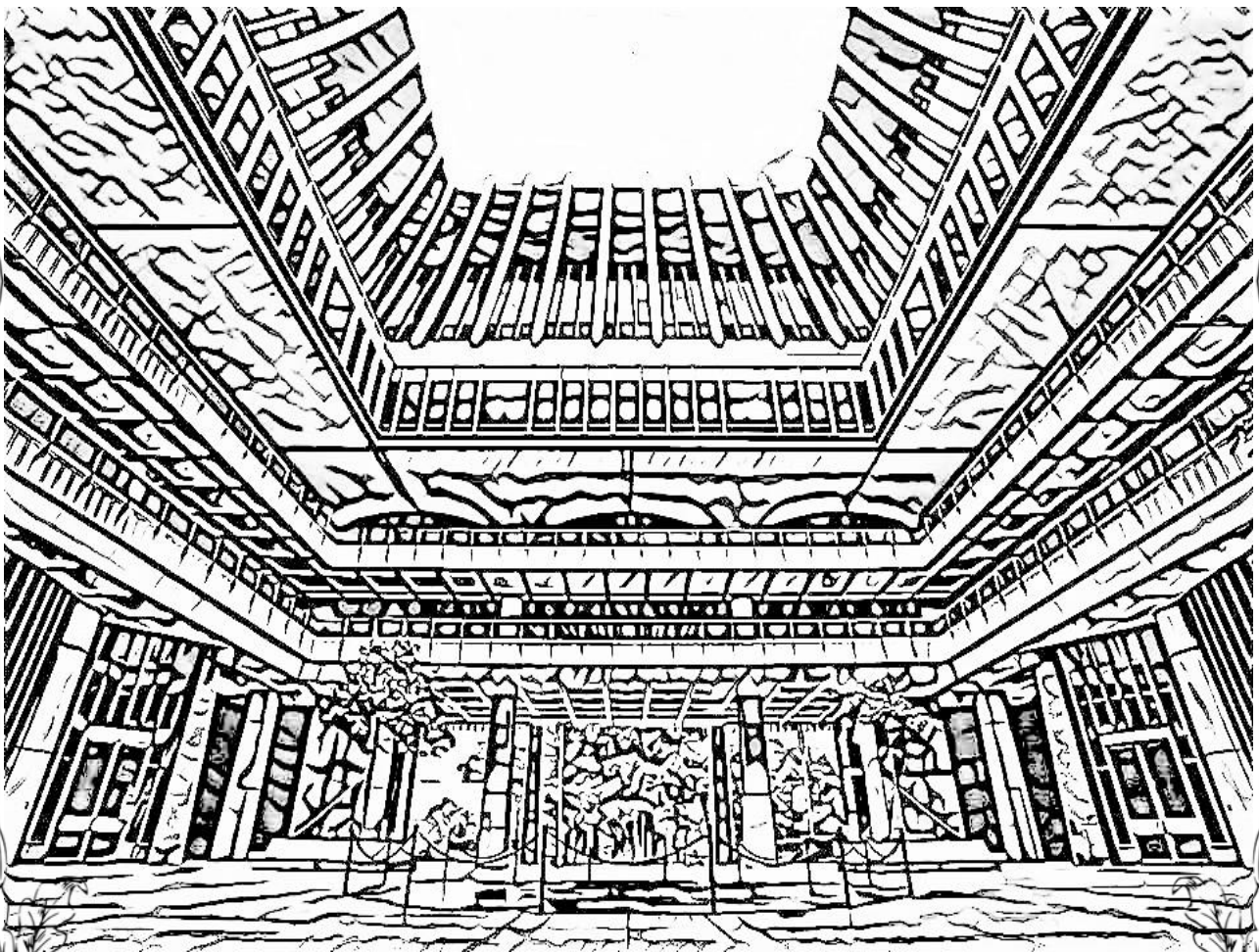


Where do laws come from?



