

PUBLIC ACCESS ROOM
A division of the Legislative Reference Bureau

NEWSLETTER

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2014 Legislative Timetable

February

28th First Decking

March

6th First Crossover
7th Last day to introduce Substantive Resolutions
10th Budget Decking
12th Budget Crossover
13th Second Triple Referral Filing deadline
21st Second Lateral
25th First Lateral for Concurrent Resolutions
26th Holiday: Kuhio Day

April

3rd First Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
4th Second Decking
10th Second Crossover & Last day to disagree
17th Constitutional Amendments: Deadline for final form
18th Holiday: Good Friday
21st Second Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
24th Last day to file Non-Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading
25th Last day to file Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading

May

1st Adjournment sine die (Session pau!)

Testimony ~ the long view!

by Suzanne Marinelli



You pull out your pen - or iPad or netbook or smartphone or whatever - and get ready to compose a short presentation that you hope will persuade a batch of lawmakers, people you might not even know, to decide a piece of legislation in your favor.

What a heady undertaking that is, even if you've done it a thousand times. What a privilege and responsibility it entails.

This simple act - providing testimony to help our legislators make solid, well-informed decisions about the bills before them - is one of many crucial ways we can work together to keep our democracy strong.

Thank you.

With every keystroke, every letter, you are sharing your important perspectives on what works for you, for your hui, for all the citizens of Hawaii Nei. There is stunning power in that, whether you're speaking from your head, or from your heart, or (ideally) from both at once.

May we be ever grateful that we can share our powers of governance with one another in this way.

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Get to Know Your Deadlines: **First Crossover**



This year, **March 6th** is the **First Crossover** deadline. In addition to passing through all of the committees to which it had been referred, to survive this major deadline a bill must have passed three readings (votes) on the floor of its originating chamber (the House for HBs, the Senate for SBs).



Only then can it "crossover" to the other (non-originating) chamber. If a bill you support is still alive after this major deadline, celebrate a little -- most bills never make it this far! (Some years as few as 20% of the bills survive the First Crossover deadline.)

Once a bill crosses over to its non-originating chamber, it will receive its committee referral(s) and begin its path through *that* chamber (the Senate for HBs, the House for SBs).

The [2014 Session Calendar](#) is a useful resource, presenting important deadlines and information. You can find it on the [PAR website \(lrhawaii.org/par\)](#) -- just go to the "[Information Sheets](#)" page. As always, contact PAR if you'd like assistance.



TIP: Time to Take a Fresh Look! Mid-way through Session is a good time to take another look at the landscape of bills being considered. Some of the bills may have changed considerably from their initial drafts. What started out as a bill that didn't cause a blip on your radar may now be of great interest to you.

It's easy to find the list of surviving bills and scroll through their descriptions to see what's still pending. From the Legislature's home page, click on the "Reports and Lists" button. You'll find yourself on the "Deadline Tracking" page. Just click on the links under "First Crossover" and see what you find. Add bills of interest to your measure tracking and hearing notification lists, so that if they continue to move forward, you'll be in the know. Call us if you need help.

Tracking Changes: Committee Reports

When you see that a bill you are following has passed out of a committee "with amendments," how and when do you find out what was changed?

If you were *at* the committee hearing, you may know the general nature of the amendments after listening to the chair describe to his or her colleagues what was proposed and voted on. On the other hand, if you *weren't* at the hearing, you may have *no* idea whether the changes are substantial or not. (A bill may be amended with small, technical changes, or the entire purpose of the bill may be changed.) In that case, it's appropriate to call the Chair's office to inquire about the nature of the changes.

The committee report that is issued with the new draft of the bill will point you towards the most substantive changes, which can be especially helpful when the bill is long or complex. That report may also present a summary of the issues the committee sees as central to the legislation and the committee's consideration of the testimony received. If you're online, you'll find the report on the right-hand side of the bill's status sheet (in the "Committee Reports" box and abbreviated as HSCR, for House Standing Committee Report, or SSCR, for Senate Standing Committee Report).

A link to the new draft of the bill will be available at the top of the bill's status sheet. While the committee report may guide you to the changes, you may want to view the new draft side by side with the former draft (available on the status sheet in the "All Versions of this Measure" box). You can examine the exact language and changes made.

But *when* do you get to see the Committee Report and the new draft? There is no specific deadline for posting them. It may vary from later the same day to more than a week later. A variety of factors may influence how long it takes to present the new draft and committee report -- the changes proposed may be quite simple or very complex; there may be continued discussion on the best way to implement the changes voted on; the committee chair or drafting agency may have other pieces of legislation that take priority due to procedural deadlines; etc.

