
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE STATE CAPITOL.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the controversial
2 nature of the work of public officials can lend itself to
3 threats, and at times, acts of violence. Despite these truths,
4 the state of Hawaii lacks appropriate security measures in the
5 capitol's rotunda and surrounding areas in case such events
6 occur. Such lacking security measures include the restriction
7 of unauthorized vehicular access to the underground public
8 parking facility to prevent tragic incidents such as the 1995
9 truck bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in
10 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

11 The legislature also finds that in February 2019, a fatal
12 shooting of an intoxicated individual near the Hawaii state
13 capitol rotunda posed a serious threat to the building and
14 public safety, necessitating increased security personnel and
15 barriers to further prevent unauthorized access. In January
16 2024, the Hawaii state capitol, in addition to nearly two dozen
17 other state capitols across the nation, were faced with a



1 potential bomb threat, further highlighting the potential for
2 serious security breaches.

3 The legislature finds that while the Hawaii state capitol's
4 architecture was designed with the intent of openness and ease
5 of public access, it must be moderated with said security
6 measures to protect public safety while keeping our democratic
7 system operating in the safest possible manner. Further,
8 legislators, employees, and other staff should not be exempt
9 from entrance security requirements. The Violence Project
10 reports that seventy per cent of workplace related mass shooters
11 are motivated by an employment issue. Therefore, effective
12 security requires consistency without exceptions.

13 The purpose of this Act is to build upon the security
14 measures that have been recently implemented at the Hawaii state
15 capitol, such as metal detectors, to ensure the building is a
16 place where the public and public officials feel safe from
17 violence.

18 SECTION 2. (a) The department of accounting and general
19 services and the department of public safety, in consultation
20 with the legislature and any other applicable entity, shall



1 promptly plan and implement security improvements at the state
2 capitol, which shall include, at a minimum, the following:

3 (1) Controlled access points, which all individuals
4 entering the building including legislators,
5 employees, and guests shall be subject to, on the
6 rotunda and chamber levels featuring appropriate
7 equipment, including x-ray machines, to detect weapons
8 and other contraband;

9 (2) Fencing or other appropriate barriers to prevent:
10 (A) Unauthorized vehicles from entering the capitol
11 grounds; and
12 (B) Unauthorized access to the capitol rotunda; and

13 (3) The employment of private personnel to staff
14 controlled access points to screen for weapons and
15 contraband, effectuate the security improvements, and
16 perform these duties in coordination with the law
17 enforcement personnel of the State and county.

18 (b) The department of land and natural resources state
19 historic preservation division shall promptly evaluate the
20 potential necessity of any exemptions from applicable historic
21 preservation designations or related restrictions to accomplish



1 the security improvements. The state historic preservation
2 division shall assist the department of accounting and general
3 services to expedite and facilitate the application and
4 approval, as appropriate, for any necessary exemptions from
5 state or federal historic preservation laws.

6 (c) The department of accounting and general services and
7 department of public safety may implement additional security
8 improvements while the security improvements mandated by this
9 Act are being planned and developed.

10 (d) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of
11 the 2026 and 2027 regular sessions, the department of accounting
12 and general services shall provide annual reports to the
13 legislature on the status of its efforts to effectuate the
14 purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 3. No later than October 31, 2025, the department
16 of accounting and general services shall remove all parking
17 meters from the state capitol parking facility. The affected
18 parking stalls shall be allocated among the governor, lieutenant
19 governor, senate, house of representatives, and legislative
20 reference bureau on a pro rata basis and made available to state
21 employees whose place of employment is the state capitol and who



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1 meet the qualifications of their respective employer's parking
2 policies. To offset the loss of metered parking stalls in the
3 state capitol, the department of accounting and general services
4 may establish and maintain additional public metered parking
5 stalls available in the Kinau Hale parking lot and the state
6 parking garage located at 301 South Vineyard Street.

7 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the
10 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
11 2026-2027 for the department of accounting and general services
12 to plan and implement security improvements, including the
13 planning, design, and installation of vehicular barriers, at the
14 state capitol pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

15 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
16 of accounting and general services for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the
20 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
21 2026-2027 for the department of public safety to purchase or



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1 lease security screening equipment as may be necessary and
2 contract the services of private screening personnel at the
3 state capitol to effectuate the purposes of section 2 of this
4 Act.

5 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
6 of public safety for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 22 2025



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Report Title:

State Capitol; DAGS; DPS; Security; Appropriation

Description:

Requires DAGS and DPS, in consultation with the legislature and other entities, to plan and implement security improvements at the state capitol. Requires DAGS to remove all parking meters from the capitol parking facility and reallocate parking in the capitol district. Appropriates funds.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