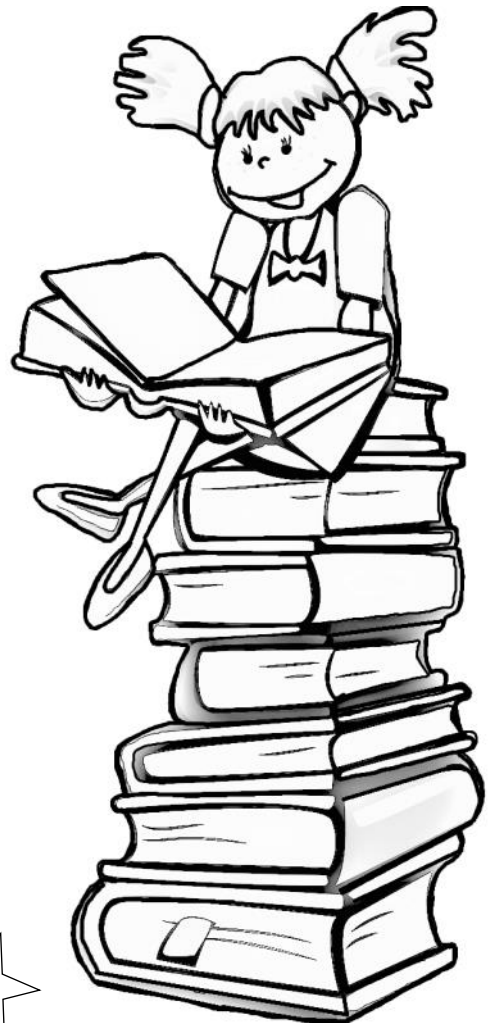
By the Public Access Room
at the Hawaii State Capitol

Cover Photo by
Charles Freedman

When you ride in a car, you have to wear a seatbelt.



If you don't
return your
library
books on
time, the
library can
charge you
a late fee.



If you're riding a bike on
the sidewalk and you're not
wearing a helmet, the police
could give your parents a
ticket!



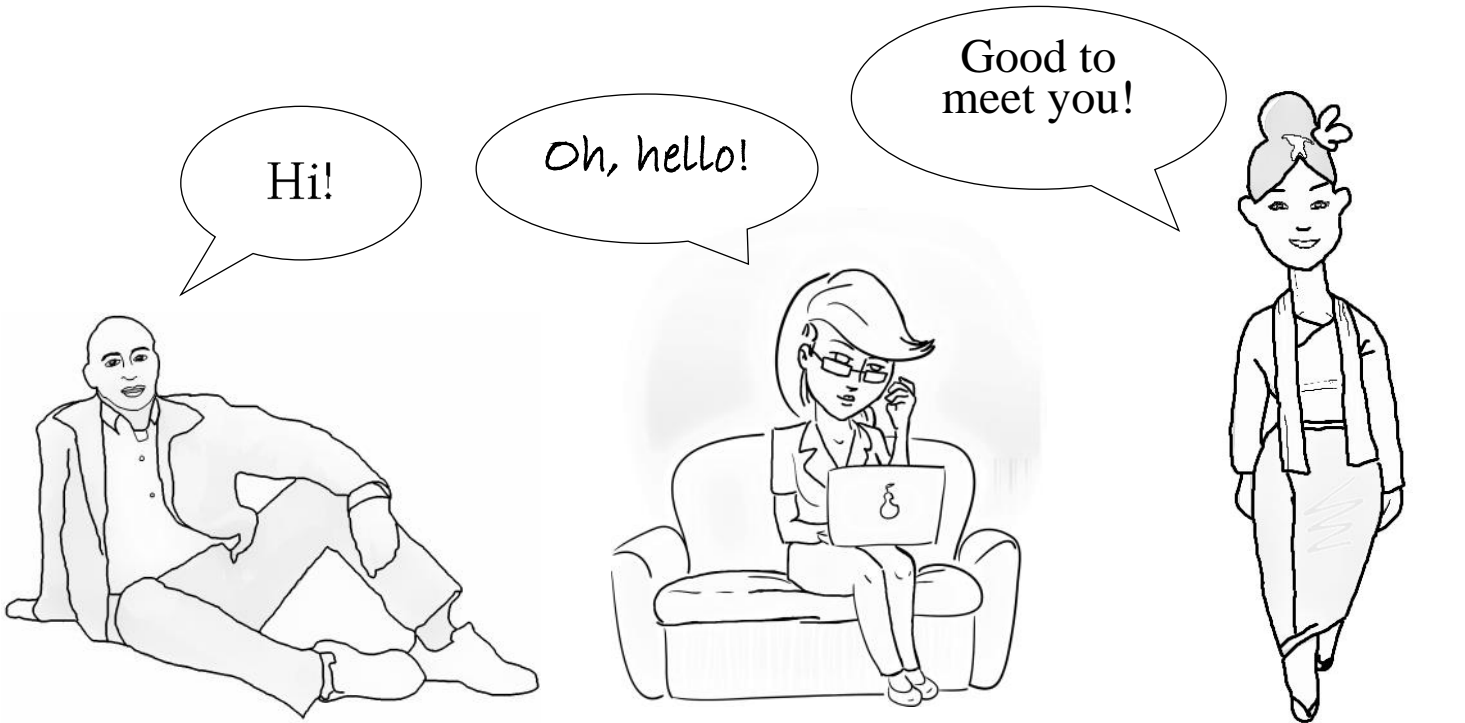
WHO
MADE UP ALL THESE
RULES?

