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January 29, 2020

TO: The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

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

Hearing: Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, 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 capital district buildings with the first facility to be established 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. 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 also requests that the bill be amended on line 3 of page 1:

The department of human services **may** establish child care facilities at capital district buildings, ...

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 need to 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.

HB-2466

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:35:34 AM

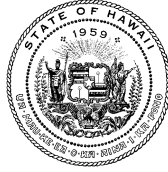
Testimony for HSH on 2/5/2020 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill. Many employees at the capitol have very young children and this would really benefit them to have a child care facility in the building to help minimize the stress. Also, female workers could step down even for 20 minutes at some point of the day to offer their baby a feeding.

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020, 9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 329, STATE CAPITOL

H.B. 2466

RELATING TO CAPITAL DISTRICT BUILDINGS

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 2466.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports this bill to establish a pilot project for child care facilities at capital district buildings, with the first facility to be established at the State Capitol, as well as appropriate funds.

DAGS realizes the importance of child care services and the community need to address the shortage of Pre-K facilities to support parents who must navigate the daily trials of balancing family responsibilities with succeeding in the workplace environment. Having Pre-K childcare services at State facilities would help the State be a more progressive employer to the benefit of our current employees and potential new staff. In order to deliver this benefit, DAGS would need to work with other State agencies, including the Department of Human Services (DHS) in a

lead role to define the programmatic and operational requirements necessary to select candidate physical locations. From there, DAGS would incorporate other key considerations and criteria such as functional and appropriate proximity to neighboring operations, 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 to select the best sites possible.

Consideration to implement a Pre-K facility at the State Capitol first is likely the greatest challenge due to the need to honor and preserve the especially unique physical and functional characteristics of this historic property while simultaneously embarking on developing the partnerships, roles, and procedures to successfully deliver the desired outcomes. Nevertheless, the potential benefits of bringing much needed early childcare services to State facilities are great, and DAGS looks forward to working with DHS as the lead agency and other partners to nurture the early development of our children.

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