CONTACT US!
Public Access Room (PAR)

Phone.................(808) 587-0478
Fax ....(808) 587-0793
TTY ....(808) 587-0749
Email…..*par@capitol.hawaii.gov*

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.

2012 Legislative Timetable

February
17th   First Lateral
20th   Holiday: Presidents' Day
23rd   to 29th: Mandatory 5-Day Recess

March
 2nd   First Decking
 8th   First Crossover
12th   Budget Decking
14th   Budget Crossover
        Last day to introduce Substantive Resolutions
15th   Triple Referral Filing deadline
23rd   Second Lateral
26th   Holiday: Kuhio Day
30th   First Lateral for Senate Concurrent Resolutions

April
 3rd   First Lateral for House Concurrent Resolutions
 5th   Second Decking
 6th   Holiday: Good Friday
12th   Second Crossover & Last day to disagree
13th   First Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
20th   Constitutional Amendments: Deadline for final form
23rd   Second Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
26th   Last day to file Non-Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading
27th   Last day to file Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading

May
 3rd   Adjournment *sine die* (Session pau!)

In this Issue

Exploring Resolutions

During Session, we talk a lot about bills, but what about resolutions? Legislators introduce and hold hearings on resolutions as well as bills. Although resolutions don't become law, they do express the sentiment of the Legislature and may prove vital in moving your issue forward.

Resolutions may range from establishing an honorary designation for a day or perhaps a month, to requesting the formation of a task force or calling for a study of a particular issue. When a bill dies, a legislator may convert some aspect of the bill to a resolution. The deadline to introduce resolutions this year is March 14th.

Once introduced, resolutions are referred to committees in the same manner as bills, and, like bills, they need to move forward by certain deadlines to remain viable. Unlike bills, the subject matter of resolutions can change, along with their titles.

Resolutions can be introduced as single chamber resolutions (their prefixes are HR or SR) which must pass one reading in the originating chamber, or as concurrent resolutions (prefixes are HCR or SCR) which must pass a reading in both chambers. Single chamber resolutions express the will and intent of either the House or the Senate, while concurrent resolutions express the will and intent of the entire legislature. Concurrent resolutions are often introduced in conjunction with identically-worded single chamber resolutions.

Unlike bills, resolutions do not carryover from one year to the next.

The structure of resolutions is very different than bills. While bills are written in sections, resolutions consist of a series of "Whereas" clauses with the broadest passages coming first, followed by more definitive statements, and ending with two or more "Be it resolved" clauses. The last clause specifies where the resolution is to be transmitted upon passage.

To find a list of resolutions already introduced, use the "Reports and Lists" button on the legislature's website homepage (www.capitol.hawaii.gov).

This chart outlines some of the differences between bills and resolutions.

DIFFERENCES	
<u>Bill</u>	<u>Resolution</u>
Enacts law.	Does not have the force and effect of law, and thus cannot require action. Resolutions are used by the legislature or a single chamber to state its official position on an issue or to request action.
If not vetoed, can carryover from the first year of the biennium to the second.	Cannot carryover from one session to the next.
All bills must pass 3 readings in each chamber.	Concurrent resolutions have to pass 1 reading in each chamber. Single chamber resolutions do not cross over to the other chamber for approval – they must pass 1 reading in their originating chamber only.
Prefixes: HB = House bill SB = Senate Bill	Prefixes: HCR = House Concurrent Resolution SCR = Senate Concurrent Resolution HR = House Resolution SR = Senate Resolution
Once passed by the legislature, bills are enrolled to the Governor.	Resolutions are not enrolled to the Governor. Upon adoption, resolutions are transmitted to the individuals, officers, agencies, or other concerned parties cited in the resolution.

You're invited to an evening of

Art at the Capitol

Friday, March 2nd
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Don't miss the annual **Art at the Capitol** event!

It's a fun evening and a unique opportunity to view the art that graces legislators' offices. For the most part, the artworks have been selected from the State's "Art in Public Places Collection" by the respective legislators, with assistance from the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) staff. Things change from year to year, so it seems there's always something new!

You'll be able to meet and talk story with some of the artists and legislators as you stroll through offices and rooms that are usually away from public view.