The rules, or laws, that we follow, such as wearing a seatbelt when we're riding in a car or making sure that kids (like you!) wear helmets when riding a bike, come from somewhere....



No, silly! Laws are definitely
NOT delivered by a stork!

Laws are made by **people** whose job it is to make laws. These people are called **legislators**.



Legislators don't just make whatever laws they want.

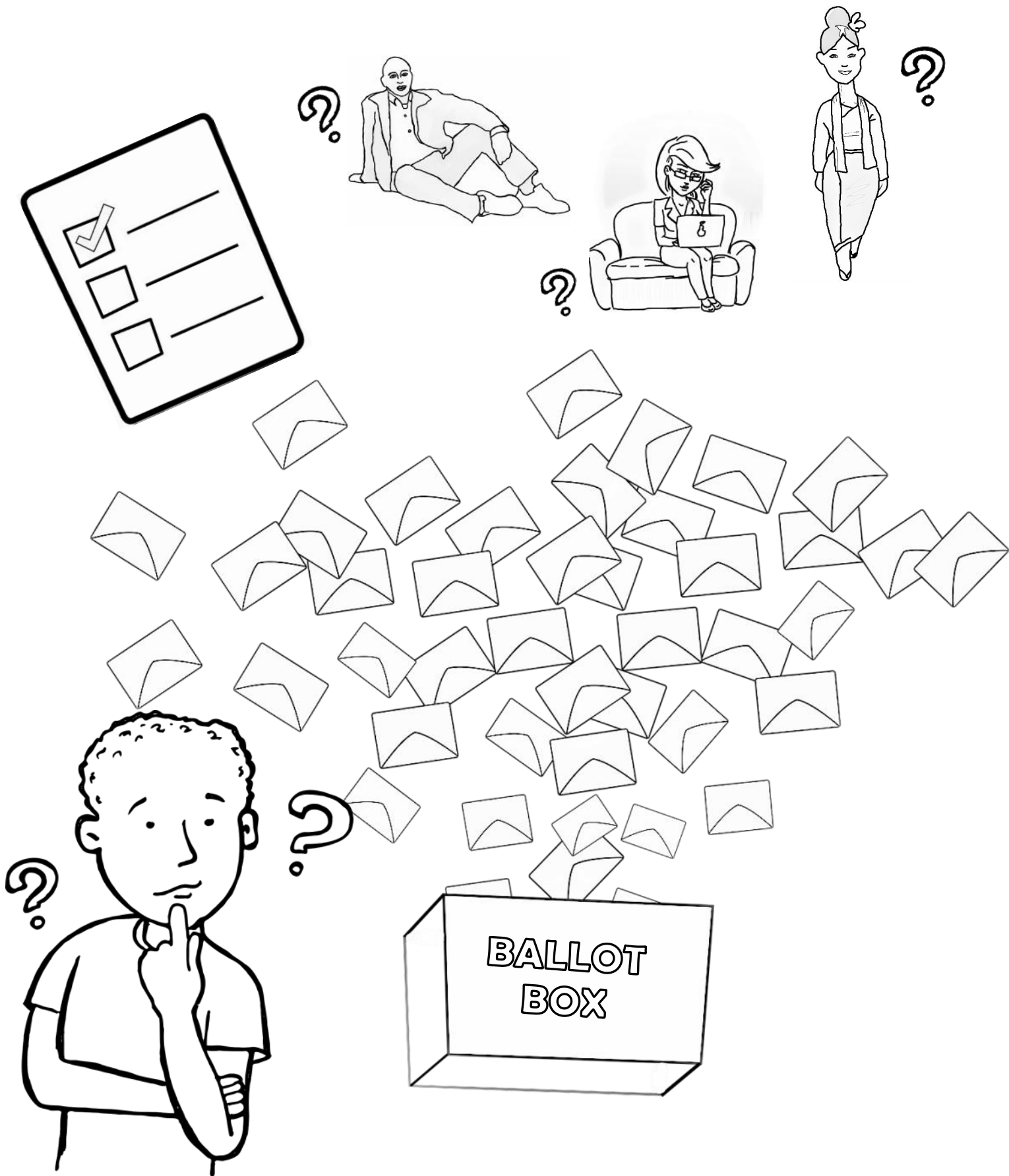


They **listen** to what other people say is important.

They **watch** to see what can be done to make things better.

