

PUBLIC ACCESS ROOM
A division of the Legislative Reference Bureau

NEWSLETTER

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Note: Fax from neighbor islands using these numbers with ext. 7-0793.



2010 Legislative Timetable

April

- 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!)

Governor's Sign or Veto deadlines*

The deadline varies according to when the bill was enrolled to the governor.

- If bill is enrolled to Governor before last 10 days of session (on or before April 15th):
- 10 days to sign or veto, otherwise it becomes law without signature
If bill is enrolled to Governor in the last 10 days of session (April 16th or later):
- Intent to veto by June 21st;
- bill becomes law without signature if neither signed nor vetoed by July 6th

* Note: These deadlines change if adjournment sine die changes. For more information on how these dates are arrived at, see Article III, Section 16 of the Hawaii State Constitution.

Wrapping things up...

Folks coming to the Public Access Room (PAR) these days present a wide array of questions and agendas.

Some wait anxiously, hoping their bill will emerge from conference committee in a form that pleases them. Some work on resolutions being heard in their final committees. And some are already beginning to debrief with colleagues, planning their strategies and setting up their working groups for the interim. It's rather amazing that in just a few weeks, the 2010 Regular Session will be over.

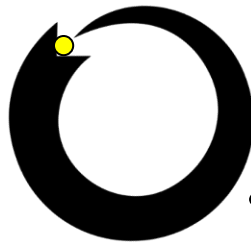
And we'll be having our usual farewell potluck just a day before its conclusion - join us if you can for PAR's Adjournment Sine Die Celebration on Wednesday, April 28th, at 4:00 p.m. (Details on page 4.) We hope to see you here!

Meanwhile, we hope you'll find this newsletter informative and helpful. Never hesitate to write or call - the PAR is your office at the Capitol, and we'll be happy to assist you.

End of Session...

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AT THE END,



a new beginning...

As we move toward adjournment of the 25th session of the Hawaii State Legislature on April 29, 2010 (“Session Pau Day!”), a huge range of emotions are evident all around us – exhaustion, relief, elation, and frustration among them, depending on whether or not our hopes and dreams and goals for legislation have been realized.

Practically speaking, the process of moving measures through the Legislature reflects the reality that “many are called but few are chosen.” Of the several thousand pieces of legislation introduced over the course of the Legislature’s last two years, a few hundred will become acts of law, or will be adopted as resolutions.

What happens, though, to the measure left behind? Well, at the close of this Legislature’s two year cycle, all *bills* that failed to pass are completely terminated. This allows next year’s legislative session – the 26th – to start fresh with a “clean slate” of measures.

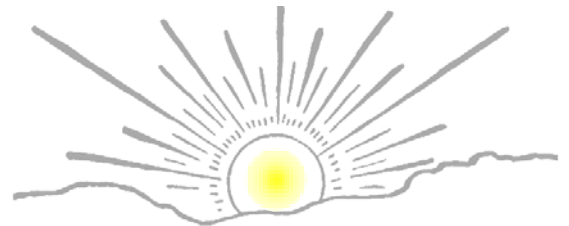
So in 2011, newly introduced Senate and House bills will start with a new number series – SB1 and HB1. Those that do not pass or get vetoed next year will still be alive for consideration during the 2012 session. In that 2012 session, the numbering will take up where it left off the previous year (though the next number in the sequence isn’t always used – for instance, the last House bill introduced in 2011 might be numbered HB1895, but in 2012, they *might* start with HB2000, just for the sake of clarity).

Resolutions are a bit different – all ‘leftover’ resolutions (those that fail to pass in any given session) expire at the end of that session – they never carry over. Thus the first Senate Concurrent resolution introduced in any session will always be numbered SCR1.

Keeping track of what ‘session’ we are in can sometimes take more mindfulness than we can muster. Maybe this will help – While the rule is that odd numbered years herald the start of a new legislative two-year cycle and even numbered years the end, it might be easier to think in terms of the *elections*. The year following a regular election is always the beginning of one of those two-year cycles when bills can ‘carry over’ from the odd-numbered year to the even-numbered one which will follow.

And the year after that, a new series begins.

**Like we said...
at the end, we see a new beginning.**



What to do with the Interim?

