

PUBLIC ACCESS ROOM

A division of the Legislative Reference Bureau

NEWSLETTER

Hawaii State Capitol ♦ 415 South Beretania Street ♦ Room 401 ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 587-0478 ♦ Website: <https://lr.b.hawaii.gov/par/>



CONTACT US!

Public Access Room (PAR)

Phone.....(808) 587-0478

Email.....par@capitol.hawaii.gov

Neighbor Islands (Toll Free): After dialing these numbers, enter extension 7-0478 followed by the # sign.

Hawai'i 974-4000

Maui 984-2400

Kaua'i 274-3141

Moloka'i/Lana'i (800) 468-4644

2020 Legislative Timetable

February

6th Triple Referral Filing (Bills)

14th First Lateral (Bills): Bills must be moved to final committee in originating chamber

20th to 26th Mandatory 5-Day Recess

28th First Decking (Bills): Last day to file non-budget bills for Third Reading in originating chamber

March

5th First Crossover (Bills)

6th Last day to introduce substantive resolutions

9th Budget Decking

11th Budget Crossover

12th Triple Referral Filing (Bills)

16th Triple Referral Filing (House Concurrent Resolutions)

20th Second Lateral (Bills): Bills must be moved to final committee in non-originating chamber

24th First Lateral (Senate Concurrent Resolutions)

25th First Lateral (House Concurrent Resolutions)

April

2nd First Crossover (Concurrent Resolutions)

3rd Second Decking (Bills): Last day to file bills for Third Reading in non-originating chamber

9th Second Crossover (Bills) & Disagree: Last day for originating chamber to disagree with bill amendments

14th Second Lateral (Senate Concurrent Resolutions)

20th Second Crossover (Concurrent Resolutions)

24th Deadline for final form of bills proposing Constitutional amendments

29th Final Decking (Non-fiscal bills)

30th Final Decking (Fiscal bills)

May

7th Adjournment Sine Die (session pau!)

This is a "Carryover" Session... What Does That Mean?

Carryover Bills

In Hawaii, we have two-year legislative sessions that always begin in odd-numbered years and end in even-numbered years. Since this is the second year of the biennium, any bills pending before the Legislature at the end of last year's session carry over to this year's session and are back in play. Carryover bills start this session with the same bill number and simply pick up where they left off; they do not have to begin the process all over again.

If a House bill introduced last session crossed over to the Senate and stopped there, this year that bill only needs to pass the deadlines it did not make last session. (Additionally, it must pass one floor reading in its originating chamber, in this case the House, if it is headed to the Governor for enactment.) The earlier deadlines do not apply because the bill cleared those already. However, if nothing changes and the committee takes no further action on the carryover bill (which is often the case), the current deadline will come and go and the bill will die again, and will not carry over to the next session.

Some carryover bills *might* be resurrected if a committee decides to act on them. There are 1,397 Senate bills and 1,442 House bills that carried over from last session to this session, so there are lots of bills with the opportunity to have a hearing.

(Continued on page 3)

Inside this Issue

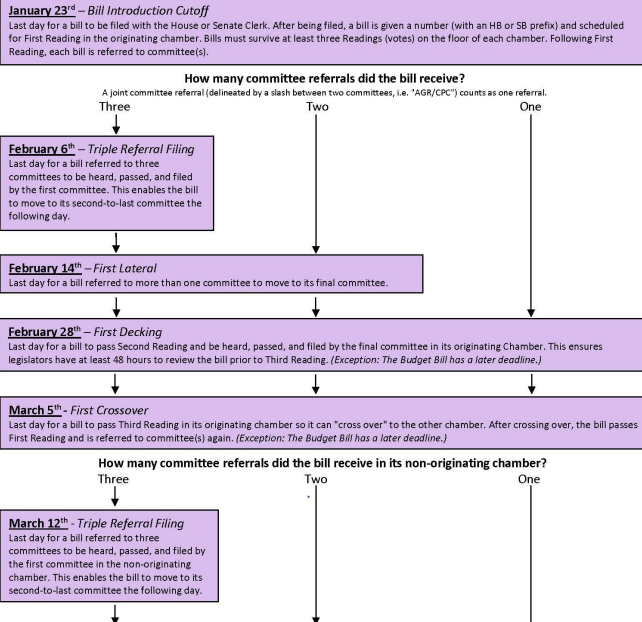
2020 Legislative Timetable	1
This is a "Carryover" Session	1
Which Deadlines Apply to Your Bill and New Website	2
Public Access Room Staff	3
Legislative Jumble	3
PAR Hours During Session	4
Workshops	4

The Race Has Begun: Which Deadlines Apply to Your Bill?



