

PUBLIC ACCESS ROOM
A division of the Legislative Reference Bureau

NEWSLETTER

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Note: Fax from neighbor islands using these numbers with ext. 7-0793.



2013 Legislative Timetable

January

- 16th Opening Day
18th Non-Administrative Bill Package Cutoff
21st Holiday: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
22nd State-of-the-State Address
Administrative Bill Package Cutoff
24th Bill Introduction Cutoff: Last day to introduce bills
31st Grants/Subsidies Cutoff

February

- 7th Triple Referral Filing deadline (Senate bills)
15th First Lateral (Senate bills)
18th Holiday: Presidents' Day
21st to 27th: Mandatory 5-Day Recess

March

- 1st First Decking
7th First Crossover
11th Budget Decking
13th Budget Crossover
Last day to introduce Substantive Resolutions
14th Second Triple Referral Filing deadline (House bills)
22nd Second Lateral (House bills)
26th Holiday: Kuhio Day
29th Holiday: Good Friday

April

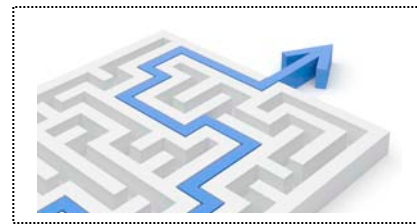
- 1st First Lateral for Senate Concurrent Resolutions
5th Second Decking
11th Second Crossover & Last day to disagree
12th First Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
19th Constitutional Amendments: Deadline for final form
22nd Second Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
25th Last day to file Non-Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading
26th Last day to file Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading

May

- 2nd Adjournment sine die (Session pau!)

Strategy

by Suzanne Marinelli, Public Access Coordinator



Aloha everybody.

Well, here we go. The legislative session is upon us again, with hundreds of issues that don't always seem to have solutions, and thousands of people who want, and need, specific things from our government. Not everyone will be happy with answers that arise from the session. Disagreements will abound. Some things just won't go our way.

Sometimes it can seem like the whole messy process of democracy divides us more than it unites us, doesn't it?

I've been thinking about that as we're gearing up for Opening Day, and remembering that I was once involved in a deeply divisive issue in my community, one that took years to resolve.

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When I initially got involved on my group's behalf, I had a hard time understanding why *everybody* didn't see the issue from the perspective of 'our' people.

Soon, though, it became obvious that our opponents felt just as passionately about the matter, but that they had reached an entirely different conclusion. And some of those folks were very dear to me. So I got together with a close friend, the other 'leader' on my side of the issue. We sat down for a long strategy session. We decided to set aside our own perspectives entirely for a while, and do everything we could to see the issue from our opponents' viewpoint.

How fortunate that we did so. With our newly-expanded awareness, we visited the opposition leaders and told them about our experiment. They were pleased, of course. Beginning that day, we shared a great deal of our information with them, and they with us. We worked with them, rather than against them.

Developing a real understanding from an opposing perspective didn't necessarily make our jobs, or theirs, any easier. Sometimes it made things much harder for all of us. But the experiment ultimately meant that we were able to devise a solution that worked for both sides of a very complex, terribly important, and deeply divisive issue.

As an aside, I have an anecdote from the early days of that campaign. One of the people on 'our' side of the issue was a scientist, one who - inexplicably for a scientist - seemed to care more about scoring points than he cared about accuracy.

We were many hours into a public hearing one day. The room was thick with tension that had been building for hours. Our scientist's turn came to speak. He started in with his usual exaggerations and misinformation. Anger was palpably rising in the room. *What to do???*

I decided to try something. I turned to the person sitting next to me, one of our opponents whose face was turning scarlet as she listened, and said, in as loud a whisper as I could manage, "*We'll pay you to take him off our hands!*" She looked at me, astonished, and burst into laughter. Soon the hearing recessed for a few minutes. When we came back, the mood of the room had changed completely, except, of course, for the scientist. He was, and maybe still is, quite angry. But the rest of us finally got to a solution that worked for us all.

Who are your opponents? What do they believe? Why? When you really get inside their heads, how does the issue shift for you? What positives could come from their being victorious? What are potential downsides if you were to achieve complete victory? What does the space in the middle look like?

What are your absolutes, the details about which you will not, and cannot, compromise? Where can you compromise? Why? Do you feel it is important to achieve a real solution, one that works for your opponents as well as for you?

Questions like these have no simple answers. But asking them of ourselves will help us find real answers, every time.

Best wishes for a rich and productive session.



2013 PAR Session Staff

Got questions? Debra is eager to help you find the answers to questions about legislation and/or state government.

