

PUBLIC ACCESS ROOM

A division of the Legislative Reference Bureau

NEWSLETTER

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Public Access Room (PAR)

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

Hawai'i 974-4000 Kaula'i 274-3141
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2019 Legislative Timetable

February

- 7th Triple Referral Filing (Bills)
- 15th First Lateral (Bills): Bills must be moved to final committee in originating chamber
- 21st to 27th Mandatory 5-Day Recess

March

- 1st First Decking: Last day to file bills for Third Reading in originating chamber
- 7th First Crossover (Bills)
- 8th Last day to introduce Substantive Resolutions
- 11th Budget Decking
- 13th Budget Crossover
- 14th Second Triple Referral Filing (Bills)
- 22nd Second Lateral (Bills): Bills must be moved to final committee in non-originating chamber
- 28th First Lateral for Concurrent Resolutions

April

- 4th First Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
- 5th Second Decking (Bills): Last day to file bills for Third Reading in non-originating body
- 11th Second Crossover (Bills) & Last day to disagree
- 15th Second Lateral for Senate Concurrent Resolutions
- 18th Constitutional Amendments: Deadline for final form
- 22nd Second Crossover 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!)

A Brand-New Session

Welcome to the 30th Legislature

It's the Start of a New Two-Year Legislative Session and Time to Get your Bearings

It's the start of Hawaii's Thirtieth Legislature – a brand new biennium. We had elections, and you'll see some new members, new committees, and new chairs. And, of course, new legislation.

Some New Committees and New Chairs

If you look at the committees and chairs listed for both the [Senate](#) and the [House](#), you'll find some new names and acronyms. For example, in the Senate, last session we had ETT (Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology) and we now have EET (Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism). The new committee now encompasses energy, which used to be coupled with transportation. There's also a new Senate TEC committee (Technology). Some of the other committees have stayed the same but are now under new leadership.

On the House side, Education and Higher Education committees are now one committee, Lower & Higher Education (LHE). Health is now a separate committee, and Human Services is coupled with Homelessness. You'll see numerous other changes associated with the

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grouping of Hawaiian Affairs, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs. And again, chairs have changed in some cases.

If you have signed up to receive hearing notices by committee, be sure to refresh your choices!

Bills, Bills, Bills!

Of course, the thing that's always changing at the Legislature is the content of the legislation being considered. The nature of a year's session is usually defined by what bills are heard, and ultimately passed. It starts with the bills themselves that the chairs can choose from.

Over 3,000 bills (House and Senate combined) have been introduced for this session. To look at ALL the bills, go to the "[Reports and Lists](#)" page on the Legislature's website (capitol.hawaii.gov) and click on the first two links for lists and descriptions of all the [Senate Bills](#) and [House Bills](#). While there are thousands of bills introduced, it doesn't take too long to browse through them ... usually a task that should be done in more than one sitting, just keep track of where you've left off.

Looking for something a bit more focused? There are a couple of different ways that you can use the Legislature's website to search for bills. The easiest method is to use the "Subject Search" feature on the "[Reports and Lists](#)" page to find bills you're interested in. It searches through the bills' descriptions, titles, and keywords for the word or phrase that you enter, and that's usually enough to find what you need. For a more thorough search (one that searches the entire content of all the bills introduced), return to the homepage, capitol.hawaii.gov, and use the "Keywords" search box – it allows you to search through the entire contents of the bills introduced and is a more exhaustive search.

Sign Up for Hearing Notices

Finding bills that interest you? Don't miss a chance to offer your testimony if those bills come up for hearings. Jot down their numbers and add them to your hearing notification list. (You'll probably want to add them to a [measure tracking list](#), too.) Instructions on signing up for hearing notices can be found here: <http://lrbhawaii.org/par/pub/hear.pdf>

Ask for a Hearing

If you find bills of interest that you'd like to see move forward, keep your eye open for their committee referrals. The committees they must move through are decided upon by leadership of each chamber and are posted on the bills' status pages.

