

GET ACTIVE AT THE LEGISLATURE

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MARCH 2021

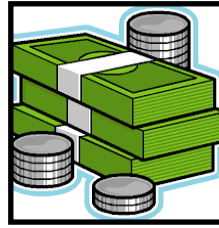
In the depths of session...



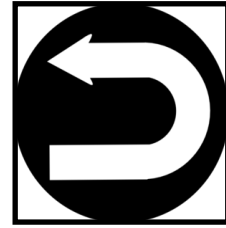
The “Second” Chamber



Resolutions



Money, Money, Money



Recommittal

The “Second” Chamber



Both the full House and Senate must vote in favor of a bill at least three times for it to survive the legislative process and be enrolled to the governor. (These votes are called readings.) When the originating chamber has passed a bill on third reading, the bill is sent to the non-originating chamber for further consideration. To survive, it must accomplish this cross over by the First Crossover deadline (March 11). The bill then faces the “second” deadlines. It must move into its last committee in the non-originating chamber by Second Lateral and be reported out of its last committee and be filed for third reading by Second Decking. It must survive the third reading in the “second” chamber by the Second Crossover deadline (April 15). See our [deadlines handout](#) for more information.

Resolutions... “Be It Resolved...”



Concurrent resolutions (resolutions to be adopted by both chambers) can be a great way to further an issue after a bill has died. While they don’t have the force and effect of law they can, for example, set up a task force, ask for a study, or make a statement about an issue. The deadline for introduction is March 12. Resolutions look a lot different than bills — you’ll see a lot of “Whereas” and “Be It Resolved” clauses. Our website offers more information — <https://lrh.hawaii.gov/par/overview-of-the-legislative-process/types-of-measures-bills-resolutions-messages/resolutions>.

Money, Money, Money



The House and Senate have received the proposed two-year executive budget for FY 2021-23 from the governor. You can view the proposal by looking at [HB200](#) and [GM1](#). Like other bills, the “budget bill” must pass at least three votes in each chamber, but it has its own deadline. The [session calendar](#) shows the Budget Crossover deadline as March 24 – the House and Senate have agreed that the budget bill will have received its three votes on the House floor and crossed over to the Senate by that date. Here’s how it works. First, the House Finance (FIN) Committee reviews the governor’s proposal. Information is considered from a range of sources, including the informational briefings with departments, the Council on Revenues’ projections, and recommendations from committee chairs. FIN will then come up with the “HD1” draft of the budget bill (most likely using HB200 as the vehicle) to be voted on by the chamber. After it crosses to the Senate, the Ways and Means (WAM) committee reviews the bill and publishes its own version (the “SD1” draft) for its chamber’s consideration. Subsequently, the House and Senate will enter conference negotiations to determine what may be the final version of the bill (the “CD1” draft). Any “CD1” draft will have to be voted on by both chambers before the end of session, adjournment *sine die*, which this year is April 29. It will then go to the governor for action. Want a little more information about all this? Check out our [“It’s Money that Matters \(When Diving into the Budget\)”](#) handout.

Recommittal — Taking a Step Back



Things don’t always move forward. When a bill is reported out of a committee, it usually goes to the floor of the chamber to be voted on or moved to its next committee. Recommittal is the act of sending a bill *back* to its previous committee. A motion to “recommit” may be offered when the bill is under consideration on the floor of the chamber; it requires a floor vote to succeed. Why would a bill be recommitted? Perhaps the bill needs to go back to the committee for further work (for example, a short form bill may have been amended but its content still needs to be heard by the committee) or a problem with a bill is identified after it has been reported out of committee. It’s one of the odd things that can (but rarely does) happen at the legislature.