A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE STATE CAPITOL.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that increasing threats to public safety have warranted increased security measures at many federal, state, and county facilities. These security measures include the installation of metal detectors and screening to prevent incidents of gun violence that are now common throughout the United States, as well as the erection of vehicular barriers to prevent incidents such as the bombing of Oklahoma City's Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building that occurred in 1995.

The legislature finds that more than fifty years ago, Hawaii's state capitol and the surrounding capitol district were designed to stand as a proud symbol of Hawaii's state government. It was intended for the design to provide easy public access to elected officials, a value of great importance to our democracy. However, ease of access must be tempered with protecting against modern threats and preserving the safety of visitors and those who work in the state capitol.
The legislature finds that, currently, there are no meaningful security measures in place to restrict weapons, explosives, or vehicular access at the Hawaii state capitol. The purpose of this Act is to begin reasonable preventative short-term and long-term measures to protect public safety while also preserving, to the extent possible, public access at the Hawaii state capitol, rather than wait for a tragic incident and loss of life to occur before action is taken.

SECTION 2. The department of accounting and general services, in consultation with the legislature and any agencies responsible for security at the state capitol and Washington Place, shall develop and implement an enhanced security plan that:

(1) Ensures safety at the state capitol by screening visitors for weapons while preserving public access;

(2) Prevents surface level unauthorized vehicular access to the state capitol and surrounding grounds while preserving the viewplanes and the historic character of the capitol district;
(3) Prevents unauthorized vehicular access to the underground state capitol parking garage by moving public parking to a new location; and

(4) Includes plans and designs for a new, secured underground public parking facility and an above-ground mall between Beretania Street, Punchbowl Street, and Washington Place that shall replace, in one or more phases, the unsecured above-ground parking and asbestos-laden structure currently occupied by the department of health; provided that any plans developed and implemented pursuant to this subsection shall eliminate elevated structures on site to prevent an elevated line of sight into Washington Place or the state capitol that would compromise the security of those facilities; provided further that any plans developed and implemented pursuant to this subsection shall expand safer public access to the state capitol while also preserving the viewplanes and historic character of the capitol district.

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 2019-2020 and the
same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
2020-2021 to begin implementation of short-term improvements and
planning for any long-term improvements described in section 2,
including:

(1) Planning, design, and installation of metal detectors,
screening stations, and related equipment and
improvements;

(2) Planning, design, and installation of vehicle barriers
and related site and ground improvements incorporated
appropriately into the landscape;

(3) Planning and design for the redesign and
reconstruction of state capitol parking facilities to
prevent unauthorized vehicular access and relocate
public parking from the state capitol to another site;

(4) Planning and design for a new secured underground
public parking facility and an above-ground mall
between Beretania Street, Punchbowl Street, and
Washington Place that shall replace, in one or more
phases, the unsecured above-ground parking and
asbestos-laden structure currently occupied by the
department of health; provided that any plans
developed and implemented shall eliminate elevated
structures on site to prevent an elevated line of
sight into Washington Place or the state capitol that
would compromise the security of those facilities;
provided further that any plans developed and
implemented shall expand safer public access to the
state capitol while preserving the viewplanes and
historic character of the capitol district; and
(5) Hiring or contracting full-time equivalent
(FTE) security personnel positions.

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

SECTION 4. The department of accounting and general
services shall submit a report to the legislature on its
progress and recommendations, including any proposed
legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
the regular sessions of 2020, 2021, and 2022.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

INTRODUCED BY:
Report Title:
DAGS; State Capitol; Washington Place; Appropriation

Description:
Appropriates funds to the Department of Accounting and General Services for the planning and design of enhanced security measures at the State Capitol and the surrounding capitol district.

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