Which 2020 Deadlines Apply to Your Bill?

Determining which legislative deadlines apply to a particular bill can be a challenge. This diagram should help! Deadlines appear in purple. To become law, a bill must meet each relevant legislative deadline. Other deadlines and circumstances may apply. For more information and advocacy tips, contact the Public Access Room (PAR).



One of the helpful handouts found on PAR's website under the "Current Legislature" tab.

The legislative session can feel like an obstacle course, and while all bills have a long race to finish if they're to become law, some have to jump over a hurdle or two more than others.

Our handout "[Which Deadlines Apply to Your Bill?](#)" will help you determine which deadlines are applicable to your bill based on how many committee referrals it receives and what actions are taken. This handout is especially helpful during this 2020 carryover session if you are interested in a bill that was introduced but did not pass out of the Legislature last year (see page 1 for more details about the carryover session).

In addition to carryover bills, there are many new bills. For a [list of all the new bills on the Legislature's website](#) (<http://capitol.hawaii.gov>), select the "Reports and Lists" button, then the option "House Bills/Senate Bills with Action Taken in 2020 Only." This will bring up all newly introduced bills *and* any carryover bills that had action taken this year, such as being re-referred or scheduled for a hearing.

Look at a **bill's status page** on the Legislature's website to see which committees it has been referred to and where the bill is in the process (just enter the bill number in the Bill Status search box). Then, on PAR's website, you can view **committee schedules** under "[Current Legislature](#)" (<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/current-legislature>) for the days of the week the committees you are interested in can hold hearings. Remember, the committee is supposed to give at least 48 hours notice in advance of a hearing (in the Senate, at least 72 hours for the first hearing on a measure).

Please don't hesitate to contact us for help understanding any portion of the bill-to-law process.

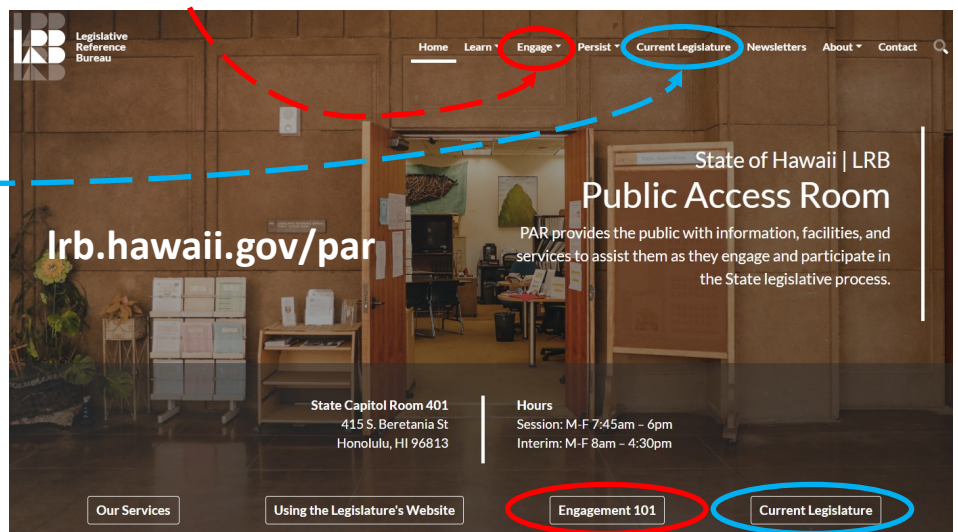
The Public Access Room's New Website

Under the **"Engage"** tab you'll find how-to guides for utilizing the Legislature's website:

- ⇒ Finding your senator or representative
- ⇒ Registering for an account
- ⇒ Signing up for hearing notifications
- ⇒ Submitting testimony
- ⇒ Tracking bills

Under the **"Current Legislature"** tab you'll find guides and lists specific to this session:

- ⇒ Legislative calendars and deadlines
- ⇒ House and Senate directories
- ⇒ Leadership and committee members
- ⇒ Committee schedules
- ⇒ Legislators' pictures and profiles
- ⇒ Capitol map



Check out PAR's new website for tools and tips to help you engage at the Legislature. Handouts available on our website are also in our office at the Hawaii State Capitol, room 401.

Welcome to the 2020 Session! Meet the Public Access Room (PAR) Staff

Virginia Beck continues to enjoy her role as the Coordinator of the Public Access Room (PAR). She's been working with the office for over 10 years now! Before that, she worked with various government and university offices, and earned a Master's degree in public administration. She enjoys the beach, reading, and hanging out with friends.

