



SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Testimony of the Office of the Auditor on
S.B. NO. 2080, S.D. 1, RELATING TO STATE BUILDINGS

Hearing: Thursday, February 13, 2020, 11:00 a.m.

The Office of the Auditor offers the following testimony in **strong support** of S.B. No. 2080, S.D. 1.

S.B. No. 2080, S.D. 1, requires the Department of Accounting and General Services to purchase, distribute, and install, emergency evacuation chairs in state-owned buildings and facilities under its jurisdiction having two or more floors.

The Office of the Auditor is located on the fourth and fifth floors of the Kekūanaō‘a Building. The building is serviced by a single elevator, and we are unable to accommodate users who are unable to use the stairs to our office when the elevator is out of order. While we are able to make alternative work space arrangements for our employees when we have advance notice of scheduled elevator and electrical repairs, we are required to rely on the Honolulu Fire Department and other first responders to carry evacuees who require assistance down the stairs for unscheduled outages and other emergency situations.

An evacuation chair is critical not only for the safety and welfare of our employees, but for members of the public conducting business with our office as well as other offices in the Kekūanaō‘a Building.

In testimony submitted to the Senate Committee on Government Operations, the Department of Accounting and General Services stated it recommends that the installation and maintenance of the evacuation chairs be the responsibility of the agency that each facility has been assigned. We suggest critical safety features, like fire detection and mitigation, should be the direct responsibility of management, especially in state buildings that are open and accessible to the public.

Thank you for considering our testimony related to S.B. No. 2080, S.D. 1.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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February 13, 2020

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senate Bill 2080, SD1 - Relating to State Buildings

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) offers comments on Senate Bill 2080, SD1 Relating to State Buildings. The purpose of the bill is to have the Department of Accounting and General Services purchase, distribute, and install, at minimum, one emergency evacuation chair at or near one stairwell on each floor in every multi-story State public building.

Senate Bill 2080, SD1 Section 1 (e)(1)(2) indicates the following:

- (e) The disability and communication access board in cooperation with the department of accounting and general services, shall:
 - (1) Conduct annual training to explain the purpose and appropriate safe use of emergency evacuation chairs for relevant personnel from each state building in which at least one emergency evacuation chair is installed; and
 - (2) Produce informational material describing the purpose, placement, and appropriate use of emergency evacuation chairs for distribution to the occupants of each state building in which an emergency evacuation chair is installed pursuant to this Act.

While DCAB supports the installation of emergency evacuation chairs at State buildings, the type of work described above does not fall within the DCAB's mandate under Hawaii Revised Statutes §103-50 and Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 216. In addition, DCAB does not have the expertise on the use or placement of emergency evacuation chairs since emergency evacuation chairs are not covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act, 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. DCAB strongly recommends having the manufacturer of the equipment provide any necessary training and instructions.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO
COMPTROLLER
AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAII
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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020, 11:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211, STATE CAPITOL

S.B. 2080, SD1

RELATING TO STATE BUILDINGS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. 2080, SD1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports this bill to improve and enhance the ability of evacuating people with mobility limitations during an emergency and offers the following comments for the committee's consideration.

The proposed pilot project applied to just DAGS-managed facilities would require an estimated \$800,000 for fiscal year 2020-2021 to supply and install an estimated 150 evacuation chairs, and would require an estimated \$12,000, annually, for the required annual maintenance. The DAGS has the responsibility for less than 5% of all State-owned facilities and the implementation of this effort for all other State facilities may cost 20 to 40 times the cost to implement this effort in DAGS facilities.

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