As soon as you know what committee the bill has been referred to, it's important to call or email the chair or [committee clerk](#) and let them know you'd like to have the bill heard. A lot of bills never get a hearing at all, and if the bill you're interested in is not on the chair's priority list, it may get passed over. The chair doesn't have enough time to schedule every bill referred to a given committee. Also, they must provide adequate notice prior to the hearing and have designated days and times in which they can hold the hearings.

Keep an Eye on Deadlines

Finally, keep an eye on deadlines. Things move quickly during session. It's crucial to identify the deadlines that apply to your bill. [Need help with this part? We've created a [handout](#) (<http://lrbhawaii.org/par/pub/deadlines19.pdf>) that can help!] To monitor how viable a bill is, you'll want to look at the bill's status page, the [calendar of deadlines](#), and the Senate and House hearing schedules (available on the PAR "[Information Sheets](#)" page). Feel free to contact the Public Access Room (PAR) for help in assessing the bill's status, path, or which deadlines apply.

Unsure? Contact PAR for assistance!

Welcome to the 2019 Session!

Meet the Public Access Room (PAR) Staff



L to R: Keanu Young, Allison Chai, Olivia Peterkin, Virginia Beck

Keanu Young will be entering his fifth session as the year-round Assistant Coordinator of PAR. He worked at both the State House of Representatives and the Honolulu City Council for several years before becoming the Assistant Coordinator at PAR. When he is not at work, Keanu enjoys stand-up paddle boarding, hiking, and watching Korean Dramas.

Allison Chai is thrilled to join the PAR team for the 2019 session as a Legislative Research Assistant. After completing her Bachelor's degree in Natural Science from the University of Hawaii at Hilo, she worked in the medical field as well as at a local nonprofit organization assisting with the Kilauea lava recovery efforts. Allison recently moved to Oahu and is enjoying the city life of Honolulu, hiking the valleys and ridges, biking through traffic, and exploring all the beaches and cheap eats!

Olivia Peterkin is excited to join the PAR team as a Legislative Research Assistant for the 2019 session. Olivia grew up in Kalihi Valley before earning her bachelor's degrees in Journalism and International Peace Studies from the University of Missouri. She hopes to leverage her position as an assistant researcher as a way to invest in the community, teach others about the legislative process, and become a more informed citizen. Olivia loves spicy food, live jazz music and haggling at open-air markets.

Virginia Beck continues to enjoy her role as the Coordinator of the Public Access Room (PAR). She's been working with the office for more than 10 years now! Before that, she worked with various government and university offices, and earned a master's degree in public administration.

PAR Hours - 2019 Session (January 16 – May 1)

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



Come learn more about how to be effective at the Legislature!

Workshops at Noon on Wednesdays

Wednesday, February 6, February 13, February 20, February 27
12 noon - 1:00 p.m.
PAR (Room 401), State Capitol

Workshops at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays

Tuesday, February 5, February 12, February 19, February 26
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
PAR (Room 401), State Capitol

Discover the Public's Power in the Legislative Process!

Pick up tips and tools to help you add your voice to Hawaii's lawmaking process at the Public Access Room (PAR)'s free workshop.

Each presentation is an hour in length and covers the Legislature and how to effectively participate in the legislative process. Topics covered by the workshop include:

- Tips and techniques on effective lobbying, testimony, and communicating with Senators and Representatives
- Understanding the legislative process, deadlines, and power dynamics
- Easy-to-use tools available on the Legislature's website
- Helpful handouts, guides, and resources

The flexible nature of the workshop provides a useful start for newcomers, as well as new information and inspiration for veterans of the legislative process. While participants are encouraged to register for the free workshops, drop-ins are always welcome. To register, get additional information, or schedule additional or advanced workshops, call 808/587-0478 or email par@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Neighbor Islands:

- Contact PAR about a webinar!

Please contact PAR directly and well in advance to make arrangements if special assistance or services such as sign language interpreters are needed.

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
[Which Deadlines Apply to Your Bill?](#) - flow chart to help you make sense of the deadlines and what they mean for you

[Hearing Notification](#) - Instructions on subscribing to hearing notices

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

Convenient one-page lists:

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

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