

PUBLIC ACCESS ROOM
A division of the Legislative Reference Bureau

NEWSLETTER

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Advocacy Tips

Those of you who have attended the Public Access Room (PAR)'s "We the Powerful!" workshops know that we're fond of reminding people that in a democracy power is vested in the people -- and that it's up to each of us to add our voice to the mix. Levels of participation vary widely. Some people might submit testimony occasionally at the prompting of an organization. Others may visit the Capitol daily to meet with legislators and staffers, and attend hearings. Each form of advocacy is vital to the dynamism and viability of a robust democracy and the creation of the best laws for the state of Hawaii.

When asked, "What's it all about?" and "What tips would you offer?" here are some of the more common responses.

From anyone who's worked here for any length of time, you may hear: "Relationships, relationships, relationships!" This ties into other pearls of wisdom we've heard...

2013 Legislative Timetable

March

- 1st First Decking
7th First Crossover
11th Budget Decking
13th Budget Crossover
Last day to introduce Substantive Resolutions
14th Second Triple Referral Filing deadline
22nd Second Lateral
26th Holiday: Kuhio Day
29th Holiday: Good Friday

April

- 1st First Lateral for Senate Concurrent Resolutions
2nd First Lateral for House Concurrent Resolutions
5th Second Decking
11th Second Crossover & Last day to disagree
12th First Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
19th Constitutional Amendments: Deadline for final form
22nd Second Crossover for 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!)

"Don't burn your bridges."

"Your opponent today may be your ally tomorrow."

"Support your allies."

(They'll be more likely to be ready to help you when the time comes.)

"Persevere."

(Things don't happen overnight. As has been said, "It'll take more than a week to change the world!")

"It's not over 'til it's over."

"Learn the legislative process."

(You'll be able to focus your attention on who's got the power at any given time.)

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Friday, April 5th
4:30p - Opening Program on 3rd Floor (makai corridor)
5:00 - 7:00 p.m. -- Art at the Capitol

An opportunity for the public to see the fine collections of artwork housed in the Hawaii State Capitol!
 Details to follow, but save the date! It's a great opportunity to tour the Capitol (including many rooms that are usually away from public view), mingle with numerous artists (including PAR's own Suzanne Marinelli) and visit with many of Hawaii's lawmakers.

It's an engaging and interesting evening that allows you behind the scenes. We hope to see you!

Advocacy Tips (continued from page 1)

"Compromise is not a dirty word."

"Stay on message."
(What is it you're trying to accomplish?)

"Say thank you."

"Follow through. If you say you're going to get information, get it." (If you're facing some delay, let them know you're still working on it.)

"Short and sweet is great. Keep it simple."

"Don't take it personally!"
(Legislators have to balance a wide range of viewpoints and issues.)

"Be polite."

"I don't know, but I'll find out and get back to you" is much better than making up an answer!

"When things get critical, remember to motivate those once in a blue moon activists."
(**"Prompt me , and I may act -- but please keep it simple!"**)

"How you participate is going to depend on your time, your passion and your resources. The same is true for folks you're recruiting to your cause. Let them choose a level of involvement they feel comfortable with."

"Use the Public Access Room! This place is wonderful!"

Website: Treasures in Testimonies

In preparing your testimony, it is often helpful to know what others have said about your issue, both in the current session and prior. Since 2008, testimonies have been posted on the Legislative website. Take a moment to research your issue by digging in the archive of testimony available (both past and present). You may be surprised to find some treasures!

Where to find it

If you already have the bill numbers, it's easy. If not, it'll take a little more work, but is still very do-able and can yield a wealth of information.

To find and view testimony:

Current Session: Go to www.capitol.hawaii.gov and search by either keyword or bill number. Once you are on the status page for the bill, you will see "Testimony," on the right side of the page, aggregated by the date of a hearing.

Prior Sessions: Click on "Archives" and a blue Search box will appear. You will be given the option to select a year or search through ALL archive years. Next, enter either a bill number or a keyword in "Measure and Keyword." For the bill(s) that you are interested in, click on the blue link called "Status". Once on the status page, you will find all the related testimony posted under "Testimony," grouped by the date of the hearing.