Debra has over 20 years of experience in the government and non-profit sector with a focus on the development of programs for at-risk youth. She has a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Hawaii, Manoa campus. In addition, she has experience as a Legislative Aide and recently volunteered at the Governor's Office of Constituent Services. In 2011-12, Debra joined her husband on an academic sabbatical and lived in Tokyo. During that time she studied Japanese and enjoyed the delicious foods, interesting history and intriguing culture of Japan.

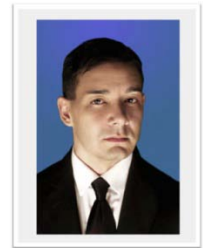


Debra Shiraiishi-Pratt

Debra's interests revolve around youth and the environment. She has been a Big Sister (twice) and a Girl Scout Leader in Palolo for an outreach troop with Micronesian girls. She enjoys hiking, snowshoeing, paddling, swimming, and most recently, raising chickens.

Aloha, my name is Ryan Kapuniai.

I have a law degree from the William S. Richardson School with a Certificate in native Hawaiian law. I also have an M.A. in Linguistics with an emphasis in Hawaiian Language from Hawai'i Pacific University and a B.A./B.S. in Anthropology and Environmental Studies from The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington.

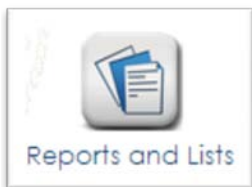


Ryan Kapuniai

I have taught as a professor of English at several colleges in Honolulu and for the Hawai'i Department of Education, and have gained experience at several Honolulu law firms. During the 2012 legislative session, I worked as a Committee Clerk in the Hawaii House of Representatives.

As for community associations, I am a member of the Royal Order of Kamehameha, practice kendo at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, and am a Eucharistic minister at the Cathedral of St. Andrew.

I look forward to supporting your participation in the legislative process during the 2013 session.



Website: New "Reports and Lists" page

There's a wealth of **new** tools available on the new "Reports and Lists" page. These are very useful tools which were once available only to the legislative offices. Now the general public will be able to make good use of them as well.

Go to the Legislature's homepage (<http://capitol.hawaii.gov>), click on the "Reports and Lists" icon and start to explore.

On the left of the screen, you will see the heading "Deadline Tracking." On the right is a long lists of reports that are just a click away. Using these as the session progresses, you will be able to access sortable and downloadable lists of measures that have survived significant deadlines. A great way to keep up with what's still viable.

Next, scroll down the list of headings on the left. There's a lot there! You'll be able to find and customize reports based on committee referrals, who's introduced legislation, measures by package, and much more. This is also where you'll find the Daily Updates feature, which was introduced last year.

Take a few minutes now to familiarize yourself with some of the Reports and Lists available -- you'll be ready to create an easy-to-read, professional report at a moment's notice!



<http://capitol.hawaii.gov/advreports/main.aspx>

Get to Know your Deadlines: First Lateral

It'll be here before you know it!

The implementation of deadlines throughout the session effectively reduces the number of pieces of potential legislation. *Translated*, that means that bills fall by the wayside and may "die" if they fail to meet a deadline.

The First Lateral deadline is one you won't always find listed on the official legislative calendar. That's because it's considered an *internal* deadline – one that is set by each of the chambers to ensure timely movement of bills through their committees. The First Lateral deadline is the date by which a bill must reach the last committee to which it has been referred in the originating chamber.

That means that a bill needs to be reported out of its *second-to-last* committee and be filed for second reading by the day *before* the First Lateral deadline. The next day, the bill can then pass second reading on the floor and move into its last committee for consideration.

Bear in mind that the deadline has no effect on bills that were referred to just one committee – the bill is *already* in its last committee. But for bills that were referred to more than one committee, this deadline is crucial.

If a bill does not reach its last committee by the First Lateral deadline, it is stopped from moving forward during the session.

FYI: The Senate has established February 15th as its First Lateral deadline for Senate Bills. At press time, the House of Representatives had not published its First Lateral deadline for House Bills.

Workshops

Learn more about the legislative process and how you can participate easily and effectively.

Attend one of PAR's "We the Powerful" workshops – offered in the Public Access Room (Room 401)

Tuesdays 12 noon

Thursdays 5:30 p.m.

Call (587-0478) or email (par@capitol.hawaii.gov) to sign up! They're free (and we promise you'll learn something). Have a group you'd like to get involved? Contact us to set up a workshop.

PAR Mailboxes

The Public Access Room has a limited number of cubby-hole mailboxes for use by groups. Some of these have fallen into disuse, so we're starting fresh again this session. Anyone requesting a mailbox should contact PAR as soon as possible. They're available on a first-come, first-served basis.

PAR Hours during Session

During Session (January 16 – May 2), the Public Access Room (Room 401) has extended hours!

Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Quotes from the File . . .

"Knowledge is power."

- Sir Francis Bacon

"A little knowledge that acts is worth infinitely more than much knowledge that is idle."

- Kahlil Gibran