

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.



2014 Legislative Timetable

January

- 15th Opening Day
17th Non-Administrative Bill Package Cutoff
20th Holiday: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
21st State-of-the-State Address
Administrative Bill Package Cutoff
23rd Bill Introduction Cutoff: Last day to introduce bills
31st Grants/Subsidies Cutoff

February

- 6th Triple Referral Filing deadline
14th First Lateral
17th Holiday: Presidents' Day
20th to 26th: Mandatory 5-Day Recess
28th First Decking

March

- 6th First Crossover
7th Last day to introduce Substantive Resolutions
10th Budget Decking
12th Budget Crossover
13th Second Triple Referral Filing deadline
21st Second Lateral
25th First Lateral for Concurrent Resolutions
26th Holiday: Kuhio Day

April

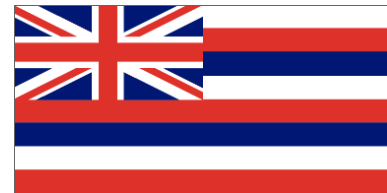
- 3rd First Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
4th Second Decking
10th Second Crossover & Last day to disagree
17th Constitutional Amendments: Deadline for final form
18th Holiday: Good Friday
21st Second Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
24th Last day to file Non-Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading
25th Last day to file Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading

May

- 1st Adjournment sine die (Session pau!)

Here We Go!

by Suzanne Marinelli, Public Access Coordinator



Welcome to the 2014 legislative session, marking the 55th year of Hawaii statehood.

As Opening Day has drawn closer, I've been wondering what that initial legislative session must have been like. What was it like to make the transition from "territory" to "state"?

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## 2014 PAR Session Staff



Kathi Hasegawa

Aloha. My name is **Kathi Hasegawa** and I look forward to meeting you in the Public Access Room. After 20 years of using the services PAR has to offer, I am happy to find myself on the *other* side of the desk. There are so many ways the Public Access Room can help you -- from free computer use to tracking legislation to finding out where a legislator's office is located.

With an MS degree in Community Economic Development, I have worked in the nonprofit sector on issues related to homelessness, housing, and mental health for more than 30 years. I lived in Japan for 9 years and love to travel and learn about other cultures, new ideas, and positive solutions to local and global concerns. Being the parent of 5 sons and daughters and having 5 grandchildren contributes to an active life. It also keeps me abreast of current issues and happenings and thinking about how we can make this a better world for future generations.

**Debra Shiraishi-Pratt** is a returning PAR session hire. She looks forward to helping the public and welcomes all questions because "each question helps me to learn more."

Debra has a Masters degree in Public Administration from the Univ. of Hawaii and over 20 years of work experience in the public sector, both with non-profit organizations and state government. Much of her work experience has been with youth programs and she has been a volunteer Big Sister, Girl Scout leader, and afterschool tutor. She loves to be outdoors (hiking, swimming, and cycling) and to travel (she has lived abroad in Japan, Mongolia, Philippines, Samoa and Canada).



Debra Shiraishi-Pratt

### *Website:* Using the Websites to Get Organized

The Hawaii State Legislature's website ([www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov)) and the Public Access Room website ([hawaii.gov/lrb/par](http://hawaii.gov/lrb/par)) have a lot of great tools available to help you keep abreast of things during session.

If you aren't familiar with the Legislature's website, check out PAR's [Guide to Hawaii Legislature's Website](#) for an overview of how the website is organized and some key features to help you during session.

- Keep track of all the bills you're interested in -- use the **Measure Tracking** feature to create as many lists as you like. It's easy enough to add to them or winnow them down as session unfolds. The reports are sortable (double click on the column headers), and offer a great way to see at-a-glance if there's been any recent activity on your measures.
- Immediately add any bills for which you'd like to offer testimony to your **Hearing Notification** list. Should the bill be scheduled for a hearing, you'll immediately be sent an email message letting you know the hearing details and how to offer testimony. (You can also ask to be sent messages every time a particular committee schedules a hearing.)

Do you have a hui of folks who will be tracking and lobbying on legislation? Take time now to consider how you'll be accessing information and keeping one another informed (contact PAR if you'd like to discuss your challenges). Make sure everyone knows about the PAR website's "[Information Sheets](#)" -- there you'll find everything from Capitol maps to lists of Office Managers and Committee Clerks.

- Do you or your colleagues want to learn more about the legislative process and how it all works? Check out the "workshops" page on PAR's website, or schedule a time to have an in person workshop with PAR staff -- see page 4 for our current schedule.

# Get to Know your Deadlines: Reading the Session Calendar

*"I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by." - Douglas Adams*

If you're on our email list, you've already seen PAR's 2014 Session Calendar, designed to help make sense of the legislative process and its deadlines. (You can access the calendar on [PAR's website \(http://hawaii.gov/lrb/par/\)](http://hawaii.gov/lrb/par/) -- just go to the Information Sheets page.)

At first glance it can be a little **OVERWHELMING**. While information on the deadlines appears on the flip side, the odd language, different colors and those little boxes of numbers can make your head reel. Here's a look at the big picture. As always, PAR's available to help answer any questions -- just call or email!

