

GET ACTIVE AT THE LEGISLATURE

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

JANUARY 2021

Get ready to participate... Session begins on January 20th!



Accessing the Capitol



Remote Testimony



Watching Hearings



Deadlines

Accessing the Capitol — Virtually



While the Hawaii State Capitol is closed to the public due to COVID-19 restrictions, you can still connect effectively with lawmakers and keep track of what's going on.

Use phone calls and emails to reach out to senators and representatives with your views on pieces of legislation. Try to hone your message to summarize your views or your request, and make sure to include the bill number when appropriate.

If you're not aware of the wealth of information available on the legislature's website (capitol.hawaii.gov), give the Public Access Room (PAR) a call and we'll be happy to point out the highlights. Remember, to find lists of all the bills introduced and the bills authored by a particular lawmaker, and to search for specific bills, try the "[Reports and Lists](#)" button on the homepage.

As noted below, the 2021 session will provide the opportunity to testify remotely, and hearings are being both livestreamed and archived for later viewing.

Remote Testimony — Appear “In Person”



A silver lining to the building being closed is the opportunity to testify from your home, work, or wherever you may be. In addition to your written testimony (which you can offer using the “Testimony” button on the legislature's website), now you may offer remote testimony at hearings that allow oral testimony. Just indicate on the “Testimony” form that you would also like to offer testimony remotely via Zoom — if your request is accepted, you'll be provided a Zoom link on your testimony page. You'll be able to “Zoom” in to the proceedings and speak to the committee at the appropriate time. (For more detailed instructions, look under “[Recent Updates](#)” on the legislature's homepage or go to PAR's “[Engagement 101](https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/engagement-101)” webpage: <https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/engagement-101>)

Watching Hearings — As They Happen or Later On



To bring you ‘into’ the capitol, the hearings and informational briefings taking place this session are being live streamed and archived (available “on-demand”). In addition, certain proceedings will be broadcast on television. Click on the “[Live and On-Demand Video](#)” button on the legislature's website to find links to the streaming sites (Senate and House YouTube pages) and a link to the schedule of any television broadcasts.

Deadlines — They Come Up Quickly!



Our “[Which Deadlines Apply to My Bill?](#)” handout may be helpful as session gets rolling. It allows you to determine which deadlines you need to focus on for a specific bill, depending on the number of committee referrals it has received. Find the chart and other handouts (for example, lists of committees, contact information for legislators, and maps of districts with members' photos) on the “[Current Legislature](#)” tab of PAR's website (lrb.hawaii.gov/par).

Public Access Room (PAR)
A Division of the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB)
<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par>
415 S. Beretania St., #401, Honolulu, HI 96813
par@capitol.hawaii.gov
(808) 587-0478

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