

Final Decking and Governor's Timeline

Final Decking

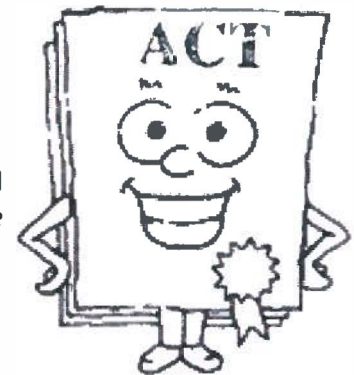
Final decking is the deadline for bills to be in their final form and available for review by the members of the House and Senate at least 48 hours prior to final reading. This deadline applies to bills amended by the non-originating chamber and whose differences have been resolved – either by the conference committee coming up with a new draft, or the originating chamber's conferees subsequently voting to agree with the non-originating chamber's draft.

There are two separate final decking deadlines: the "non-fiscal" deadline (April 29th this year) applies to non-financial bills; the "fiscal" deadline (April 30th this year) applies to all bills with financial implications. (Quick check: if the bill was referred to WAM or FIN, it's "fiscal.") Under the final decking process, once a bill is "decked," it is put on the calendar for final reading in the House and/or Senate. Final reading for most decked bills will be held on May 5th. The Legislature may hold final reading on a handful of bills on May 7th, the last day of session (adjournment *sine die*.)

Important Timelines (Final Step for a Bill to Become a Law)

If a bill successfully passes through both chambers of the Legislature, it needs to be presented to the Governor. *

The procedure for enactment, which is defined in [Article III, Section 16](#) of the Hawai'i State Constitution, varies depending on when the bill is delivered to the Governor and the Governor's subsequent action or inaction in considering the bill. (*In computing the number of days designated below, the following days are excluded: Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, and any days in which the Legislature is in recess prior to its adjournment.*)



- **If the bill is sent to the Governor on or before April 16, 2020** (10 or more days before adjournment of the Legislature *sine die*), then...
 - 1) If the Governor signs the bill within 10 days, the bill becomes law and is given an Act number.
 - 2) If the Governor neither signs nor vetoes the bill within 10 days, the bill becomes law without the Governor's signature and is given an Act number.
 - 3) If the Governor vetoes the bill within 10 days, the bill does not become law unless the Legislature reconsiders the bill before adjournment *sine die* and overrides the veto by a 2/3 vote in each chamber.

- **If the bill is sent to the Governor after April 16, 2020** (less than 10 days prior to adjournment *sine die*), then...
 - 1) If the Governor signs the bill by **July 14, 2020** (the 45th day after adjournment *sine die*), the bill becomes law and is given an Act number.
 - 2) If the Governor neither signs nor vetoes the bill by **July 14, 2020** (the 45th day after adjournment *sine die*), the bill becomes law without the Governor's signature and is given an Act number.
 - 3) If the Governor intends to veto the bill, the Governor must inform the Legislature by **June 29, 2020** (the 35th day after adjournment *sine die*) and deliver the veto by **July 14, 2020**. If the bill is vetoed, it will not become law unless the Legislature successfully overrides the veto in special session by a 2/3 vote in each chamber. The Legislature must convene in special session at or before noon on **July 14, 2020** to override the Governor's veto.

Note: The date that a bill goes into effect as law can be found in its last section.

*Unless it proposes a constitutional amendment, in which case it gets put on the ballot for the electorate to decide its fate.