Courtney Mrowczynski is excited to start this new journey at the Public Access Room as a Legislative Research Assistant for the 2020 session. She moved to Hawaii from Arizona in 2011 to finish college and earned her Bachelor's degree from UH Manoa in Sociology/Criminology. Courtney enjoys gardening, playing volleyball, and volunteering for social justice issues. She looks forward to helping people get involved in the democratic process and make their voices heard.

Brooke Jones is delighted to join the PAR team this 2020 session as a Legislative Research Assistant and facilitate folks' engagement in the legislative process. She worked at the Hawaii State Capitol during previous sessions for both the House and Senate as a legislative assistant and in communications. Brooke has a Master of Arts in English with a concentration in creative writing from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She takes pleasure in writing, doing volunteer work caring for native trees, and acting in community theatre.

Keanu Young is happy to be entering his sixth session as the year-round Assistant Coordinator of PAR. He worked at both the State House of Representatives and the Honolulu City Council for several years before becoming the Assistant Coordinator at PAR. When he is not at work, Keanu enjoys stand up paddle boarding, hiking, and watching Korean Dramas.



This is a "Carryover" Session (continued from page 1)

New Bills

Legislators have also introduced new bills this session. Some of those bills could be 2020 versions of bills they introduced last year (with new bill numbers and new effective dates). Legislators may choose to pursue a new bill instead of reviving an old one even though the older bill has made some progress in the process.

Past practice has the House starting the new bill numbers from where they left off last session (HB 1597 was the last bill introduced in 2019) and the Senate starting the second-year bills with 2001, regardless of where the Senate bill numbers ended in the first year of the biennium. Accordingly, new House bill numbers this session start with HB 1598 and new Senate bill numbers start with SB 2001.

You can find both new and carryover bills on the "[Reports and Lists](#)" page of the Legislature's website.

Legislative Jumble

Unscramble these jumbled letters, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Z E N A L Y A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

N E A D M

--	--	--	--	--

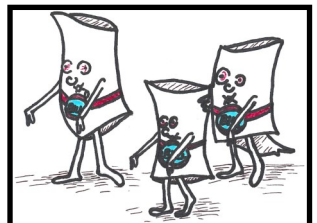
G U T B E D

--	--	--	--	--	--

O N E S S I S

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Then, arrange the circled letters to form the answer as suggested by the above cartoon:



After a long day of work on carryover bills, the session staffers were ready to escape with a horror flick that featured lots of _____

PAR Hours for the 2020 Session (January 16—May 6)

Monday - Friday
7:45 a.m. - 6 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 401

If you're at the Capitol working on legislative issues, stop by our office for a place to work, use computers, recharge your laptop, pick up handouts, watch a hearing, and ask questions. Remember, it's your office at the Capitol and our staff is here to help!

Workshops

Come learn more about how things operate at the Legislature!

Attend one of the Public Access Room's free workshops. Learn more about the legislative process and gain some helpful website tips. Make your voice heard this legislative session.

Tuesdays at 12 - 1 p.m.
Thursdays at 5 - 6 p.m.
Now through the end of February
PAR office (Room 401) at the State Capitol



The flexible nature of the workshop provides a useful start for newcomers as well as information and inspiration for veterans of the legislative process. While participants are encouraged to register for the free workshops, drop-ins are always welcome.

To register or for additional information, please call our office at 587-0478 or email par@capitol.hawaii.gov

If you're from another island or if you have a group that would like to get involved, please contact our office at the phone number or email address above and we will try to put together an on-island or remote workshop for you.

About the Public Access Room

Our Mission

The Public Access Room (PAR) provides the public with information, facilities, and services to assist them as they participate in the State legislative process. This includes knowledge of how things work at the Capitol, as well as a physical location (room 401) for use by members of the public. PAR is a non-partisan office and there is never a fee for services.

PAR History

During the 1989 Legislative session, the Legislature enacted SB 832 (Act 331, SLH 1989) to, among other things, improve public access to legislative information, and then established PAR to provide the public with necessary resources for participation in the legislative process. PAR is the first stop for Hawaii's citizens when working with the Legislature – whether from home, office or at the Capitol.

Originally staffed and supported by community volunteers from public interest organizations, PAR began operating with permanent staff and year-round open-door services in 1994. In 1996, PAR became a division of the non-partisan Legislative Reference Bureau.