How do people become legislators?

Legislators are elected. This means that people **vote** for who they want to be a legislator.



When people vote for legislators, they are deciding who they think are the best people to make laws and who they think will listen to them.

What qualities do you think a
legislator should have?



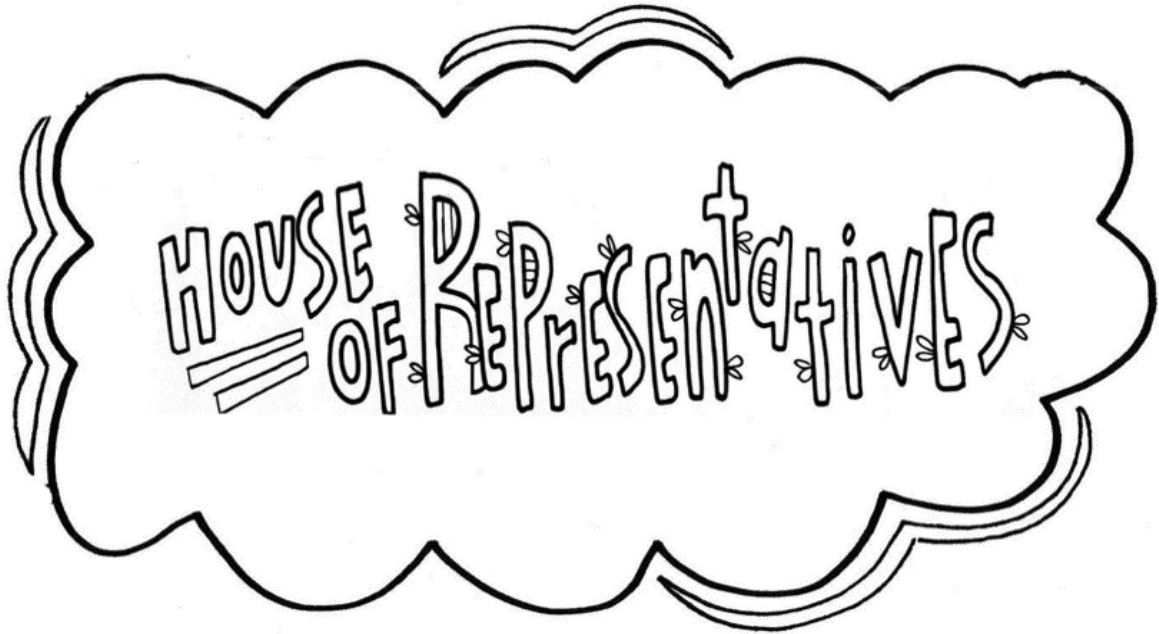
There are two types of State legislators in Hawaii: senators and representatives. Senators and representatives both work at the Hawaii State Capitol. Together, they make laws everyone in the state has to follow.