The annual event is coordinated by the Legislature, the State Foundation for Culture and the Arts (SFCA), and Friends of the HiSAM (Hawaii State Art Museum).

Website: Using the Measure Tracking Feature

Found some bills you want to follow? Want an easy way to track them?
Check out the Measure Tracking feature on the Legislature's website.

Go to the Legislature's website (www.capitol.hawaii.gov) and click on the "Measure Tracking" icon. (It's one of those buttons located in the center of the screen.) It'll prompt you to sign in, using your email address and the password you created when you registered on the site. (If you have not registered yet, use the "register" button in the top right-hand corner of the screen.)

After you have signed in, the top three of the six center icons turn from blue to **orange**. These features enable a signed-in user to submit testimony, sign up for hearing notifications and use the measure tracking button.

Click on the **Orange** <u>Measure Tracking Icon</u>.

You will be directed to a page that asks you to "Create a List." Name it whatever you like. For example, your list name can be the subject of the bills or other measures you are tracking (such as "Education" or "Transportion") or something as simple as "2012." You may create multiple lists to track multiple groups of measures. It is easy to rename the list, so don't worry too much about what to call it. Just type something (up to 21 characters) and click "create a list."

After your list is created, click the "Show List" link that appears to the left of your list name.

On the right side of the page another search box will appear with an "Add a Measure" button. This is how you populate your tracking list. Type in the bill or resolution number you want to follow and click the "Add a Measure" button. Repeat for as many measures as you like. It's easy to delete them if you make a mistake or change your mind.

You'll notice you can "add notes" for the measures as well. Again, these are easy to change or delete, so experiment with what works for you. The maximum number of characters for notes is 250 per item.

When your list is completed, click on the "Generate Report" button next to the "Add a Measure" button. By generating a report, the website will show all of the measures you have included in your list in a spreadsheet format so that the most up-to-date and recent information regarding each measure is easily discernible. You can sort the information by double-clicking on the column headers. For example, sort by "measure" to see your list by bill number, or sort by "current status" to see at a glance which measures have the most recent activity.

The generated report can be exported so that it can be used for record keeping and to communicate the progress and current status of the tracked measures. By clicking the "Export to Excel" button, a spreadsheet will be generated in the Excel program that can be modified and printed or distributed. You can also export the report in CSV format ("comma separated values") for use in other programs and databases.

The measure tracking feature enables users to follow and track multiple pieces of legislation very easily. Combined with knowledge of the legislative deadlines, it's what you need to keep up with what's going on. Don't hesitate to contact the Public Access Room if you would like assistance in setting up your own tracking system.

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Get to Know your Deadlines: First Decking and Crossover

First Decking

For a bill to become law, in addition to passing through all the committees to which it's been referred, it must pass three separate readings, or votes, in each chamber. <u>The First Decking deadline is the date by which a bill must be filed with the originating chamber's Clerk for 3rd reading.</u> This year, Friday, March 2nd is the First Decking deadline.

The Hawaii Consititution, article III, section 15 states in part, `"No bill shall become law unless it shall pass three readings in each house on separate days. No bill shall pass third or final reading in either house unless printed copies of the bill in the form to be passed shall have been made available to the members of that house for at least forty-eight hours."`

The decking deadline ensures bills meet this 48-hour requirement prior to the especially critical third reading.

What does this mean if your bill is currently sitting in committee? To survive, it must be passed and reported out of its last committee in time to meet the First Decking deadline.

First Crossover

<u>After a bill is decked, it must pass third reading on or before the *next* deadline, First Crossover.</u> This year, March 8th is the First Crossover deadline.

Any bill that has not successfully passed three readings in its chamber of origin by that date will fail to move forward.

Bills that pass third reading will "crossover" to the other, non-originating chamber to go through the same process of committee hearings and chamber readings.

NOTE: Budget bills have later deadlines than non-fiscal bills – the budget decking deadline is March 12th, and budget crossover is March 14th.

New PAR Hours!

During Session (January 18 – May 3), the Public Access Room (Room 401) has extended hours!

<u>Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.</u>

Quotes from the File . . .

"If you're going to doubt something, doubt your own limits."
- Don Ward

"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle."
- Plato

"Doing your best means never stop trying."
- Unknown