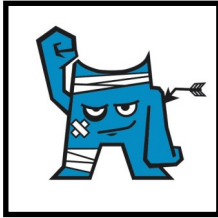


GET ACTIVE AT THE LEGISLATURE

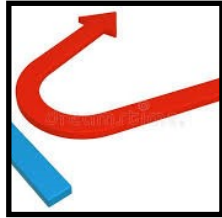
An occasional email brought to you by the Public Access Room (PAR)

FEBRUARY 2021

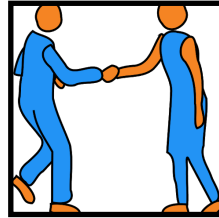
The 2021 Regular Session is moving right along...



What's Still Alive?



Re-Referrals

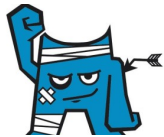


Prior Concurrence



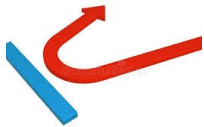
Offering Testimony

What's Still Alive?



The lateral deadline is coming up quickly! In order to succeed, all bills should be in the last committee of their originating chamber by February 19. While about 17% of the bills received single referrals (were referred to only one committee) and aren't affected by the lateral deadline, the others need to get through their first committee or committees in order to survive. Wonder what the legislative landscape looks like after the deadline? From the legislature's website, [capitol.hawaii.gov](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov), click on the "[Reports and Lists](#)" button. The page opens in the "Deadline Tracking" view, and you can use the links listed under "First Lateral" to find bills that are still alive. Throughout session, after major deadlines, you can use the "Deadline Tracking" feature to view the diminishing lists of surviving bills.

Re-Referrals



As a bill proceeds, in addition to undergoing three readings (votes) on the floor of each chamber, it also makes its way through the committees to which it has been referred. On occasion, the referral of a bill to certain committees is reconsidered. This procedure can be used to correct erroneous initial referrals, respond to amended bill content, or otherwise redirect the bill. Only legislators can request that a bill be re-referred, and such requests are submitted to the Senate President or Speaker of the House, depending on which chamber the bill is currently in. While all chairs of the affected committees are consulted, the Senate and House each have their own rules on how requests are managed and approved. You can view the rules on the [Senate](#) and [House](#) webpages [see Senate Rule 46(4) and House Rule 14].

Prior Concurrence



Did you realize that the second or third committee doesn't have free rein to change a bill, even if the changed bill would still conform to its title? You may hear the term "prior concurrence" used by chairs when discussing possible amendments to a bill. Both the House and Senate have rules that discuss the need to receive "prior concurrence" from the subject matter committee prior to making any substantive changes in an area where the current committee has no primary responsibility. You can find the purview or scope of each committee on its [webpage](#) or in the rules posted on the [House](#) and [Senate](#) pages. For example, say that a bill's referral shows its path as "HSG, WAL, FIN", and it has passed HSG and proceeded to WAL. Now, the chair of WAL wants to make changes to the provision in the bill regarding public housing. To do so, the WAL chair will first seek the approval of the HSG chair. Check out the rules for further information on prior concurrence [see Senate Rule 17(2) and House Rule 13.1(3)].

Offering Testimony



Now that session is in full swing, you may have already exercised your chance to offer written and remote oral testimony. As bills move forward, you may decide to ask others to join you in your efforts — think of friends, colleagues, and family members. You can refer them to the Public Access Room (PAR) for help, or direct them to our "[Engagement 101](#)" page for a how-to video and instructions, as well as tips and sample testimony. Trying to get someone involved who doesn't have a computer or access to the internet? The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) is ready to help. They have equipment, wi-fi access, and assistance available for patrons who want to participate in the State legislative process. Find more information here: <https://www.librarieshawaii.org/participate-in-the-hawaii-state-legislative-process/>.

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