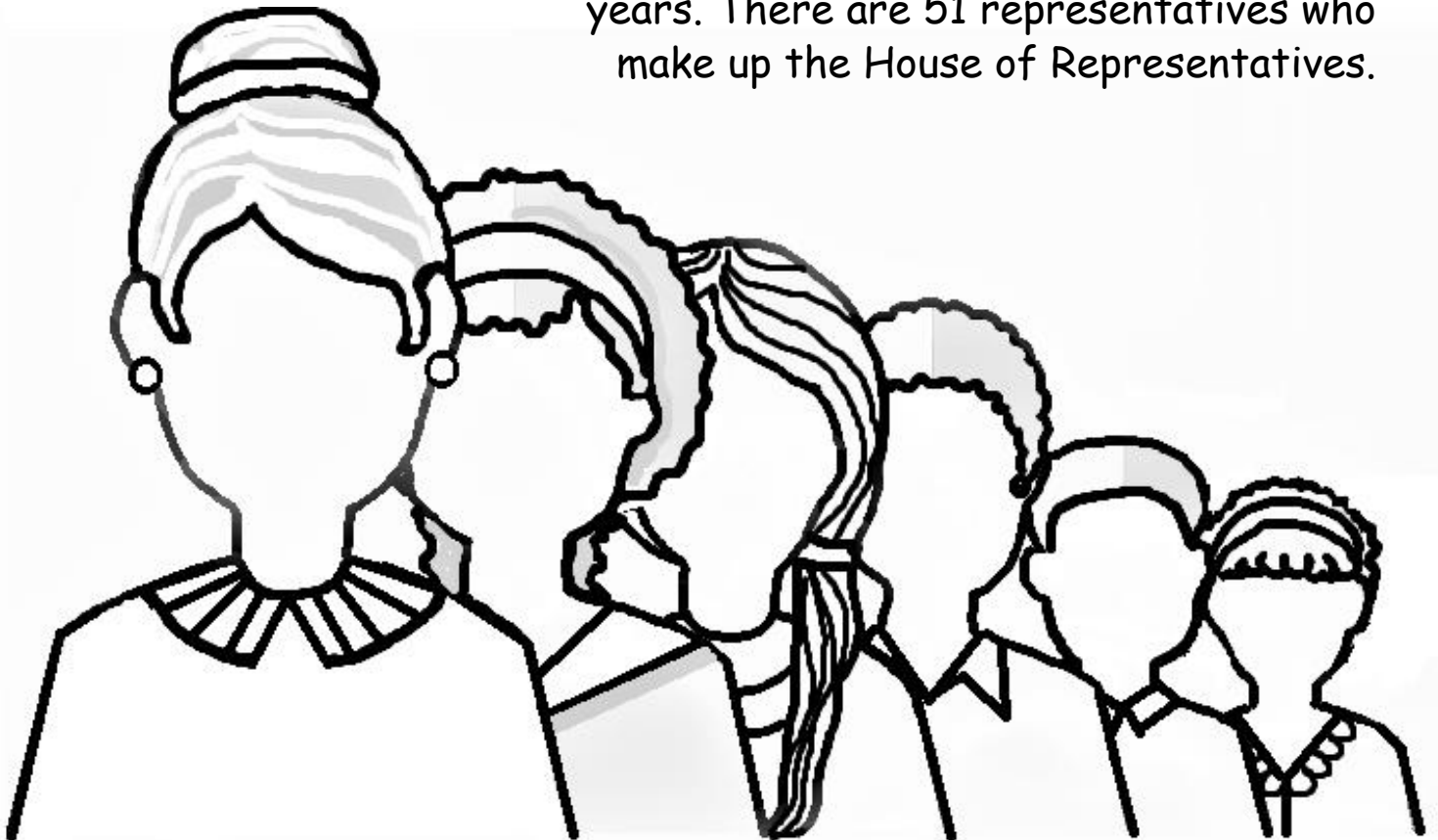
People vote for senators every four years. There are 25 senators who make up the Senate.