We’ve said it before, we’ll say it again. The interim (the time between regular sessions) is crucial to getting things accomplished during session. As we *considered* saying it all again, it occurred to us that we could start by pointing out some past [PAR Newsletter](#) articles we’ve published. So here’s a handy list to get you started.

- [April 2000](#). “The Importance of the Interim,” pp. 1-3
- [May 2005](#). “It’s the Interim – Get to Work!?” p. 3
- [May 2009](#). “What Now?” p. 1

Find these and other newsletter articles on PAR’s website: <http://hawaii.gov/lrb/par>



PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

According to Article XVII, Section 3 of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii (see inset below), the legislature may propose amendments to the constitution. Two different approaches exist; timing is one factor which dictates the approach to be followed:

- In the first alternative, the governor must receive at least ten days' written notice, from either or both chambers, prior to final reading, of the final form of the proposed amendment. Additionally, the proposal must obtain a *two-thirds vote* on final reading in each chamber during the course of any single legislative session.
- Alternatively, a proposed amendment passes, with or without written notice to the governor, if the proposal receives a *majority* vote on final reading in each chamber during two successive legislative sessions.

In either scenario, such a bill would not be enrolled directly to the Governor. Rather, voters in the next general election would have the final say on whether the bill is enacted into law.

Prior to the election, the proposed constitutional amendments would be entered in the legislative journals and published once in each of four successive weeks, in at least one newspaper of general circulation, within two months immediately prior to the next general election. The full text of the proposals must also be available at each polling place on the day of election.

A proposed amendment to the constitution is considered *ratified* at a general election if a majority of those voting on the particular amendment vote affirmatively, *and* if the number of voters making up that majority constitutes at least 50 per cent of the total votes cast at the general election.

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY LEGISLATURE

Section 3. The legislature may propose amendments to the constitution by adopting the same, in the manner required for legislation, by a two-thirds vote of each house on final reading at any session, after either or both houses shall have given the governor at least ten days' written notice of the final form of the proposed amendment, or, with or without such notice, by a majority vote of each house on final reading at each of two successive sessions.

Upon such adoption, the proposed amendments shall be entered upon the journals, with the ayes and noes, and published once in each of four successive weeks in at least one newspaper of general circulation in each senatorial district wherein such a newspaper is published, within the two months' period immediately preceding the next general election.

At such general election the proposed amendments shall be submitted to the electorate for approval or rejection upon a separate ballot.

The conditions of and requirements for ratification of such proposed amendments shall be the same as provided in section 2 of this article for ratification at a general election. [Ren and am Const Con 1978 and election Nov 7, 1978]

As of this writing (April 15, 2010), three bills proposing amendments to the constitution are still under consideration: • [HB2376 HD3 SD2](#) (Proposing Amendments to the Constitution relating to the Board of Education); • [SB2570 SD1 HD2](#) (Proposing an Amendment to Article X, Section 2 of the Hawaii Constitution, to Change the Board of Education from an Elected Board to an Appointed Board); and • [SB2807 SD2 HD2](#) (Proposing an amendment to Article VII, Section 6, of the Hawaii Constitution, Relating to the Tax Rebate Requirement).

We Are Non-**PAR**tisan About Everything Except **PAR**tying
(and we have *great* opinions about that!)



"Escaping the Net," by Suzanne Marinelli

Please *join* the Public Access Room (PAR)
and the other divisions of the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB)

In Celebrating the *Adjournment Sine Die*
of the 25th Session of the Hawaii State Legislature (only one day early).

We will, of course, serve our "almost famous punch" and provide the never-to-be missed
"cheap crackers and rich conversation," so much a *part* of PAR's tradition, along with
whatever a Potluck at PAR may provide.

So Please, Come One, Come All!!
Wednesday, April 28th at 4:00 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 401

No RSVP needed – come with a dish, or just bring your appetite!

Questions?? Call 587-0478.

Quotes from the File . . .

"Absurdity, n.: A statement or belief manifestly inconsistent with one's own opinion." – *Ambrose Bierce*

"To find a fault is easy; to do better may be difficult." – *Plutarch*

...and our personal favorite...

"The thing about democracy, beloveds, is that it is not neat, orderly, or quiet.
It requires a certain relish for confusion." – *Molly Ivins*