

PUBLIC ACCESS ROOM

A division of the Legislative Reference Bureau

NEWSLETTER

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Neighbor Islands (Toll Free): Use these numbers, and then enter extension 7-0478 followed by the # sign.

Hawai'i.....974-4000 Kaua'i.....274-3141
Maui.....984-2400 Moloka'i/Lana'i... (800) 468-4644
Note: Fax from neighbor islands using these numbers with ext. 7-0793.



2015 Legislative Timetable

January

- 21st Opening Day
- 23rd Non-Administrative Bill Package Cutoff
- 26th State-of-the-State Address
Administrative Bill Package Cutoff
- 28th State-of-the-Judiciary Address
- 29th Bill Introduction Cutoff: Last day to introduce bills
- 30th Grants/Subsidies Cutoff

February

- 12th Triple Referral Filing deadline
- 16th Holiday: Presidents' Day
- 20th First Lateral
- 26th Mandatory 5-Day Recess Begins

March

- 4th Mandatory 5-Day Recess Ends
- 6th First Decking
- 12th First Crossover
- 13th Last day to introduce Substantive Resolutions
- 16th Budget Decking
- 18th Budget Crossover
- 19th Second Triple Referral Filing deadline
- 26th Holiday: Kuhio Day
- 27th Second Lateral
- 31st First Lateral for Concurrent Resolutions

April

- 3rd Holiday: Good Friday
- 9th First Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
- 10th Second Decking
- 16th Second Crossover & Last day to disagree
- 20th Second Lateral for Concurrent Resolutions (House)
- 24th Constitutional Amendments: Deadline for final form
- 27th Second Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
- 30th Last day to file Non-Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading

May

- 1st Last day to file Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading
- 7th Adjournment *sine die* (Session pau!)

~ Farewell ~

by Suzanne Marinelli

Reflections on her years at the Public Access Room



I thumb through a file, make an entry in our calendar. Someone comments about the briefing we're about to broadcast; the phone rings. A patron comes dashing in to the office asking for help with something.

There are so many largely unnoticed moments in the course of any day in the Public Access Room. Yet, as my retirement day draws ever closer - *yikes!* - *so soon!* - tiny moments sear themselves ever more deeply into my memory, so that I may savor them at length later on. What a blessed experience it has been to share these many years with you.

I think back to January 1994 when I first came to O'ahu from Kaua'i, where my house and my job had been swept away by the winds of 'Iniki long months before. There was a short-term job waiting for me

(continued on page 3)

In this Issue

- Farewell.....page 1
- 2015 Legislative Timetable1
- Public Access Room (PAR) Staff 20152
- Website: Where are the Bills?.....3
- Sometimes "One More Piece of Paper!"4
- Provide Oral Testimony via Video Testimony6
- Workshops, PAR Hours6
- Quotes from the File6

Public Access Room (PAR) Staff 2015



L-R: Jocelyn Idriss, Keanu Young, Suzanne Marinelli, Debra Shiraishi-Pratt, Virginia Beck

New Staff

Keanu Young has come on board as the year-round Assistant Coordinator. His decade of legislative experience at both the State and County levels has given him valuable insight into government and the legislative process. Having worked for several Representatives in a variety of roles, Keanu is quite familiar with how things work at the Capitol. In addition to his work at the House of Representatives, Keanu worked as a legislative aide to a Honolulu City Councilmember. His experience and willingness to help others make him a great asset to the PAR team, and he looks forward to sharing his knowledge with PAR patrons. Born and raised in Kahaluu in Windward Oahu, Keanu enjoys spending time in the ocean and with his family, and playing recreational sports.

