

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.



2012 Legislative Timetable

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 Final Decking for Non-Fiscal Bills
- 27th Final Decking for Fiscal Bills

May

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

Governor's Deadlines

June

- 25th Notice of intent to veto deadline
(35th day after adjournment *sine die*)

July

- 10th Veto deadline
(45th day after adjournment *sine die*)

Capitol TV

Hawaii’s legislators have long recognized the crucial role that citizens play in our representative democracy, and have been committed to giving our citizens useful tools to help us be more involved in our own governance. The legislative broadcast project – **Capitol TV** – is among the most helpful of the resources they have provided. As one of the first states in the nation to bring live and tape-delayed television coverage of legislative committee hearings, informational briefings, and floor sessions into people’s living rooms, we average roughly 350 hours of coverage every year. This enables a more involved populace to help create those healthy, productive debates that are so essential to a well-functioning democracy.

It takes a great deal of cooperation to bring the legislature's proceedings onto your screen. Glenn Booth, Capitol TV producer, and his crew have worked diligently over the years to mold this project into what it is today. As our contracted content provider, Booth and his crew make use of facilities and equipment provided by the legislature as well as Olelo Community Media. The Public Access Coordinator, Suzanne Marinelli, works with Capitol TV, scheduling the televising of the

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hearings. She also selects which of the Senate hearings to be broadcast, while the House Vice-Speaker's office works with committee chairs to decide which of the House hearings will be broadcast.

The selected hearings (and occasional floor sessions) are televised live on Oahu on the Olelo channels, and via HITS (Hawaii Interactive Television Services) to the neighbor islands for live or tape delayed airing on the PEG (Public, Educational and Governmental) Access Channels (Na Leo on Hawaii, Hoike on Kauai, and Akaku on Maui, Molokai and Lanai). In case you miss the live event, there's a rebroadcast as well.

Live television is a challenge, and the crew must remain focused because, as one of the crew noted, "You only get one chance to do the very best job you can do." Before rolling the cameras, the crew must make sure the cameras are strategically placed for each broadcast. Carefully chosen camera angles can make you feel like an actual part of the hearing. Broadcast hearings typically last from 2 to 3 hours, though some can run more than three times that long!

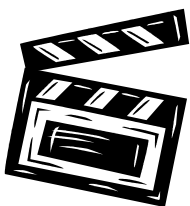
Not near a television set? When events are broadcast, they are also live-streamed so that you can watch them on your computer. Just visit the Hawaii State Legislative website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov and click on the button labeled "Broadcasts" (lower right-hand side of page). This takes you to the Capitol TV broadcast schedule (where you'll find what's



Capitol TV crew in action
(from foreground to back, Conrado Bush, Rana Kuwaye, Renee Richardson, Glenn Booth)

going to be televised), the Senate webstreaming page and the House webstreaming page.

Additionally, if you missed the opportunity to watch an event live, you can go to the Senate or House webstreaming page and scroll down to the "on demand" section to view all the archived broadcasts. The available archives date back to the 2009 session for the Senate and 2011 for the House. (This year, you'll also find all the House floor sessions on their page, though those events haven't been broadcast or produced by Capitol TV.)



New video: We the Powerful

The Public Access Room (PAR)'s website features a new video of its popular workshop, "We the Powerful." Presented in segments, you'll be able to get a quick primer on the role of the legislature, how a bill becomes a law or how to add your voice to the mix. Check It out on the "workshops" page at <http://hawaii.gov/lrb/par>.

Website: Senate and House Pages

Looking for more information on the House of Representatives or the Senate? Maybe you're interested in the latest regarding the Majority or Minority Caucuses. Or perhaps you'd like to read the rules that govern special sessions. Have you tried the House and Senate links on the Legislature's website?

Legislature's Website: www.capitol.hawaii.gov

Located on the website's homepage in the upper right you will find a stack of buttons. Clicking on either the Senate or the House button will bring you to the individual chamber's webpage.