No matter how simple or complex a committee report, though, it can be a very valuable resource, adding to your understanding as your bill moves through the legislature.

Website: The Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) at Your Fingertips!



HRS Volumes

All 14 volumes and their supplements
are easily accessible online at
capitol.hawaii.gov



HRS Search Box

Ever find yourself needing to look up a particular section or chapter of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), but you don't have those 14 blue volumes and their accompanying little white supplements on your shelf?

Not to worry! Jump on the legislature's website (capitol.hawaii.gov) and you'll find the HRS search box (it's pictured above) on the left-hand column of the home page.

- **Citation Search**

If you know just what you're looking for, you may find it easiest to click on the "Browse HRS Sections" link. It'll present you with links to the 14 volumes, and you'll then narrow the path to the particular section you're looking for.

- **Text Search**

Use the search box and the "Go" button if you're trying to find where particular words or phrases appear in the codified law.

- **Table of Contents**

The "Table of Contents" link allows you to scroll through the structure of the HRS to find the area you're looking for.

- **Index**

If you're not sure of the terms that might be used, the Index and Supplement Index may be of help -- it's a lot like using the old yellow pages (for those of us old enough to remember them!).

Call or email PAR if you'd like help in searching or navigating the HRS.

Note: We find the online version a convenient and easy way to navigate the HRS, and tend to use it even when we're sitting right next to those large blue volumes! That said, if you'd like to purchase a hard copy of the HRS, contact the Lieutenant Governor's Office. You can call them at 586-0255 for pricing of the most recent updates. Here's a link to their "List of Publications" page: ltgov.hawaii.gov/the-office/publication-list.

The handy directories have arrived!

The incredibly handy, pocket-sized "Hawaii Directory of Public Officials 2014" (which lists contact information for Hawaii's legislators) is here. And once again its publisher, the Hawaii Institute of Public Affairs (HIPA), has generously provided the Public Access Room with an ample supply for distribution to our patrons.

HIPA's website provides an online version and mobile app (d.hipaonline.com), and they encourage users to give these convenient electronic versions a try.



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.

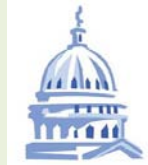
Are you at PAR?



Take a break from reading bills and working on your computer to test your knowledge of state legislatures across the U.S. This is a recreational playing course and the par to aim for is 4 correct answers. While the answers are below, your participation on our recreational course is on an honor basis.

- 1 Hawaii and 48 other states have bicameral legislatures (two chambers - a Senate, and a House of Representatives or Assembly). One state has a unicameral legislature (just one chamber) -- do you know which one? _____
.....
- 2 The total number of legislators serving in each state varies widely -- from 49 in Nebraska to 424 in New Hampshire! How many legislators serve in the Senate and House of Representatives in Hawaii?

- 3 In 2013, the percentage of women state legislators in Hawaii was 32%. Nationally, the average percentage of women state legislators was: a) 20-29% b) 30-39% c) 40-49%
.....
- 4 Hawaii's capitol has a unique architecture with an open-air rotunda and volcano-shaped chambers. Most other state capitols have a dome or cupola. Can you guess how many other state capitols *don't* have domes? _____
.....
- 5 The number of bills introduced in each state ranges widely. In 2013, it ranged from under 400 to over 14,000 (FYI -- Texas and Pennsylvania had the most). How many bills were introduced last year in Hawaii?



Did you notice? *There is a replica of the Liberty Bell on the street-level, mauka side of the Capitol. It was gifted to Hawaii in 1950. Do you know what entity gifted the bell?* _____

(answers appear below)



**Save the Date !
Friday, April 4, 2014**

**Art at the Capitol
Late afternoon / Evening
More info to come!**



Quotes from the File . . .

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant."
- Robert Louis Stevenson

"Live as brave men; and if fortune is adverse, front its blows with brave hearts."
- Cicero



Answers to "Are you at PAR?": 1 = Nebraska. 2 = There are 25 Senators and 51 Representatives, for a total of 76 Hawaii state legislators. 3 = a) 20-29% [specifically, 24%]. 4 = 10. 5 = 2,872. Did you notice? = U.S. Treasury Department. Sources: National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), Council of State Governments (CSG), Hawaii State Legislature's website (capitol.hawaii.gov), and walking around.