When people vote, they vote for both
a senator and a representative.



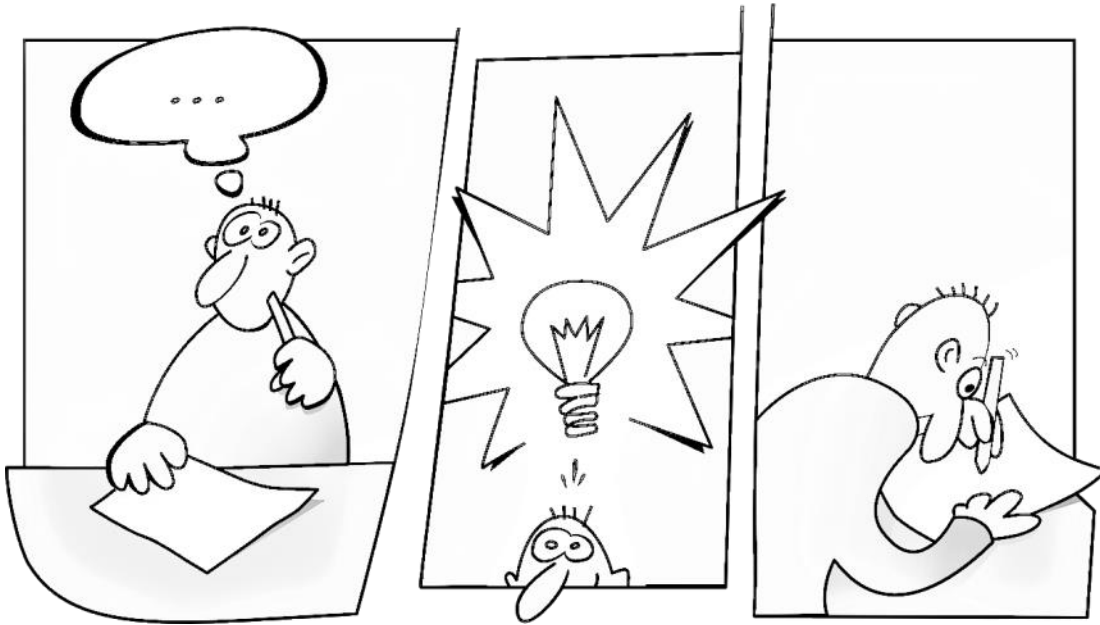
People vote for representatives every two
years. There are 51 representatives who
make up the House of Representatives.



So where do all the

1

Every rule, or LAW, that we follow started as an idea.



You can share your ideas with the senator or representative who represents you. They can then write something called a **BILL**.



What's a bill?

