

GET ACTIVE AT THE LEGISLATURE

An occasional email brought to you by the Public Access Room (PAR)

DECEMBER 2020

December means that session is just around the corner



[Get Registered](#)



[Session Calendar](#)



[Collaborate with Stakeholders](#)



[Opening Day](#)

Get Registered on the Legislature's Website



Make sure that you've set up an account on the legislature's website, capitol.hawaii.gov. All that's required is an email address. You'll need to be registered to use the interactive features: receive email hearing notices, use the webform to submit testimony, and generate measure tracking reports.

Already have an account? Make sure you remember the password, so you don't find yourself in a frenzy once session starts. If you have time, you may want to refamiliarize yourself with the website — or contact PAR and we'll give you a quick guided tour.

Session Calendar



The 2021 Regular Session will begin at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 20th. (That day, the third Wednesday in January, is set by the Hawaii constitution.) As for all of the other deadlines that our legislative lives will be guided by, those can be found on the session calendar — established each year by the Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representatives. Typically, it's published between late December and the start of session. Where to find it? It will be posted under the "[Current Legislature](#)" tab on the [Public Access Room's \(PAR's\) website](#). You'll also find it on the legislature's website in the upper left corner.

Collaborate with Stakeholders



As we're waiting for session to get started, it's a great time to check in with various stakeholders — people or organizations that are concerned with the same issues or bills as you. Consider others who testified in years past on similar issues. Don't forget that you can learn a lot by listening to those who disagree with you. A full understanding of others' perspectives and interests will serve you well as your bill comes forward.

Opening Day



In addition to being the first day of the legislative session, opening day means that the drafted bills the legislators have been working on can begin to be introduced. Traditionally, it also offers a sense of occasion — this year will be the opening of the Thirty-first Legislature, and there may be a few speeches and even a song or two as things get started. The proceedings are broadcast, so you can watch as the Senate and House of Representatives launch the new session. (Click on the "[Broadcasts/Video](#)" button on the legislature's website to find broadcast and streaming information.)

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