the decision-making process to select the best sites possible. Considerations such as classroom size, outdoor and playground facilities, restroom and food services amenities, health and safety considerations, traffic flow for parent access during drop off and pick up, and teacher facilities all need to be addressed before selecting State facilities.

Consideration to implement a Pre-K facility at a State Capitol District Building can be evaluated as part of the overall site selection criteria that satisfies the agreed upon facility attributes. Implementing Pre-K facilities at Staff Office Buildings must also consider the “business atmosphere” and whether or not the building environment will be conducive to having children – ages 3-4 within the structure. DAGS looks forward to working with DHS as the lead agency to create a much needed and potentially popular Pre-K educational facility and program to nurture the early development of our children.”

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

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February 10, 2020

TO: The Honorable Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Chair
House Committee on Legislative Management

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2466 HD1 - RELATING TO CAPITAL DISTRICT BUILDINGS**

Hearing: February 11, 2020, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 312, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill to create additional child care capacity, provides comments, and requests an amendment. DHS defers to the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) regarding the feasibility and costs required to implement this measure in Capital District Buildings.

PURPOSE: This bill proposes to establish a pilot project for child care facilities to be located in any capital district buildings with an emphasis on establishing facilities at the State Capitol and appropriates funds.

The number of available child care facilities and homes do not meet the needs of Hawaii's working families. The pilot project proposed by this bill seeks to build child care capacity by utilizing State capital district buildings.

The department does have concerns regarding whether already constructed State buildings, including the State Capitol, have the necessary structural requirements to provide healthy and safe child care settings without significant renovations.

DHS clarifies it is a regulatory agency and provides child care subsidies to individuals; DHS does not operate child care facilities. However, the department adheres to the county ordinances for permitting and building requirements for structures that house child care facilities. Therefore, DHS requests that the bill be amended on lines 2-5 of page 1:

... The state shall provide lease space at any capital district building, except Honolulu Hale, for child care facilities to be established with an emphasis on establishing facilities at the state capitol. ...

Examples of concerns for the operation of a child care facility at the State Capitol building include:

- a. The location of the child care classroom – child care operations are not usually approved by county building inspections to be located above the first floor; the department is not certain whether care in the basement level would be approved by county building inspections; if the child care facility would be approved by the county building inspections to be in the basement, the children still might not have access to indirect sunlight when indoors; and there would be a need to establish security measures to restrict public access to the child care facility space from the rest of the State Capitol building;
- b. Sufficient space for the number of children in care at the facility – the facility will require 35 square feet per child in care, areas appropriate for naps would be needed, and if children in care are less than one year of age, sufficient space for portable cribs (e.g. pack and plays) will be needed as well;
- c. Toilet facilities would be needed that are child sized or utilizing safe step stools and child seats for standard sized toilets; if the child care facility will care for infants and toddlers, then a diaper changing table and a drop sink or half tub would need to be available as well;
- d. Provisions for meals and snacks for children in care would need to follow the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Child and Adult Food Care program requirements;

- e. The creation of outdoor space for the children to engage in activities for large motor skill development and play would be needed and would require 75 square feet per child in care;
- f. Ensuring the safety of the children in care in the public areas and grounds of the State Capitol, including the reflecting pool which is a drowning hazard and would normally need to have fence set up around the water hazard and physical barriers to prevent access to the roadways in the children's outdoor play area; and
- g. Provisions for safe drop-off and pick-up areas for children by their families and parking for families to visit at the child care facility would need to be considered.

DHS requests clarification as to whether families would still have a fee charged for the child care services received from such child care facilities operating in capital district buildings. The availability of fees may be relevant as the contract for a private entity to operate the child care facility may only cover a portion of the entity's operating costs, and the private entity would recoup additional operating costs through fees collected directly from the families utilizing the child care services.

DHS defers to the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) for the feasibility and costs of any renovations to existing capital district buildings, including the State Capitol, to make spaces conducive to child care operations through this proposed pilot project. DAGS would also likely need to provide for the maintenance and repair of the child care facilities located in capital district buildings and determine the amount of funds needed for such costs. DHS would coordinate with DAGS for the implementation of this proposed pilot project.

DHS supports the need to increase the availability and capacity of child care facilities for Hawai'i's families and children and will continue to dialogue about the various strategies that aim to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.