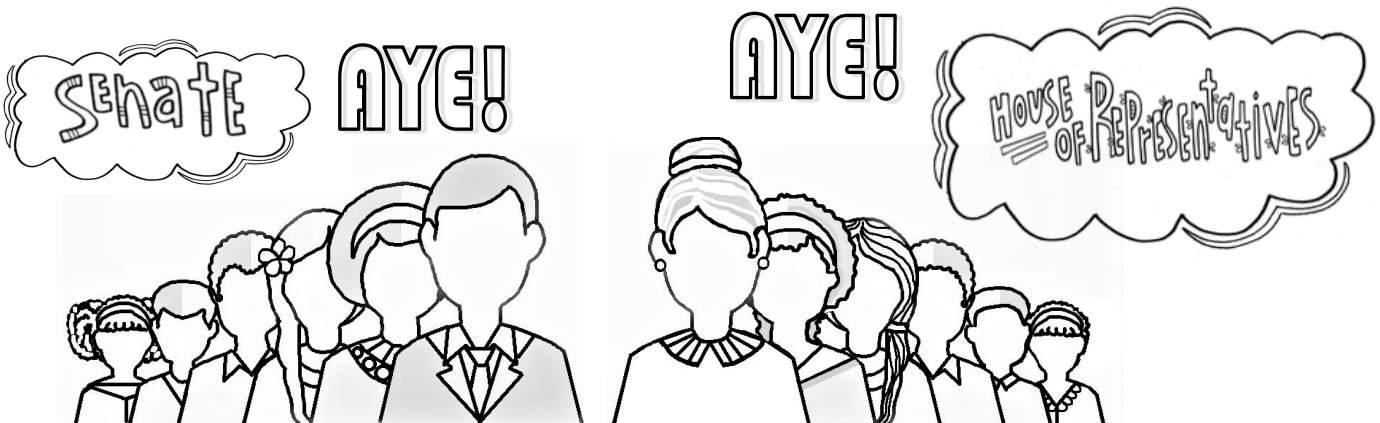
A BILL is an idea for a law. In Hawaii, only legislators can make bills, but YOU can tell legislators what ideas you think should be a bill. That bill might become a law.

LAWs come from?

2 After legislators write and introduce bills, they have public hearings for those bills. This is where everyone can tell the legislators what they think about the bills. Legislators get to listen to different points of view.



3 A bill has to pass both the Senate and the House of Representatives. All the senators and all the representatives get a chance to vote on the bill at least three times.



They want to make sure the bill is a good idea for a law.



4

Senators might like the bill one way, and representatives might like the bill a different way. When this happens, they have to come together and agree on what the bill will say.




A Bill for an Act



5

After legislators agree on the bill, it goes to the governor to be signed into law! (If the governor doesn't like the idea, he or she will veto it, and the senators and representatives will have more work to do!)



Now you know
a WHOLE LOT MORE
ABOUT WHERE

Land



come
FROM

Imagine that you are a legislator.

What do you see around you that you think could be better or different?



What laws would you want to make?



Dear Keiki,

Every senator and representative represents a neighborhood. YOU have a senator and representative who represent you and whose job it is to listen to you.

There is space on pages 19 and 21 for you to write letters to your senator and representative telling them your ideas. Fill in the date, your representative's or senator's name, and write your letters. Then remember to sign and print your name.

Your senator and representative like hearing from you! Your ideas are important.

Sincerely,

Your Friends in the Public Access Room

Your Friends in the Public Access
Room

P.S.: Come visit us in the Public Access Room! We're in room 401 at the Hawaii State Capitol.



Date:

Dear

Sincerely,



Date:

Dear

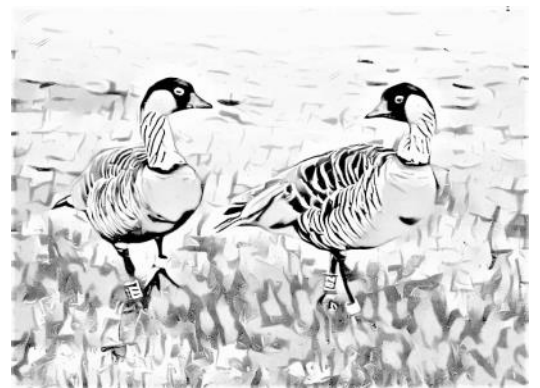
Sincerely,

Come visit us in the Public Access Room!



We're at the Hawaii State Capitol in room 401.
Please come by and say hi!

lrb.hawaii.gov/par
par@capitol.hawaii.gov
(808) 587-0478



Hawaii's Public Access Room (PAR)
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[8/28/2020]