A Timeline of the Public Access Room (PAR)

1989

Lack of transparency and access leads to call for change. Special Legislative Access Committee is created.

1990

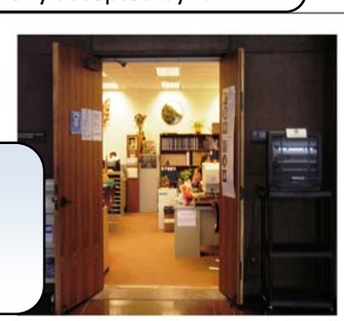
PAR opens in Capitol basement. "Access" computer system allows first online access to legislative documents. Legislative testimony accepted by fax.

1991

Hawaii's "Legislative Access Experience" is published by House Majority Office.

1992

PAR is staffed by legislative employees.



1993

PAR coordinates the first broadcast of a committee hearing.

1994

PAR is made permanent with the enactment of Act 259-94 "Friends of Access." Senate's opening session is broadcast.

1995

PAR opens during interim and is available year-round to assist citizens prepare for the legislative session.

1996

Hawaii State Legislature website, www.capitol.hawaii.gov, is launched.

1997

Legislative Broadcast Program is made permanent by Act 373-97.

1998

Office of Information Practices is given oversight of the Sunshine Law, Act 137-98.

1999

Senate begins hearing notices by email. Citizen's 'open mic' TV Program taped in PAR for airing on Olelo.

2000

Bill introduced to fund video streaming. First email testimony processed and delivered by PAR.

2001

2nd full-time PAR staff position added.

2002

PAR begins coordinating "Legislator's "Back to School" Program, helping *keiki* to learn about citizenship and their legislature.

2003

PAR begins Neighbor Island outreach program.

2004

PAR's website www.hawaii.gov/lrb/par continues to grow as resource tool for the public.

2005

Over 4,000 pieces of e-mail testimony received by PAR for copying and distribution. (By 2007, this triples to 12,500 pieces.)

2006

Capitol installs free wireless access, allowing the public to work online in committee rooms, hallways and the PAR.

2007

House and Senate provide for direct receipt of email testimony. Legislative website provides RSS subscriptions for measure tracking.

2008

Written testimony now available and searchable online. Broadcast events are closed captioned for the hearing impaired.

2009

Online form for submission of testimony appears on Legislature's website. JAWS software installed on public computer.

2010

House, Senate and Governor issue Congratulatory Proclamations to celebrate PAR's 20th year.

2011

Created DVDs of "Welcome to the Public Access Room."

2012

Posted PAR 2012 captioned video, "We the Powerful," on the website. Now citizens can, at any time, learn about the legislative process.

2013

Legislative website allows customized measure tracking reports.

Revised March 2013