

# PUBLIC ACCESS ROOM

A division of the Legislative Reference Bureau

# NEWSLETTER

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Hawai'i .....974-4000   Kaua'i .....274-3141  
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### 2016 Legislative Timetable

#### January

- 20<sup>th</sup> Opening Day
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Non-Administrative Bill Package Cutoff  
Grants/Subsidies Cutoff
- 25<sup>th</sup> State-of-the-State Address  
Administrative Bill Package Cutoff
- 27<sup>th</sup> Bill Introduction Cutoff: Last day to introduce bills

#### February

- 11<sup>th</sup> Triple Referral Filing (Bills)
- 15<sup>th</sup> Holiday: Presidents' Day
- 19<sup>th</sup> First Lateral (Bills): Bills must be moved to final committee in originating chamber
- 25<sup>th</sup> to March 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mandatory 5-Day Recess

#### March

- 4<sup>th</sup> First Decking: Last day to file non-budget bills for Third Reading in originating chamber
- 10<sup>th</sup> First Crossover (Bills)
- 11<sup>th</sup> Last day to introduce Substantive Resolutions
- 14<sup>th</sup> Budget Decking
- 16<sup>th</sup> Budget Crossover
- 17<sup>th</sup> Second Triple Referral Filing (Bills)
- 24<sup>th</sup> Second Lateral (Bills): Bills must be moved to final committee in non-originating chamber
- 25<sup>th</sup> Holiday: Kuhio Day; Good Friday
- 29<sup>th</sup> First Lateral for Concurrent Resolutions

#### April

- 7<sup>th</sup> First Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
- 8<sup>th</sup> Second Decking (Bills): Last day to file bills for Third Reading in non-originating body
- 14<sup>th</sup> Second Crossover (Bills) & Last day to disagree
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendments: Deadline for final form
- 25<sup>th</sup> Second Crossover Concurrent Resolutions
- 28<sup>th</sup> Last day to file Non-Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading
- 29<sup>th</sup> Last day to file Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading

#### May

- 5<sup>th</sup> Adjournment *sine die* (Session pau!)

## Welcome to Another Session! Where to Start?

- **Review the bills that have been introduced** -- on the Legislature's website ([capitol.hawaii.gov](http://capitol.hawaii.gov)), click on the "[Reports and Lists](#)" button that appears center screen. You'll find links to both House and Senate bills.
- **Find a particular bill**, or bills regarding a certain subject -- either use the keywords search box on the Legislature's home page, or use the "Subject Search" box on the "[Reports and Lists](#)" page noted above.
- **Get ready to advocate!** -- Things happen fast.
  - Let colleagues know that session's underway, and that you may be asking them to offer testimony or to join you in asking a committee chair to hear a particular bill.
  - Sign up to receive hearing notices.
  - Set up your measure tracking lists.
- **Need help?** Contact the Public Access Room -- we're happy to assist you!

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# Public Access Room (PAR) Staff 2016



*L-R: Frank DeGiacomo, Virginia Beck, Keanu Young, Jason Shon*

## New Staff

**Frank DeGiacomo** joins PAR as a Legislative Research Assistant for the session. He was previously a researcher for Congress, a variety of law firms, and a number of nonprofit advocacy organizations. He also worked in the stacks of the Library of Congress. He has a Bachelor of Sciences in Political Science, and a Juris Doctorate. He also has garnered political experience by engaging in social advocacy around the country, as well as here in Hawai'i over the last 15 years. He's a vegan enthusiast and president of an animal rescue. Frank enjoys spending quality time with his feline ohana, as well as other nonhuman animals.

**Jason Shon** also joins PAR as a Legislative Research Assistant for the session. After working in Japan for five years through the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme, Jason volunteered as an interpreter with Peace Boat, a Japan-based non-profit organization. His experiences abroad have instilled a greater appreciation for the importance of civic responsibility and participation in government, and he looks forward to helping PAR patrons get involved in the democratic process and make their voices heard. Outside of work, Jason enjoys soccer, playing the guitar and piano, hiking, and growing vegetables.

