

PUBLIC ACCESS ROOM
A division of the Legislative Reference Bureau

NEWSLETTER

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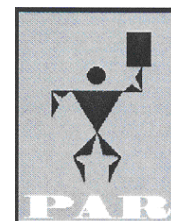
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2010 Legislative Timetable

February

3rd State-of-the-University Address
4th Triple Referral Filing
12th First Lateral (Bills): Must be moved to final committee in originating chamber
15th Holiday: Presidents' Day
19th to 25th: Mandatory 5-Day Recess
26th First Decking: Last day to file non-budget bills for Third Reading in originating chamber

March

4th First Crossover (Bills)
8th Budget Decking
10th Budget Crossover
Last day to introduce Substantive Resolutions
11th Triple Referral Filing (Bills)
19th Second Lateral (Bills): Must be moved to final committee in non-originating chamber
26th Holiday: Kuhio Day
30th First Lateral for Concurrent Resolutions

April

1st Second Decking (Bills): Last day to file bills for Third Reading in non-originating body
2nd Holiday: Good Friday
8th Second Crossover (Bills) & Last day to disagree
9th First Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
16th Constitutional Amendments: Deadline for final form
19th Second Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
22nd Last day to file Non-Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading
23rd Last day to file Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading
29th Adjournment *sine die* (Session pau!)

Keeping up with what's going on...

- House and Senate rules1
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- Handy Budget decipher sheet3
- In honor of PAR's 20th(!) Anniversary, the recipe for PAR's "Almost-Famous Punch"... *revealed!*.....4

House and Senate Rules

To follow what's going on, it's helpful to know a few rules (or at least where to find them!)

There are laws that dictate how the Legislature may operate. Many of them can be found in the Hawaii State Constitution. For example, the Constitution specifies the method for pulling a bill out of committee, when and by whom a special session can be called, and the requirements for a bill to become law.

But wait! There's more –

In addition, both chambers have developed internal Rules governing their members and procedures. It's important to note that the House and Senate rules aren't identical – while some of the rules may be the same or similar, others are quite different. If you're puzzled by floor motions, committee actions, House or Senate organization or routines, the Rules should be one of the first places to look for answers.

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It's Money that Matters

(WHEN DIVING INTO THE BUDGET)

Before you jump into looking at the Executive budget or the budget worksheets, it helps to know how the budget is developed and amended. At the risk of over-simplifying a complex process, here's an overview.

Crafting the Budget

Quite a few entities are involved in crafting the Executive budget, which is the largest of the four budgets enacted by the Legislature. (Separate budgets are enacted for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Judiciary and the Legislative branches of Hawaii's government. They follow a similar process, but are not subject to line item vetoes.)

- The **Council on Revenues** prepares revenue estimates (read: how much money will be coming in) for the State four times each fiscal year, which helps in forecasting how much money will be available.
- The **Governor**, through the Department of **Budget & Finance** and in discussion with executive departments, drafts the initial version of the "budget bill." That bill is introduced, by request, to the Legislature by the Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representatives. (Near the end of session, the Legislature will pass the bill in its final form and send it to the Governor for enactment. She has the ability to veto particular line items or the bill as a whole. IMPORTANT: As head of the Executive branch, the Governor holds the 'power of the purse strings,' and can determine when and if allocated funds will be released.)
- After the **Legislature** receives the Governor's draft budget, it amends and ratifies the budget using its legislative procedures. **All members** are asked to vote at least three times on the bills as they proceed. Both chambers must agree on the final version to enroll to the Governor for enactment. If vetoed in whole or in part, the Legislature *may* override with sufficient votes.

Senate Ways and Means (WAM) and **House Finance (FIN)** are the "money committees." It's hard to summarize all that they do (and the long hours they keep)! They produce and keep track of numerous reports, estimates, calculations and summaries, and receive input from numerous sources. Near the beginning of each session, informational briefings with Executive departments and agencies elicit information on previous expenditures and operational needs. Additionally, the **House and Senate leadership** and **chairs of legislative standing committees** provide their assessments of the priority and import of money bills being passed by their committees. The **Department of Taxation** provides assessments of the tax consequences of proposed legislation. Ultimately, the money committees prepare amended versions of the bills, and the numerous budget worksheets which help to clarify the various drafts.

- Don't forget – the **Public** meaningfully informs and influences the Legislature's budget deliberations, through advocacy and testimony on and about the bills, programs and projects under discussion.

The Budget Bill (also known as the proposed "Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2010")

This year, the bill conversationally referred to as "The Budget Bill" for the fiscal biennium 2009-2011 is **HB2200**, and its companion on the Senate side is **SB2765**. While both chambers hear and amend both bills, the House budget bill is customarily used as the final vehicle, incorporating conference draft amendments prior to enrollment to the governor.

- Once you've opened it, you'll see that the first page looks a lot like other bills, but the substance of the bill resembles financial spreadsheets. *Don't panic!* It's possible to find what you're looking for, and even decipher what you see. (See the facing page for some tips.) After the spreadsheets, a narrative section provides specific direction and parameters on how the monies may be used by the expending agencies and organization programs.
- This session, the budget bill specifically amends the measure passed *last year* (Act 162 of Regular Session 2009). So, after the initial introductory page, you'll be looking at the content of last year's Act with changes noted. Any text or numbers to be changed or deleted will be indicated by parentheses and strikethroughs [~~like this~~] and new text and numbers will be underlined.
- Helpful information and budget worksheets are posted on the Legislature's website as new drafts are developed. (Where to find them? Just go to Bill Status and Documents, scroll down to the second-to-the-last box at the bottom of the page. This is the 'list of lists' we've mentioned before, and you'll find a link to "Budget Worksheets.")
- The staff assisting the House Finance Committee and the Senate Ways and Means Committee may be able to address questions regarding particular budget line items, procedures and status. PLEASE NOTE: Regarding Grant-in-Aid requests (whose application deadline this year was January 29th), it's usually not possible to determine their status and monetary allocations until the publication of the final conference draft of the budget bill.