Before 2008: In the old days, testimonies were not available online. So, you will need to visit the State Archives to get testimony from 2008 or earlier. They're located on Iolani Palace grounds in the Kekāuluohi Building (364 S. King St.), and can be reached at 586-0329 or by visiting their website, <http://ags.hawaii.gov/archives/legislative-research/>.



What gems might you find?

History

- ❖ Has the same idea been floated before? Do you want to find a way to make it a new proposition? Has the time arrived when the idea should be enacted?
- ❖ If you find previously enacted successful legislation related to your concern, take a moment to see if you can determine who was instrumental in getting it passed. A nicely timed 'thank you' or allusion to past efforts can help to build allies.
- ❖ Are there compromise points that have been suggested in the past that could be useful today?

Facts/ Data

- ❖ You may find testimony that effectively presents research and data to help the decision-makers.
- ❖ While it may be tempting to just 'pick up' facts and figures, be careful! There's a wide range of credibility, and things may have changed since that testimony was presented. More helpfully, you may find data points that would be helpful to your argument and possible resources to find more current data.

Possible allies



- ❖ Are there testifiers whose views agree with your own? Are they still involved in the discussion? If not, is there contact information provided so that you could get in touch with them? You may want to let them know what's happening during the current session or ask them to share lessons learned from their experiences.

Opponents' arguments

- ❖ Take time to read through your opponents' arguments. If you fully understand the issue, you should be able to summarize their point of view. It's by understanding your opponents' stance that you can most successfully develop counter-arguments -- and provide them to legislators.

Format/style

- ❖ Legislators have to review large volumes of testimony. To make yours stand out, it's critical that the key points are made quickly and clearly.
- ❖ What works best in terms of readability that might help your own testimony? Use of bullet lists? Larger font? Bold or underlining particularly significant points? Summary of data in a table?

**So, give it a try and do some digging through testimonies.
Remember, you can call or email PAR for assistance!**



Wayne "Bastian" Worthington, Jr. Joins the PAR Team



I joined the team this year in the Public Access Room after serving both as a Committee Clerk and as an Office Manager at the Capitol. This experience has given me a great deal of understanding of the inner workings of our Legislature, which I hope to share with anyone interested in learning the legislative process.

I am a native of Philadelphia, PA, where I began a career as a Russian Ballet Dancer. Through a series of events I found myself here on the Island of Oahu for the past 7 years. I currently possess an Associates of Arts degree from KCC and continue to pursue my higher education goals. I spend a great deal of my spare time in service to our community, having volunteered for St Francis Hospice for the past 3 years. I have spent a great deal of time as an OCCC volunteer, helping men transition from our prison system into society. My most rewarding experience of community service has been helping many of our community's disabled youth to learn the art of dance at the Movement Center on Waiiale Avenue. Any other free time I have is spent pursuing my MMA career, chasing big surf, riding my Triumph, creating art with my fiancé, scuba diving, kite boarding, and playing with my dog Panda.

Get to Know your Deadlines: Second Decking and Second Crossover



"second verse, same as the first!"



Second 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. The Second Decking deadline is the date by which a bill must be filed with the non-originating chamber's Clerk for 3rd reading. This year, Friday, April 5th is the Second Decking deadline.

The Hawaii Constitution, 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 Second Decking deadline.

Second Crossover

After a bill is decked, it must pass third reading on or before the next deadline, Second Crossover. This year, April 11th is the Second 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 "cross over" to the originating chamber.



What's Still Alive? March 7th was the First Crossover of bills -- in other words, it was the deadline by which all bills needed to be heard and passed out of the originating Chamber. At this point, typically only 22% of the original bills are still alive. For a quick listing of the bills that are still alive, go to [Reports & Lists](#) on the Legislature's website (www.capitol.hawaii.gov), scroll down to the section titled "First Crossover," and click on "Senate Bills Crossed Over to the House" and/or "House Bills Crossed Over to the Senate." There you go!

Quotes from the File . . .

**"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to get better. It's not."**

- Dr. Seuss

**"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."**

- Margaret Mead