

PUBLIC ACCESS ROOM

A division of the Legislative Reference Bureau

NEWSLETTER

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2020 Legislative Timetable

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!)

The committee voted to pass the bill with changes...

What Happens Now?

At PAR, we get this question a lot: "The bill status page shows that the bill passed with changes... I've been waiting for days! Where's the new bill? What changes are they making? What's taking so long?"

Well, it's not instantaneous. The legislators and drafting agencies need time to put into writing the details of the spoken agreement on how a bill will be changed ("we'll add a provision that ensures compliance" or "we'll delete all references to XYZ," for example). Rest easy, as everyone involved — legislators' staff, research revisors, committee clerks — knows when the next deadline is and what needs to be done to meet it. What does need to be done to meet the deadline?

A committee report needs to be produced, summarizing the bill, perhaps highlighting testimony received, and presenting any changes they are making to the bill. The report is addressed to the Speaker or President, and recommends the next action for the bill. This committee report may include important information that is not in the bill itself... for example, the committee may blank out the appropriation amount in the bill but suggest a particular dollar figure in the committee report. The committee chair may also expand on the committee's intention in moving the bill forward and making the changes reflected in the bill.

In addition to the committee report, the revised bill must also be produced. Decisions need to be made on the exact

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The "Second Half" of Session



First Crossover for Bills (March 5)
First Crossover generally marks the calendar's halfway point in Hawaii's Regular Session. It's the deadline for bills to pass Third Reading in their originating chambers in order to cross over to the opposite chamber. Most bills introduced each session don't get this far; for example, out of the 3,142 bills introduced last session, only 1,022 (32.5%) cleared the First Crossover deadline. Bills that survive this far have made a good deal of progress in the process but still have a way to go. (They've got to get through the next chamber, and possible conference and Final Reading, before session is pau.)

After First Crossover, bills are referred to committees. Usually they'll be referred to ones that cover similar policy areas as the committees they went through in their originating chamber, but the scope or purview of the committees differ between chambers. Also, if the subject matter in the bill has changed substantively, the referrals may be affected. Additionally, the House and Senate operate differently. For example, it's common for the Senate to assign bills to joint committees, where two or even three separate committees meet together to hear a bill, while the House typically refers bills to committees sequentially. So, it is not uncommon for a Senate bill that received a double referral in the Senate (such as HMS, JDC/WAM) to get a triple referral in the House (such as HSH, JUD, FIN).

What's Next?

The first deadline after crossover comes very quickly so it's important to be mindful of the number of referrals your bill has and the deadlines that apply. Use the "[Which Deadlines Apply to Your Bill?](#)" handout for guidance. Here is a breakdown of some of the deadlines that will come up for bills in their non-originating chambers.



Triple Referral Filing (March 12)
This is the last day for a bill referred to three or more committees to move into its second-to-last committee in the non-originating chamber. It's a *filing* deadline: the committee has to both vote to move the bill forward and file the committee report (and any new draft of the bill) with the Chief Clerk's office by the internal filing deadline (date and hour) that is set by the chamber. Because triple referrals more generally occur in the House, this post-crossover deadline applies primarily to Senate bills that are now in the House.



Second Lateral (March 20)
This is the deadline for a bill with multiple referrals to move to its final committee in the non-originating chamber. In order to make this deadline, a bill will have to move out of its second-to-last committee before this deadline. The filing deadline (date and hour) for committees to pass a bill and file the committee report and any new draft of the bill is customarily the day before the internal lateral deadline. The lateral deadline reduces the possibility of a legislative bottleneck and ensures that the last committee to which a bill has been referred has enough time to consider the bill.



Second Decking (April 3)
This is the deadline for the last committee in the non-originating chamber to pass a bill out and file the committee report and the latest draft of the bill with the Chief Clerk's office by the internal deadline set (date and hour). It must also pass Second Reading by this time. The decking deadline ensures that legislators have enough time (at least 48 hours) to review the exact wording of a bill draft before being asked to vote on the bill for the third time (Third Reading). This 48-hour provision is required by [Article III, Section 15 of the Hawaii State Constitution](#).



Second Crossover (April 9) and Beyond
Bills must pass that Third Reading vote by the Second Crossover deadline. Surviving bills may then follow a few different paths on their way to becoming law. We'll cover the agree/disagree process, conference committees, and enrollment to the Governor in a future issue.