Jocelyn Idriss joins PAR as a Legislative Research Assistant for the session. Having previously worked as an intern for a State Senator and as Deputy Field Director on a U.S congressional campaign, Jocelyn is no stranger to politics or the Hawaii State Legislature. She recently graduated cum laude from the honors program at Hawaii Pacific University with a Bachelor's degree in International Studies, a minor in Sociology and a Certificate of Public Anthropology. An avid lover of the ocean, travel and the outdoors, Jocelyn enjoys free diving, surfing, hiking, and yoga in her spare time!

Returning Staff

Debra Shiraishi-Pratt returns for another session as Legislative Research Assistant. She enjoys working at PAR because the public has varied and interesting questions (and she's pretty great at answering them!). She has a Masters degree in Public Administration and over 20 years of experience in the public sector, both for non-profit organizations and State government. During her free time she enjoys dabbling with watercolors, paddling, ocean swims and hikes.

Suzanne Marinelli will be with us to help launch the 2015 Session, and then she'll be off on her merry way. She'll start to enjoy her well-earned (and much looked forward to!) retirement on February 1st. Despite the time she'll spend exploring her art, gardening, hiking trails, and new chapters, we know we'll see her back at the Capitol.

Virginia Beck will be stepping into the role of PAR Coordinator. Virginia has been the Assistant Coordinator for the last 7 years, and has learned a tremendous amount working at Suzanne's side. An avid reader, Virginia also enjoys getting out in the water, hiking the trails, listening to music, and seeing plays.

We're all glad to be here, and are ready to help!

here, advocating at the Capitol on behalf of an organization! It was a chance at a new beginning, and I was grateful.

And I was fascinated too, absolutely fascinated to see the mechanisms of governance up close, to watch as legislators sought balance among competing interests, as they endeavored to craft solutions to address the needs of our islands' many populations. By 1997 I'd gotten my first part-time employment in *just* the place I wanted to be - the Public Access Room. Process, it turned out, was far more fascinating to me than even the important policy discussions so prevalent in this building, all year 'round. I was home.

I pack away a photo and remember some of the many thousands of people I've met, and helped, and been helped by, over the years since then. I smile.

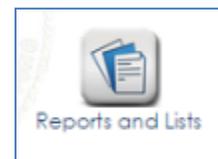
Auntie Loretta - she's always the first to come to mind when I look back at my early days in PAR. She was in her mid-eighties, tiny and frail. She wore thick glasses, walked with a cane and always wore a big floppy broad-brimmed hat. She had retired from 50 years as a public health nurse a couple of years earlier, which gave her time for the legislature. So she'd get off the bus, hobble into the Public Access Room and ask to read certain bills. We'd bring down the binders that held those bills (all was in paper form then), and give her a large magnifying lens we kept on hand. She'd read those bills then ask for some scrap paper - we always had it ready for her. She'd sharpen her set of pencils and begin to write her testimony - always in pencil, and always on the back of paper that had already been used - that was very important to her. I'd watch as legislators would come by to sit and talk with her - "*What do you think of this paragraph, Auntie?*" They knew - we all knew - that she had formed her perspectives through a lifetime of knowledge, experience, and authority.

(continued on page 4)

Website: Where are the Bills?

From January 21st through January 29th, we'll see thousands of bills introduced...
Where to find them?

On The Hawaii State Legislature's website (www.capitol.hawaii.gov), click on the "[Reports and Lists](#)" icon that appears near center screen.



You'll be interested in the first two links that appear at center:

[House Bills Introduced](#)

[Senate Bills Introduced](#)

You'll find the results in a convenient list format that you can easily review. The bills will be listed in order (HB1, HB2, HB3, etc.).

Scroll down the list, glancing at bill titles and descriptions, clicking on to the .pdf symbol  on the left if you come to a bill that you want to review. Make note of the bills you're interested in. You'll want to add them to your "Hearing Notification" list, and/or your "Measure Tracking" list.

You can search for a particular bill using a word or phrase that is likely to appear in its title or description -- just use your web browser's search function (<ctrl> F will work in many of them). Tips on finding particular bills can be found on our [measure tracking](#) handout.