## Returning Staff

**Keanu Young** continues as the year-round Assistant Coordinator. He has over a decade of legislative experience at both the State and County levels of government. Having worked for several Hawaii State Representatives in a variety of roles, Keanu is quite familiar with the legislative process and how things work at the Capitol. In addition to his work at the House of Representatives, he has also worked as a legislative aide at the Honolulu City Council. His experience and willingness to help others make him a great asset to the PAR team.

**Virginia Beck** continues her role as PAR Coordinator. Prior to taking over as coordinator last year, Virginia had been the Assistant Coordinator for 7 years, and learned a tremendous amount working alongside former PAR Coordinator Suzanne Marinelli. 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!*

# Get to Know Your Deadlines: Reading the Session Calendar

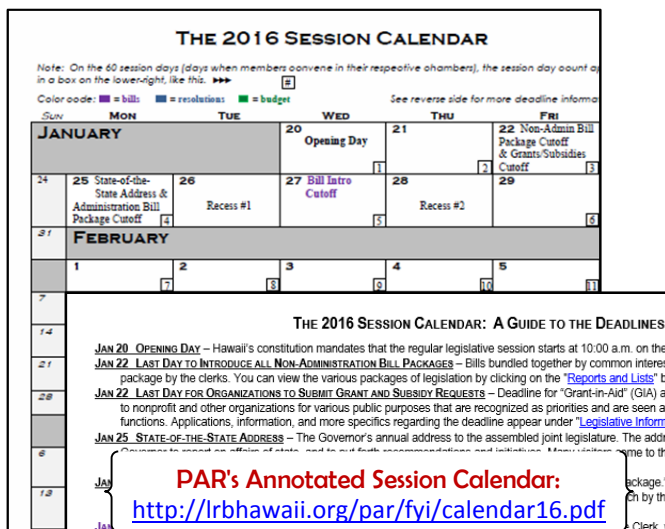
"I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by." - Douglas Adams

If you're on our email list, you've already seen PAR's 2016 Session Calendar, designed to help make sense of the legislative process and its deadlines. (You can access the calendar on [PAR's website \(http://Irbhawaii.org/par/\)](http://Irbhawaii.org/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 is available to help answer any questions -- just call or email!

## The Session

It starts on January 20<sup>th</sup>, and is scheduled to end on May 5<sup>th</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 in most cases the bill will be dead for the session. During the 2015 session, only 9% 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.



## 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 10<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, and 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](#). 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, 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.

## 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) on **Tuesdays at 12:00 noon**.

Please call (587-0478) or email ([par@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto: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).

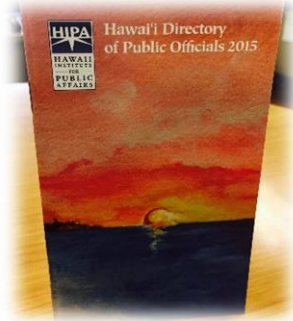
Our "We the Powerful" workshop is also available online on our website at [lrbhawaii.org/par](http://lrbhawaii.org/par).

## PAR Hours during Session

During Session (January 20th– May 5<sup>th</sup>), the Public Access Room (Room 401) has extended hours!

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

## The Handy Directories Are Coming Soon!



The incredibly handy, pocket-sized “Hawaii Directory of Public Officials 2016” (which lists contact information for public officials in the State of Hawai'i) should be available by the first week in February. Its publisher, the Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs (HIPA), will generously provide the Public Access Room with an ample supply for distribution. Notice will be posted in the elevators and bulletin boards at the Capitol when the directories are available for pick up.

HIPA's website will also provide an online version of the directory that they encourage users to try, and they will be working with Hawaii Open Data to come up with a truly mobile version in the not-too-distant future.

**Come on by (Room 401, State Capitol) and pick up a directory — and feel free to take a few more to distribute to your family, neighbors, and colleagues.**

## 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 |

Convenient one-page Lists:

- All State legislators' contact information - ([Email](#)) ([Room, phone, fax](#))
- [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](#) - where and when committees meet
- [House Committee/Room Schedules](#) - where and when committees meet
- [Maps of the Capitol floors](#) - helps you find offices and conference rooms
- [Office Managers](#)
- [Committee Clerks](#)

DATE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
JANUARY																																	
FEBRUARY																																	
MARCH																																	



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