COMPTROLLER’S MEMORANDUM NO. 2014-22

TO: Heads of Departments and Agencies Occupying DAGS Buildings

FROM: Dean H. Seki, Comptroller

SUBJECT: Prohibiting E-Cigarettes in DAGS Buildings Statewide

Effective November 16, 2006, Act 295, the Hawaii Smoke-Free Workplace and Public Places Law, prohibited the smoking of tobacco products in places open to the public and places of employment. While the Act did not specifically address the use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and other electronic smoking devices, there is a growing concern that the vapors emitted by e-cigarettes may contain harmful elements. Based on various tests that have been conducted, it has been determined that the various samples tested contained not only nicotine, but also detectable levels of known carcinogens and toxic chemicals, including tobacco-specific nitrosamines and diethylene glycol, a toxic chemical used in antifreeze.

Prohibiting the use of e-cigarettes in areas where smoking is now prohibited by law will reduce perception on the part of employees and the general public that the use of e-cigarettes is healthy behavior. Furthermore, any negative impact on employee productivity will be diminished by reducing any distractions resulting in the use of e-cigarettes in the workplace.

As such, effective October 1, 2014, the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) will prohibit the use of e-cigarettes and other electronic smoking devices in all buildings under its jurisdiction. Areas included in this prohibition shall include, but not be limited to offices, public lobbies, lanais, interior courtyards, patios, covered walkways, and within a minimum distance of twenty (20) feet from entrances, exits, windows that open, and ventilation intakes that serve enclosed or partially enclosed areas where smoking is prohibited.

Signage similar to “No Smoking” signs will be posted in appropriate areas to inform users of this policy, which shall apply to the following DAGS buildings:
Island of Oahu:

1. State Capitol
2. Kalanimoku Building
3. Liliuokalani Building
4. Kinau Hale
5. Leiopapa a Kamehameha Building
6. No. 1 Capitol District Building
7. Keoni Ana Building
8. Kekauluohi Building
9. Hale Auhau Building
10. Kekuanaoa Building
11. Keelikolani Building
12. Kam V Building
13. O R & L Building
14. Central Services Base Yard
15. Surplus Properties
16. Archives Records Center
17. Kaneohe Civic Center
18. Wahiawa Civic Center
19. Waipahu Civic Center
20. Kakuhihewa Building
21. King Kalakaua Building
22. Washington Place Museum

Island of Kauai:

1. Lihue State Office Building
2. Lihue Health Center
3. Lihue Health Center Annex
4. Lihue Courthouse
5. DAGS Puhi Office Building
6. DAGS Puhi Maintenance Building
7. Plant Industry Building
8. Vector Control Building

Island of Maui:

1. Kahului Civic Center
2. DAGS Facility, Mua Street
3. Wailuku State Office Building
4. Wailuku State Office Building No. 2
5. Kaunakakai State Office Building

Island of Hawaii:

1. Hilo State Office Building
2. DAGS Hilo Maintenance Facility
3. Kona State Office Building No. 1
4. Kona State Office Building No. 2
5. Kona State Office Building No. 3
6. DAGS Kona Maintenance Facility
7. DAGS Ka‘u Maintenance Facility
8. Honokaa State Office Building No. 1
9. Honokaa State Office Building No. 2
10. DAGS Honokaa Maintenance Facility
11. Keakealani Office Building
12. Kohala State Office Building
13. Naalehu State Office Building
14. Waimea State Office Building

If you have any questions, on Oahu, call James Hisano, Central Services Manager at 831-6734; on the Island of Hawaii, call Jerry Watanabe, District Engineer at 974-6400; on Kauai, call Eric Agena, District Engineer at 274-3030; and on Maui, call Wade Shimabukuro, District Engineer at 877-3305.