Note: If you're looking for bills introduced by a particular legislator or that are part of a bill package, look at the menu of options that appears on the left of the "Reports and Lists" page. There's a wealth of information to be found!

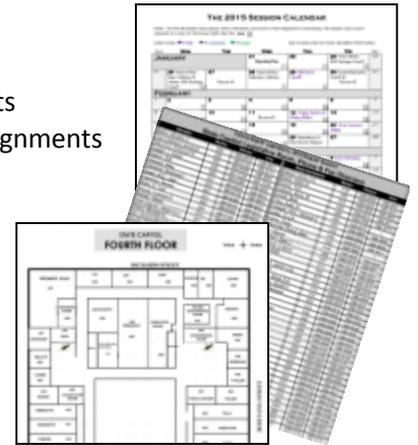
Sometimes "One more piece of paper!" is just what you need!

[PAR's Session Calendar](#) - easy to read, with explanations of the deadlines for bills, resolutions, and the budget

[Bill Tracking](#) - Tips on searching for the bills you're interested in, and setting up a bill tracking list

Convenient 1-page Lists:

- [All State Legislators](#) - contact information
- [Senators](#) - contact information, party affiliation, and committee assignments
- [Representatives](#) - contact information, party affiliation, and committee assignments
- [Senate Committees and Leadership Assignments](#)
- [House Committees and Leadership Assignments](#)
- [Senate Committee/Room Schedules](#) - which committees meet when
- [House Committee/Room Schedules](#) - which committees meet when
- [Maps of the Capitol floors](#) - helps you find offices and conference rooms
- [Office Managers](#)
- [Committee Clerks](#)



These documents and others are available on [PAR's website \(lrbhawaii.org/par\)](http://lrbhawaii.org/par), on our [Information Sheets](#) page.

"Farewell" (continued from page 3)

She taught us all so much about the symbiotic and productive relationship that can exist between everyday citizens and everyday legislators. Most likely all of us have benefitted, directly or indirectly, from Auntie Loretta's kind vigilance and softly-spoken truths.

I take one of my granddarling's drawings down off the wall and slide it carefully into an envelope. That leads me to thinking about those keiki on Molokai, and the changes the splendid energy of youth can create...

It was 2000. Those fifth- and sixth-graders had grown weary of finding so many cans and bottles on their beaches. With their teachers, they hatched a plan they thought would help. They began researching national recycling trends and statistics (mind you, with no computers in their classrooms yet). Their teachers contacted legislators to discuss introducing a bill when the legislature convened again the following January. Meanwhile the keiki started fund-raising for plane tickets, just in case.

In January 2001 their bill was introduced. The students learned they could expect its first hearing soon; they and their teachers got those plane tickets, then practiced their delivery, yet again, of the testimonies they had prepared.

The first hearing convened; they testified; their bill was moving! By the time HB1256 survived its committee hearings that year, it had been changed twice by the House and twice by the Senate. But in conference, House and Senate conferees were unable to agree on a compromise version. The bill languished. The session ended.

The keiki took that in stride. The following year, the second of the biennium, they got busy again with their advocacy - writing letters to legislators, attending meetings, learning more and more about recycling and advocacy both. Toward the end of that session, another conference committee convened. This time agreement was reached. "The bottle bill" passed the legislature; the Governor signed it into law six weeks later, signalling that in 2005, Hawaii would begin a serious recycling program.

In the nine years since, six billion containers have been recycled through that program. On average, we reclaim about 76 % of our cans and bottles now, thanks in great part to the drive and commitment of those children.

(continued on page 5)

I step out of the office to look down to the rotunda and the exquisitely beautiful mosaic, 'Aquarius,' that graces its center. Tadashi Sato created it in 1969 for the new Capitol building. It was showing signs of age by 2010 when its tiles were carefully removed and replaced with fresh ones. Most of the old pieces were discarded, but the craftsmen set aside a few for those who wanted them. I was given one. As an artist, I treasure it beyond the telling of the tale. I go back into the office to pack that next.