Only about 10% of bills survive the legislative process

Whew! No wonder only about 10% of bills survive the process. Find more about the legislative process on our website or contact PAR with questions (we love to talk about this stuff!).



(Continued from page 1, "What Happens Now?")

wording of the bill. The changes that were summarized at the committee hearing should be reflected in the new draft. A lot of eyes look over the revised draft, making sure that the bill, should it become law, will have the effect intended, and no unintended consequences. Technical and grammatical details also need to be seen to. Depending on several factors – where the bill is in the process, the content of the bill, and which chamber it's in – the bill and report may also have to undergo further reviews by particular legal or budgetary staff.

Once the committee report is produced with the revised bill, it needs to be printed out and signed by the committee chair (or chairs if it is a joint report). Then, it must be filed with appropriate paperwork with the Chief Clerk of the House or Senate. The internal deadlines for filing committee reports and bills can be quite strict, and staff is well aware of the hour and minute the paperwork must reach the Chief Clerk's desk. To meet the internal Lateral deadlines or the Decking deadlines, usually the paperwork needs to be filed one or two days in advance of the deadline, depending on the situation.

How will you know when all of this has happened? It will appear on the bill status page as notification of the report being issued and recommendation for further action. Depending on where the bill is in the process, that recommendation may or may not include a floor reading or referral to the next committee. For example, "Reported from ABC committee (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 123) as amended in HD1 and recommending passage on Second Reading and referral to DEF." When the notification appears on the status sheet, the committee report and revised bill draft will be available. The committee report can be found on the right side of the page, and the link to the new draft of the bill appears at the top of the page.

Multiple Choice Quiz!

- This branch of state government contains the House of Representatives and the Senate. (a) Judiciary (b) Executive (c) Legislative
- Hawaii has how many senators? (a) 25 (b) 37 (c) 51
- Hawaii has how many representatives? (a) 25 (b) 37 (c) 51
- Before the state capitol building was built, the Legislature met in this building. (a) King David Kalakaua Building (b) Iolani Palace (c) Washington Place
- There is a statue of this person at the state capitol. (a) Governor Burns (b) Brother Iz (c) Father Damien
- This is the year Hawaii became a state. (a) 1959 (b) 1969 (c) 1974
- This is the year the construction of the state capitol was completed. (a) 1959 (b) 1969 (c) 1974
- This is one of the features on the Hawaii state seal. (a) Taro leaves (b) Plumeria (c) Kukui nut tree
- This is the title of the 36-foot mosaic that lies at the center of the state capitol rotunda courtyard and was made by Tadashi Sato from Maui with thousands of Italian smalti (tiles). (a) "Tiny Bubbles" (b) "Aquarius" (c) "Oceans"

Answers available on PAR's website under ["Newsletters."](#)

Decoding a Bill Status Page:

know the bill number, enter it into the "Bill Status/Measure Status" search box on the homepage. (If you don't know the bill number, search by subject: click "Reports and Lists" located in the center of the homepage, select "Subject Search" from the buttons on the left-hand side, enter the subject, and finally, click on the bill that interests you.)

HB378 HD1 SD1

Measure Title: RELATING TO FILIPINO VETERANS BURIAL ASSISTANCE.

Report Title: Office of Veterans' Services; Filipino Caucus; Filipino-American World War II Veterans Burial Assistance Special Fund; Burial Grants Appropriation (\$)

Description: Establishes the Filipino-American World War II veterans burial assistance special fund and appropriates funds for burial grants for qualifying Filipino-American World War II veterans to provide funeral and burial services and transportation of their remains to the Philippines. Takes effect 1/1/2050. (SD1)

Companion: SB1517

Package: Filipino Caucus

Current Referral: PSM, WAM

Introducer(s): AQUINO, BELATTI, CABANILLA ARAKAWA, CACHOLA, CULLEN, DECOITE, HASHIMOTO, HOLT, MIZUNO, SAN BUENAVENTURA, TOKIOKA, WARD, WILDBERGER, WOODSON, YAMANE, Nakashima, Okimoto