What will you find?

Noticeably, the first faces you'll see are Senate President Tsutsui or Speaker of the House of Representatives Say. Just to the right are icons for lists of leadership roles as well as links to the chamber's committees and legislators. Directly below are **Links** categorized by year and include the following:

- **Majority and Minority Caucus Websites and Blogs** are great places to find recent news articles and photos regarding legislators and events. (The Majority Caucus refers to members of the Democratic Party, while the Minority Caucus refers to Republican Party members.) Photo galleries and videos provide everything from behind the scenes glimpses of legislators at work to in depth exploration of issues before the members.

- **Rules** provide a wealth of information regarding how things happen at the legislature. Procedures regarding bills, resolutions, and committees, as well as session and voting proceedings are included. This is also the place to find the defined duties of various leadership positions, the Sergeants-at-Arms, Clerks and staff.

- You can also access **webcasts** from the Senate and House pages. The links take you to pages with archived broadcasts of floor sessions and hearings. While only select hearings and floor sessions are broadcast, those that are can be viewed from here either via livestream or whenever it's convenient for you. Additionally, starting in 2012, all House floor sessions are streamed and archived on the House webcasts page.

- Other links bring you to information used by the legislative offices in order to operate efficiently.

Administrative and Financial Manuals for each chamber are long documents with information ranging from Legislators' Salary and Travel Allowances to the Ethics Code. The **Caucus Website, Website, and Social Media Use policies** state the purpose and scope of legislators' web pages and use of social networking services.

- The Mini House **Journals** are available online and provide a dense account of all actions which take place on the Chamber Floor, including all bills and resolutions introduced, referrals, readings, all motions and Governor's Messages and Communications. (Note: These are not official until permanently bound as a certified record.)

- Senate **Daily Floor Actions** are issued to inform the public on which measures have been scheduled for floor action (3rd reading, advise and consent, adoption of resolutions) the following legislative day.

- The Senate also lists its **Testimony Policy and Procedures**.



Get to Know your Deadlines: Final Decking and Adjournment *sine die*

Most people are aware of the first part of "How a Bill Becomes a Law"... the bill must survive all the committees to which it is referred, as well as three readings (votes) on the House and Senate floors. But what happens after that? If the bill has been changed in the non-originating chamber (that is, if a House Bill has a Senate Draft or a Senate Bill has a House Draft), its next step is usually a conference committee.*

The conference committee's function is to resolve the differences between the two chambers' versions of the bill. Each session, Senate and House leadership agree on joint rules governing Conference Committee operations. Basically, Senate and House leadership each appoint a lead chair, co-chairs and other members to the conference committees – a different conference committee for each bill that makes it to this phase. This usually includes a conferee from each standing committee the bill has passed through.

Conference committees meet publicly, though at this stage no additional testimony is sought. Instead, legislators are discussing the particular piece of legislation amongst themselves, in context of all the other pieces of legislation that have reached this phase.

Final Decking

A decision regarding the final form of the bill must be reported out of the conference committee in time to be filed for final reading by the Final Decking deadline – this year, that's April 26th for non-fiscal bills, and April 27th for the budget bills. The Final Decking deadline allows for members to review the bill in its final form forty-eight hours prior to voting on the measure.

Adjournment *sine die*

The final form of the bill needs to be voted on by the end of session, adjournment *sine die* – this year, that's scheduled to be May 3rd. If the bill is a Conference Draft (amended by the Conference Committee), it'll need to be voted on by both chambers.

*Occasionally, the originating chamber will agree with the non-originating chamber's changes to a bill. In such instances, the originating chamber then votes on the changed bill, and if it passes, it can go directly to the Governor.

Use your space!

Use your office (PAR, Room 401) at the Capitol – computers, expert staff, and more

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

Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Quotes from the File . . .

"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any."

- Alice Walker

"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

"A hero is a man who does what he can."

- Romain Rolland