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February 19, 2020

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2466 HD2 - RELATING TO CAPITAL DISTRICT BUILDINGS**

Hearing: February 20, 2020, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill to create additional child care capacity and provides comments. 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 and will collaborate with DAGS on the identification of a location within the Capital District that may be appropriate for child care facility to operate.

PURPOSE: Establishes a pilot project for the State to provide lease space for the establishment of child care facilities at any capital district building, except Honolulu Hale, with enrollment priority for children of state employees who work in the building at which the child care facility is located. Appropriates funds. Repeals 6/30/2023. Effective 12/31/2059. (HD2)

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 appreciates the amendments made by the Committees on Human Services and Homelessness and Legislative Management. DHS will collaborate with DAGS on the identification of a location within the Capital District that may be appropriate for child care facility to operate and does have concerns regarding whether already constructed State buildings have the necessary structural requirements to provide healthy and safe child care settings without significant renovations. DHS defers to DAGS for the feasibility and costs of any renovations to existing Capital District buildings 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 clarifies it is a regulatory agency and provides child care subsidies to individuals; DHS does not operate child care facilities. Examples of concerns for the operation of a child care facility DHS notes 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 child care facility would need to 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 a Capital District 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 appropriate 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 the grounds of a Capital District building may require remediation work to minimize or eliminate any hazards on the property and have 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.

Subsection (c) on page 1, lines 13-15, allows DHS to contract with a private entity to operate the child care facility. 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 private 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 private fees collected directly from the families utilizing the child care services.

DHS clarifies that dependent on the amount of renovations needed for the selected site, the operation of child care may not begin in calendar year 2020 and may take time for the location to comply with the county ordinances for permitting and building requirements for a structure that houses a child care facility.

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

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

HB-2466-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 4:05:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an educator, I can attest to the positive influences of having quality care for children in places in the work place. It is a win/win for everyone. I support this bill.

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Submitted on: 2/19/2020 11:19:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruston Utu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. We have many State employees that have new borns or toddlers and I think having one at the district building would make it easier for those who work in the area make the transition back to work easier, as well as the commute. Also, if there were emergencies it would allow for the parents to respond quicker since it would be close to their working place.