

PUBLIC ACCESS ROOM
A division of the Legislative Reference Bureau

NEWSLETTER

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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.



Mahalo nui loa

Many thanks!

Arigatō gozaimasu

Salamat

Agyamanak

Xièxie nǐ

Muchas gracias

Fa'afetai tele lava

Muito agradecidos

Kamsahamnida

Expressed by Suzanne Marinelli, Public Access Coordinator



I woke up the other morning reflecting on the fact that I've been working in the PAR for fifteen of our twenty years (though it wasn't until the 2001 session that I became a full-time year-round PAR-ticipant). What a privilege and pleasure these years have been.



Now, to celebrate our 20th birthday, we're pausing to say thank you to YOU, the many many thousands of people who have used this office, your office, over the last two decades. You've phoned us, emailed us, and walked in to ask questions. You've come to our Opening Day and Closing Day receptions, attended our workshops and presentations all across the state, given us

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2010 Legislative Timetable

March

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

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Keeping up with what's going on...

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Table with 6 columns (years 1989-1994) and 1 row of text describing legislative access milestones.

"Many thanks!" *Continued from page 1*



**The Hawaii Senate Congratulates PAR on 20 Years of Service**

"Whereas, the Public Access Room embodies the spirit of democracy and a commitment to the idea that an educated and involved citizenry is essential for a healthy democracy..."

In the many presentations we make across the state each year, we commonly point out that **"Our democracy is only as strong as the use we make of it. Use it or lose it."**

And goodness knows, you've used it, marvelously well. For that, we continue to say *thank you*. Mahalo nui loa. Arigatō gozaimasu. Salamat. Agyamanak. Xièxie nǐ. Muchas gracias. Fa'afetai tele lava. *Muito agradecidos*. Kamsahamnida.

We look forward to many more decades of living in a democracy that is stronger, more far-reaching, and much more precious to us all, because of you. It's a beautiful thing.

*Here's to the next 20 years!*

suggestions about ways that we can be a better public resource, and developed and delivered discerning, intelligent testimony about an astounding cross-section of legislation.

As you've used our resources to learn more about our legislative process, you've inevitably presented *better* testimony to our legislators about the issues that are dear to you. In the process, you've helped them make much better decisions on behalf of us all.

And while you were doing all that, you were doing something that was even more important in the long run – You were, and you still are, keeping our democracy strong.



**PAR's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recognized by the Hawaii House of Representatives**

(l to r: Speaker Calvin Say, LRB Director Ken Takayama, PAR Coordinator Suzanne Marinelli, Rep. Cynthia Evans, PAR employees Virginia Beck, Sherrie Sato, Larry Kamakawiwoole, Rep. Della Au Belatti, Rep. Michael Magaoay)

1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
PAR now open over interim, and able to provide citizens access to important resources in preparation for session	Hawaii State Legislature's website launched.	Legislative Broadcast Program made permanent.	Office of Information Practices given Sunshine Law oversight.	Senate begins providing hearing notices by email; Citizen's 'open mic' TV program taped in PAR.	Bills introduced to fund video streaming and 2 <sup>nd</sup> full-time PAR staff; First email testimony processed and delivered by PAR.



## Timely Issues

- **Second decking's coming up fast** – all bills should be reported out of their last committee and filed for Third Reading by **Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**.
- Easy way to **spread the word and encourage others to testify** when a measure comes up for a hearing.
  - Make sure you provide colleagues with the bill or resolution number (and links to a measure's status sheet, so they can read it for themselves), and then
  - ask them to SUBMIT TESTIMONY ONLINE by going to [www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony). They'll just need to enter in the bill or resolution number, fill out the form and include their thoughts in an attached document or in the "comments" box.
- Working on the Legislature's website and have a sudden urge to connect with your Federal legislators? They're just a few clicks away using the **"Links"** page (<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/site1/links/links.asp>). Here's the list:

[Hawaii Government Services](#)  
[Hawaii State Judiciary](#)  
[Hawaii Revised Statutes](#)  
[Legislative Reference Bureau](#)  
[Public Access Room](#)  
[Hawaii State Ethics Commission](#)  
[Office of the Auditor](#)  
[Office of the Ombudsman](#)  
[Office of Information Practices](#)  
[The Office of Hawaiian Affairs](#)  
[City and County of Honolulu](#)

[Senator Daniel K. Inouye](#)  
[Senator Daniel K. Akaka](#)  
[Representative Neil Abercrombie](#)  
[Representative Mazie Hirono](#)  
[Governor Linda Lingle](#)  
[Capitol TV](#)  
['Olelo Community Television](#)  
[Akaku: Maui Community Television](#)  
[Maui County Council Legislative Package](#)  
[National Conference of State Legislatures](#)  
[Hawaii Directory State, County, and Federal Office](#)

} Federal legislators

Note: You'll have to pass through a *'thanks for visiting the legislature's website, you're now going off-site'* page en route to your destination.

- **Get involved in the electoral process!**
  - Never voted before? Register to vote!
  - Have you moved or changed your name? [Re-register](#) to vote.
  - Visit [hawaii.gov/elections](http://hawaii.gov/elections) website for information and calendar of deadlines for voter registration, running for office, helping with elections and much more.

PAR's website...  
<http://hawaii.gov/lrb/par>

**Quote:**

"There are no short cuts to any place worth going."

- Beverly Sills

2007	2008	2009	2010	Next up	And then?
House and Senate provide for direct receipt of email testimony. Legis. website provides RSS subscriptions for measure tracking.	Written testimony now available online. Broadcast events are closed captioned for the hearing impaired.	Online form for submission of testimony appears on Legislature's website. JAWS software installed in PAR.	Continued improvements to online access. PAR workshop broadcast on community access channels, posted on website.	Workshops to expand reach to communities and online audiences; website to offer more easy-to-use & informative resources.	Be part of the future – suggest improvements to the Public Access Room and your legislators. Do it for Hawaii!