## The Session

It starts on January 15<sup>th</sup>, and is scheduled to end on May 1<sup>st</sup>. In those fifteen weeks, the fate of thousands of bills will be decided. As a PAR workshop attendee once lamented, "This process isn't designed to *pass* bills, it's designed to *kill* bills!" That is one way of looking at it -- if a bill fails to move forward, a deadline will be missed, and the bill will be dead for the session. During the 2013 session, only 10% of the bills became law, so that is sure to be the fate of most bills. But looked at in another way, the deadlines serve to keep the bills that do have support moving and viable -- without deadlines to force steady movement, session could easily turn into a bottleneck at the end.

**THE 2014 SESSION CALENDAR**

Note: On the 60 session days (days when members convene in their respective chambers), the session day count appears in a box in the lower-right, like this: **1** = bills; **2** = resolutions; **3** = budget. See reverse side for more deadline information.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<b>JANUARY</b>					
		14	15 Opening Day	16	17 Non-Admin. Bill Package Cutoff
19	20 HOLIDAY Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	21 State-of-the-State Address & Admin. Bill Package Cutoff	22 Recess #1	23 Bill Intro Cutoff	24 Recess #2
26	27	28	29	30	31 Grants / Subsidies Cutoff
<b>FEBRUARY</b>					
2	3	4	5	6 Triple referral filing	7
9	10	11	12	13	14
16	17 HOLIDAY President	18	19	20	21
23	24	25	26	27	28
<b>MARCH</b>					
2	3 Recess #1	4	5	6	7
9	10	11	12	13	14
16	17	18	19	20	21

**PAR's Annotated Session Calendar:**  
<http://hawaii.gov/lrb/par/fyi/2014cal.pdf>

## What are all these "firsts" and "seconds"?

For a bill to become a law, it's going to have to go through both chambers, so the "first" and "second" terminology used for deadlines is a naming convention to help keep track of the various stages a bill must go through. Try substituting "first" and "second" with this language:

**First** = in or from the **originating** chamber (the House for HBs, the Senate for SBs)

**Second** = in or from the **non-originating** chamber (the Senate for HBs, the House for SBs)

Bills have to start by making their way through their originating chamber (meeting their First Lateral, First Decking, and First Crossover deadlines). By the First Crossover deadline (March 6<sup>th</sup>), House Bills must move out of their originating chamber to the Senate, and Senate Bills must move to the House. They are then in their non-

originating chambers, and you'll notice the deadlines to be met are now "second" -- Second Lateral, Second Decking, Second Crossover.

## What are all these little boxes in the corner of the dates?

The little boxed numbers in the lower right-hand corner of each date block indicate the **session days**. Each Regular Session includes 60 session days -- days on which the House and Senate will convene in their chambers. All 51 members will convene in the House, and all 25 members in the Senate. There they'll deliberate and take action on a wide number of items. On each of those session days, the House and Senate will publish an "Order of the Day" with the agenda of floor proceedings. To find an "Order of the Day," use the search box on the [Legislature's homepage](http://legislature.hawaii.gov/). For help in understanding the proceedings, feel free to contact the Public Access Room.

You'll notice that any date that doesn't have a box in the corner is a holiday, or a weekend or "recess day." While the terminology calls to mind escapism in elementary school, the legislators are still hard at work on recess days. They don't convene on the floor with their colleagues, but there are plenty of committee meetings and other activities and responsibilities to keep them busy.

## What about all these colors?

Most of the time, we find ourselves looking for bill deadlines -- those appear in purple on the calendar. But sometimes we're focused on resolutions -- and those deadlines appear in blue. The budget has its own deadlines -- those, appropriately enough, appear in green.

**Here We Go! (continued from page 1)**

In that first year of statehood, I believe that 31 bills passed into law. Since then, many have been deleted, others amended, and new ones added. This is common to many societies - legislation evolves in order to keep step with that society, since it is always changing and evolving as well.

I came across a good example of that today when I was looking at the "Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Act," Chapter 437 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. Section 437-1.1 sets out definitions used throughout the chapter. The first entry was from 1939; the most recent one is from 2010.

Every time those definitions have been repealed, expanded or modified, they were open to the crucially important input of common everyday citizens, people like you and me whose particular bodies of knowledge dovetailed with that of the legislators.



This is only one tiny example of the thousands of ideas, concepts, and notions our legislators will need your help with in the coming session.

So, have your say! Share your knowledge. Make a difference in all our lives. If you need help figuring out the best way to do that, just give us a call. We'll be delighted to help.

*Suzanne*

**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](mailto: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 specifically for your group.

**PAR Mailboxes**

The Public Access Room has a limited number of cubbyhole 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 15 – May 1), the Public Access Room (Room 401) has extended hours!

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

*Quotes from the File . . .*

**"A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination."**

- Nelson Mandela

**"An idealist believes the short run doesn't count. A cynic believes the long run doesn't matter. A realist believes that what is done or left undone in the short run determines the long run."**

- Sydney J. Harris