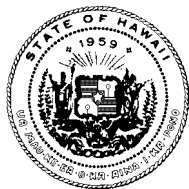


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA  
Office of the Director  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

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,

**Kris Coffield**  
*Co-Chair, Legislative Committee*  
(808) 679-7454  
kriscoffield@gmail.com

**Abby Simmons**  
*Co-Chair, Legislative Committee*  
(808) 352-6818  
abbyalana808@gmail.com