

JAN 21 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STATE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
3 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
4 as follows:

5 "CHAPTER

6 STATE ARCHITECT

7 § -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

8 "State agency" means any office, department, board,
9 commission, bureau, division, public corporation, agency, or
10 instrumentality of the State.

11 "State lands" means all land owned by the State through any
12 state agency.

13 § -2 State architect; office established; appointment,
14 tenure, removal; requirements; salary. (a) There is
15 established within the department of accounting and general
16 services the office of the state architect, which shall be
17 headed by a full-time state architect appointed by the governor



1 pursuant to section 26-34. The state architect shall report to
2 the comptroller.

3 (b) No person shall be eligible for the position of state
4 architect who has not held, for at least five years immediately
5 preceding the date of appointment, a valid license pursuant to
6 chapter 464.

7 (c) The state architect shall not engage in the private
8 practice of professional architecture or act in a managing
9 capacity in any private business or enterprise.

10 (d) The salary of the state architect shall be established
11 by the governor.

12 § -3 **Duties and responsibilities.** The state architect
13 shall have general charge and oversight of the design review of
14 all state construction projects. The state architect shall:

15 (1) Review all plans, drawings, specifications, and any
16 other documents necessary for state construction
17 projects;

18 (2) Ensure conformance with all applicable building codes
19 and county, national, or international prescriptive
20 construction standards, including construction,



1 electrical, energy conservation, plumbing, and
2 sidewalk standards;

3 (3) Issue design approvals for traditional
4 design-bid-build state construction projects awarded
5 by competitive sealed bidding pursuant to section
6 103D-302, before the projects commence; provided that
7 no design approvals shall be required for:

8 (A) Design-build projects, as defined in
9 section 103D-104; and

10 (B) Public-private partnership projects; and

11 (4) Assign an inspector to each state construction project
12 for the purpose of observing the work of construction.

13 § **-4 Assistance and staff.** The state architect may
14 employ or contract with qualified architects and engineers as
15 necessary, without regard to chapter 76, to carry out the duties
16 and responsibilities established by this chapter.

17 § **-5 Costs for services; fees.** The cost of all design
18 review services performed by the office of the state architect
19 for a state agency shall be determined by the state architect.
20 In addition, the state architect may set, charge, and collect
21 reasonable fees, without regard to chapter 91, in an amount



1 sufficient to defray the cost of processing design approvals.

2 All payments shall be deposited into the general fund.

3 § -6 **Administrative rules.** No later than December 31,
4 2026, the comptroller, in consultation with the state architect,
5 shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to effectuate the
6 purposes of this chapter.

7 § -7 **Annual report.** The state architect shall prepare
8 and submit an annual report to the governor and legislature no
9 later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular
10 session. The report shall include a summary describing the
11 activities of the office of the state architect, including a
12 list and description of each state construction project reviewed
13 or that received a design approval during the preceding fiscal
14 year."

15 SECTION 2. Section 26-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

17 "(b) The department shall:

18 (1) Preaudit and conduct after-the-fact audits of the
19 financial accounts of all state departments to
20 determine the legality of expenditures and the
21 accuracy of accounts;



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- 1 (2) Report to the governor and to each regular session of
- 2 the legislature as to the finances of each department
- 3 of the State;
- 4 (3) Administer the state risk management program;
- 5 (4) Establish and manage motor pools;
- 6 (5) Manage the preservation and disposal of all records of
- 7 the State;
- 8 (6) Undertake the program of centralized engineering and
- 9 office leasing services, including operation and
- 10 maintenance and lease buyback processing pursuant to
- 11 subsection (d) of public buildings, for departments of
- 12 the State;
- 13 (7) Undertake the functions of the state surveyor;
- 14 (8) Establish accounting and internal control systems;
- 15 (9) Have the discretion to employ persons within the
- 16 comptroller's office who shall be exempt from chapters
- 17 76 and 89 in support of communications, change
- 18 management, and business process improvement programs
- 19 as part of the State's information technology
- 20 modernization efforts; provided that the persons shall
- 21 be members of the state employees' retirement system



1 and shall be eligible to receive the benefits of any
2 state employee benefit program generally applicable to
3 officers and employees of the State;

4 (10) Provide centralized computer information management
5 and processing services through the chief information
6 officer;

7 (11) Establish a program to provide a means for public
8 access to public information and develop an
9 information network for state government;

10 (12) Assume administrative responsibility for the office of
11 information practices; ~~and~~

12 (13) Approve state fleet acquisitions; provided that:

13 (A) Beginning January 1, 2022, all new light-duty
14 motor vehicles that are passenger cars purchased
15 for the State's fleet shall be zero-emission
16 vehicles;

17 (B) Beginning as soon as practicable but no later
18 than January 1, 2030, all new light-duty motor
19 vehicles that are multipurpose passenger vehicles
20 and trucks for the State's fleet shall be
21 zero-emission vehicles; and



1 (C) The comptroller may authorize an exemption for
2 new fleet vehicle purchases if zero-emission
3 vehicles are demonstrated to be cost-prohibitive
4 on a lifecycle basis or unsuitable for the
5 vehicles' planned purpose, or if funds are
6 unavailable[-]; and

7 (14) Oversee design review services for state construction
8 projects and issue certain design approvals through
9 the state architect.

10 For the purposes of this subsection:

11 "Light-duty motor vehicle" has the same meaning as defined
12 in title 10 Code of Federal Regulations part 490.

13 "Multipurpose passenger vehicle" has the same meaning as
14 defined in title 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 571.3.

15 "Passenger car" has the same meaning as defined in title 49
16 Code of Federal Regulations section 571.3.

17 "Truck" has the same meaning as defined in title 49 Code of
18 Federal Regulations section 571.3.

19 "Zero-emission vehicle" has the same meaning as specified
20 in title 40 Code of Federal Regulations section 88.1."



PART II

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for:

(1) The establishment of:

(A) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) state architect position pursuant to section 1 of this Act; and

(B) full-time equivalent (FTE) positions within the office of the state architect, for the administration and implementation of this Act;

(2) A study by the comptroller examining potential strategies and actions for the State to streamline county permitting processes for efficient review and approval of state construction projects, including the feasibility of appropriating state funding for county positions dedicated exclusively to the permitting of State construction projects; and

(3) Any other associated administrative costs necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Act.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 accounting and general services for the purposes of this Act;
3 provided that no sum shall be expended prior to the adoption of
4 an amended or updated state building code by the state building
5 code council pursuant to section 107-24, Hawaii Revised
6 Statutes.

7 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
8 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

10
INTRODUCED BY: _____

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S.B. NO. 2064

Report Title:

Governor; DAGS; Office of the State Architect; State Architect;
State Construction Projects; Design Approvals; Design Review;
Report; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes within the Department of Accounting and General Services the Office of the State Architect, directed by a State Architect appointed by the Governor. Requires the State Architect to organize, manage, and oversee the design review of all state construction projects and issue design approvals for traditional design-bid-build state construction projects. Requires an annual report to the Governor and Legislature. Authorizes the Department of Accounting and General Services to oversee design review services for state construction projects and issue certain design approvals through the State Architect. Appropriates moneys. Effective 7/1/2050.

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