Holding that fine piece of history in my hands, I ponder the hundreds of rallies that have taken place at the Capitol since the building opened. Tens of thousands of people have gathered here for this cause or that one, walking past this piece I hold. My thoughts turn to October, 2013, to the most recent of the massive rallies I have seen here over time.

That's when the legislature convened in special session to consider the highly contentious issue of same sex marriage. Thousands of people came to the Capitol each day. The noise level was deafening as people shouted to and for and at one another. Passions ran high. Police were everywhere.

We put a 'we are open' sign outside our door and closed it to lower the noise level inside. We took down our tables, arranged chairs theater-style in front of our television, and tuned in to the proceedings.

Hundreds of people found their way through our office over the course of the next few days, supporters and opponents sitting quietly side by side, watching history unfold. Only a few gentle reminders of our office's non-partisan nature were ever needed. I'd look out on those crowds of people and feel so very proud of all of them. They were *here*. They were involved. This was theirs, no matter their disappointment or elation at the outcome.

I tuck that mosaic into the corner of a waiting box. There are so many images and stories, heartbreaks and miracles...I could go on forever, but my time is drawing to a close (and really, a newsletter can only be so long).

Still, there's one last image I must share. Maybe 15 years ago, I was teaching an evening workshop. One woman didn't seem particularly happy to be there, but her attendance was a requirement for a class she was taking. She clearly felt there were better things she could do with her time.

But I could see her getting interested despite herself. Her body language changed. She asked a few good questions. As the workshop drew to a close, she was staring pensively into the distance. Then her face lit up and she said something that will stay with me forever.

"I had no idea I had so much power!"

She did. You do.

Oh the memories I will treasure of you! Elderly and young, everyone in between, across the eras and ages and persuasions, it is you. You are the keepers of the flame, the guardians who nurture our representative democracy with your voices and your actions and your care. I know you will keep it strong; you will keep it light alive.

I believe in you.

Aloha,



On a Neighbor Island?

Provide Oral Testimony via Video Technology as part of the Senate's Pilot Project



The Senate will be continuing its trial project offering the opportunity for constituents to provide remote video testimony.

More information on the particular committees and scope of the project will be determined in the next couple of weeks. Once determined, detailed instructions will be posted online. You'll be able to find them by going to the [Legislature's website \(capitol.hawaii.gov\)](http://legislature.hawaii.gov), clicking on the "[Senate](#)" bar on the right-side of the page:



Senate

and, under "Senate Links," selecting the [Senate Videoconferencing Pilot Project link](#):

• [Senate Videoconferencing Pilot Project](#)

You should find everything you need on that page once it's been updated for the Twenty-Eighth Legislature. (As of this printing, it has not been updated yet. If the first line says, "During the Twenty-Seventh Legislature..." you'll know we are still waiting for the new information to be posted.)

Please note that this opportunity will only apply to the committees named, and it only applies when they indicate on their hearing notices that they are accepting remote video testimony.

Workshops

Learn more about the legislative process and how you can participate easily and effectively. Attend one of PAR's free "We the Powerful" workshops – offered in the Public Access Room (Room 401):

Tuesdays 12:00 p.m.

Thursdays 5:00 p.m.

Please call (587-0478) or email (par@capitol.hawaii.gov) to sign up! Let us know your level of knowledge and experience, and we can tailor the workshop for you. **Have a group you'd like to get involved?** Contact us to set up a workshop specifically for your group. They're free (and we promise you'll learn something).

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 21st – May 7th), the Public Access Room (Room 401) has extended hours!

Monday - Friday, 7:45 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Quotes from the File . . .

"If you would persuade, you must appeal to interest rather than intellect."

- Benjamin Franklin

"Change is not a process for the impatient."

- Barbara Reinhold