Handy Budget Decipher Sheet

3 Crucial Pieces of Information to Help You De-code the Budget

This information is taken from last year's enacted budget bill (Act 162, SLH 2009), under Section 2, "Definitions."

- (1)** Departments aren't referred to using their regular acronyms. The **budget uses distinct 3-letter IDs to refer to organization programs (with identifying program numbers) and expending agencies.** We've listed them here. (For example, if you're looking for funding in DBEDT, you'll want to search for "BED.")

<u>Department (Commonly Used Acronym)</u>	<u>Program & Expending Agency ID</u>
Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS).....	AGS
Department of Agriculture (DOA)	AGR
Department of the Attorney General (AG)	ATG
Department of Budget and Finance (B&F).....	BUF
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT)	BED
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA)	CCA
Department of Defense (DOD).....	DEF
Department of Education (DOE)	EDN
Office of the Governor	GOV
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)	HHL
Department of Health (DOH)	HTH
Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD)	HRD
Department of Human Services (DHS).....	HMS
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR).....	LBR
Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).....	LNR
Office of the Lieutenant Governor (LG)	LTG
Department of Public Safety (DPS)	PSD
Department of Taxation (DOTAX)	TAX
Department of Transportation (DOT)	TRN
University of Hawaii (UH)	UOH
Subsidies.....	SUB
City and County of Honolulu.....	CCH
County of Hawaii	COH
County of Kauai.....	COK
County of Maui	COM

- (2) MOF = Means of Financing.** The letter that follows each appropriation figure has significance – it indicates the source of funding. Here's the list for decoding:

Ageneral funds	Mfederal aid urban funds
Bspecial funds	Nother federal funds
Cgeneral obligation bond fund	Rprivate contributions
Dgeneral obligation bond fund with debt service cost to be paid from special funds	Scounty funds
Erevenue bond funds	Ttrust funds
Jfederal aid interstate funds	Uinterdepartmental transfers
Kfederal aid primary funds	Vfederal stimulus funds
Lfederal aid secondary funds	Wrevolving funds
	Xother funds

- (3)** Above certain line items you'll find numbers followed by **asterisks***. *These indicate the maximum number of permanent positions (sometimes referred to as full-time equivalents or FTEs) that may be funded by the dollar amount and funding source noted immediately below.

Other Money Bills

Money bills have later filing deadlines than other measures (see timetable in side-bar on page 1). In addition to the primary budget bills, other funding appropriation bills also follow these deadlines. Near the end of session, the budget bill may incorporate funding initially presented by other appropriations bills...so, while the *bill* that proposed funding Program XYZ may be left behind, the funding and direction for the expenditure may have actually been incorporated into the budget bill. NOTE: No appropriation bills (except those recommended by the Governor for immediate passage or to cover the legislature's expense) may pass final reading until the budget bill has been transmitted to the Governor. (Hawaii State Constitution, [Article VII, Section 9](#))

Don't hesitate to call or email PAR for help!

PAR's "Almost-Famous Punch"

recipe - REVEALED!

In a tradition dating back at least twelve sessions, the Public Access Room has hosted opening and closing day ceremonies at the State Capitol with an offering of our "almost-famous punch," in tandem with our much anticipated "cheap crackers & rich conversation." For all these years, patrons of PAR have enjoyed a beverage that has never kept up with demand, which is to say, they couldn't quaff enough.

Somehow, though, although mixed in plain view, the magic of the punch making has remained a mystery. No longer! In commemoration of PAR's upcoming 20th year here at the Capitol, the Public Access Room now presents the ingredients, nay, the *mystical formula*, which is the essence entire of our "Almost-Famous Punch."

March 6th, 2010

marks

20 years of PAR

A celebration is in order!

Stay tuned for details...



PAR's "Almost-Famous Punch"

Ingredients

- 1 2-liter bottle lemon-lime soda
- 1 2-liter bottle ginger ale
- 1 2-liter bottle orange soda
- ½ gallon vanilla ice cream/orange sherbet combo
- Punchbowl and punch ladle

Directions

1. Chill the soda.
2. Pour equal measures of all three sodas slowly into punchbowl.
3. Add half carton of vanilla/sherbet (in chunks) - after filling the bowl with soda.
4. Mix with ladle and serve (no need ice). Expect to run out. Enjoy!

Quote:

"Everything you can imagine is real."

- Pablo Picasso



Workshops and tutorials continue at PAR!

Drop in on **Tuesdays at Noon** or **Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.**

Or Call and Schedule an Appointment or Workshop for your Group.



House and Senate Rules (continued from p.1)

Take a look. Go to the Legislature's website (www.capitol.hawaii.gov), and then select either the 'House' or 'Senate' page. You'll see links to their rulebooks. Browse through the table of contents and jump to the section you're interested in.

For example, last week we received numerous calls asking what "postponed indefinitely" meant in the House of Representatives. Scanning the table of contents, we find "Part IX, Motions; Debate," and there we found a House Rule (Rule 46) that specifically addresses the issue of "Indefinite Postponement" (the question won't be acted upon again without the consent of two-thirds of the fifty-one House members).

If you need help in trying to find a particular law or rule concerning the Legislature, don't hesitate to call or email PAR, and we'll be happy to assist you. Everything won't necessarily make sense, but you'll have a little bit better understanding of what's going on.