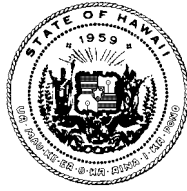


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
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TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

March 18, 2024

To: The Honorable Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Chair
House Committee on Legislative Management

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HCR 45/ HR 34 – REQUESTING THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TO ESTABLISH A
WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER PROVIDING CHILD CARE SERVICES AT THE
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL.**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 20, 2024, Time 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 312 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this resolution, defers to the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS), and provides comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to request the Lieutenant Governor to establish a working group to consider providing child care services at the Hawaii State Capitol.

DHS appreciates the Legislature's interest in making child care services available at the Hawaii State Capitol so that members of the public and legislative employees may be able to access child care while participating in the legislative process or while working at the capitol building.

DHS supports the request by the Legislature to establish a working group to evaluate the opportunities for child care services at the capitol, determine the resources and funding that may be necessary to provide the child care services and assess the areas within the capitol that could be used to provide the services. DHS recommends that a representative from its child

care program and the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) be invited to participate in the workgroup.

DAGS may be able to guide the feasibility and costs of any renovations to make spaces conducive to child care operations that are provided in healthy and safe child care settings. DHS, a regulatory agency of child care facilities, is able to offer comments on the location of the child care classroom, sufficient space for the number of children in care at the facility, toilet facilities, provisions for meals and snacks for children in care, appropriate outdoor space for the children to engage in activities, ways to minimize risk or prevent access to hazards on the property, provisions for safe drop-off and pick-up areas for children by their families, and other related health and safety matters to consider when operating a child care facility.

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



TESTIMONY FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

COMMITTEE REFERRAL: LMG

MARCH 20, 2024

HCR 45/HR 34, REQUESTING THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER PROVIDING CHILD CARE SERVICES AT THE HAWAII STATE CAPITOL.

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Democratic Party of Hawaii **supports** HCR 45/HR 34, which requests the Lieutenant Governor to establish a working group to consider providing child care services at the Hawaii State Capitol.

Democracy belongs to we, the people. Currently, the average cost of full-time child care in Hawaii exceeds \$13,000 per year. The rising cost of child care and lack of access to adequate child care services prevents working parents from taking advantage of many social and economic opportunities, including opportunities to participate in the legislative process. Strengthening public engagement is essential to ensuring that legislative outcomes reflect the needs of Hawaii's working families, as this resolution notes. Providing child care assistance at the State Capitol would empower working parents to seize the chance at civic engagement on which the success of our political system depends.

Mahalo nui loa,

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Good afternoon, my name is Louisa Duggan— and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Vote Mama Foundation in strong support of HCR45. It is an honor and a privilege to be providing testimony to you today on a resolution that would benefit everyday parents throughout my home state wishing to participate in the legislative process.

Childcare obligations are one of the major factors families consider when weighing their decision to run for office and stay in office once elected. In many states, it costs more to send an infant to childcare than to complete a mortgage payment. This is not an expense working families can take on — especially when serving in the legislature.

[Vote Mama Foundation is breaking down the barriers that prohibit mamas from sustainably serving in public office.](#) 85% of American women are mothers by the time they are 45 years old—but in 2022, moms of minor kids only made up 5% of state legislators. Nearly 4 million American women give birth each year. Yet only 12 women serving in state legislatures gave birth in 2022, and just 3 of them were Black mothers. If we are not addressing the structural barriers that predominantly affect moms with minor children, we will never achieve full gender parity in state legislatures.

Legislators with minor children need reliable and safe access to childcare, both in their home district and at the capitol. However, the long hours and inconsistent schedule of legislative sessions impact the type of care that legislators can access in order to carry out their official duties.

Just like millions of parents who struggle to find safe and affordable childcare, parent legislators are often not able to find care that fits their individual needs and schedule when serving in public office. More than half the population lives in a childcare desert. When you factor in finding childcare providers in two locations for a constantly changing part-time schedule, securing childcare can be impossible.

On-site childcare for state legislators should be available to better meet the needs of legislators and staff. **At Vote Mama Foundation, we believe being a caregiver is a resume builder: we need folks in office representing the needs of everyday families.** By making this one simple change, we can support young families and their need for safe and affordable care.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully ask the House Committee on Legislative Management to support HCR45 and vote it out of committee.