Sort by	Status Text
Date	
1/18/2019	H Pending introduction.
1/22/2019	H Introduced and Pass First Reading.
1/22/2019	H Referred to PVM, FIN, referral sheet 3
1/25/2019	H Bill scheduled to be heard by PVM on Wednesday, 01-30-19 10:30AM in House conference room 430.
1/30/2019	H The committees on PVM recommend that the measure be PASSED, WITH AMENDMENTS. The votes were as follows: 6 Ayes; Representative(s) Takayama, Gates, O, Kobayashi, Kong, Nishimoto, Ohno; Ayes with reservations: none; Noes: none; and 1 Excused: Representative(s) McDermott.
2/5/2019	H Reported from PVM (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 52) as amended in HD 1, recommending passage on Second Reading and referral to FIN.
2/5/2019	H Passed Second Reading as amended in HD 1 and referred to the committee(s) on FIN with none voting aye with reservations; none voting no (0) and Representative(s) Say, Thalen excused (2).

All Versions of this Measure

- HB378 SD1
- HB378 HD1
- HB378

Committee Reports

- HB378 HD1 HSCRS2
- HB378 HD1 HSCRS4
- HB378 SD1 SSCR1373

Testimony

Filename

- HB378 TESTIMONY_PVM_01-30-19
- HB378 HD1 TESTIMONY_FIN_02-21-19
- HB378 HD1 TESTIMONY_PSM_03-14-19

Visit the Legislature's website at capitol.hawaii.gov to get started. **To get to the bill's status page:** If you know the bill number, enter it into the "Bill Status/Measure Status" search box on the homepage. (If you don't know the bill number, search by subject: click "Reports and Lists" located in the center of the homepage, select "Subject Search" from the buttons on the left-hand side, enter the subject, and finally, click on the bill that interests you.)

listed with a slash, such as HSH/JUD, that means those two committees hear the bill at the same time (jointly), but vote as separate committees.

Status Text

- This is a timeline that lists what happened with the bill. You can click "Sort by Date" above this section to change the order of the list from most recent to oldest.
- The date column lets you know when an action happened. Next to it, "H" means the action took place in the House, and "S" means it took place on the Senate side. Then you'll see a description of the action that occurred.
- Note that while the bill's history is updated after each action, it will not show you if a bill has missed a deadline and 'died'! For that you need to refer to the [Session Calendar](#) or our handy "[Which Deadlines Apply to Your Bill](#)" guide.

Committee Reports

- After a committee has heard and passed a bill, they file a committee report. The committee report summarizes who testified and what changes, if any, the committee made to the bill.
- If you don't see the committee report right away, don't panic! The committee chairs and their staff are well aware of deadlines. If the bill has substantial amendments, it may take a while for the drafting agency to complete the bill's revisions and attached committee report. Once it is filed, you'll see it pop up on the website.

Testimony

- Right before or after the hearing, the committee will upload the testimony it received on the bill, and you can click on the link(s) to read that testimony.
- The testimony is searchable, so if you're looking for something specific, hold down Ctrl and press the F key to bring up a search box.

Bill Number

- House bills begin with HB (for House Bill) and Senate bills begin with SB (for Senate Bill).
- HD1 means House draft 1 and lets us know this bill was amended once in the House. If a bill has an HD2, that means House draft 2, and lets us know that is the second time the bill was amended in the House. Bills that are amended in the Senate will have SD for Senate drafts. If a bill is changed in conference, a CD (conference draft) number will appear.

Companion

- Sometimes bills have companions and sometimes those companions are noted here (but not always). A companion is like a twin—only introduced in the opposite chamber. Legislators introduce companion bills to give an idea more opportunity to pass the Legislature.
- Companion bills go through the legislative process separately. One may move forward in the House while nothing happens to its companion in the Senate. Companion bills may be amended so that they are different from each other. If both companions are moving, legislators usually decide somewhere in the process which companion they're going to continue to move forward.

Current Referral

- This lists which committees your bill is referred to. Your bill must go through the committees in the order they are listed.
- The committees are listed by their acronyms. You can look up the full committee names on the "[Committees](#)" page of the website.
- Committees are listed using either commas or slashes. For example: HSH, JUD, FIN. That means each committee hears the bill separately. If the committees are

PAR Hours for the 2020 Session

(January 16—May 6)

Monday - Friday
7:45 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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. Our staff is here to help!