

# GET ACTIVE AT THE LEGISLATURE

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

APRIL 2021

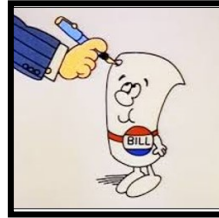
## Approaching the End of Session



Agree to Disagree?



Conference



Off to the Governor



Resolutions

### Agree to Disagree?



A bill's exact content must be agreed on by both the House and Senate before it can be sent to the governor. At First Crossover, a bill is sent to the non-originating chamber for consideration. While this second chamber *may* pass the bill without any further changes, more often they amend the bill while it's in their possession, adopting a new bill draft. So at Second Crossover, it is usually a changed bill that is sent back to the first chamber.

The originating chamber can then choose to "agree" or "disagree" with the amended bill. The default move is for the chamber to "disagree" with the new draft and move the bill to conference. This happens to the vast majority of bills that make it to this stage.

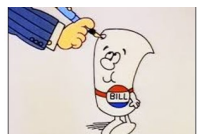
(Leadership does establish internal procedures for legislators to occasionally request an "agree" stance instead.)

### Conference... Coming to an Agreement



The conference committee process is the mechanism used by the House and Senate to resolve the differences in the drafts of the bills they've passed. Conference rules will be posted on the [legislature's website](#). You can view conference meetings on the [House and Senate YouTube pages](#), and use the "Conference Committee" bar on the legislature's ["Reports and Lists"](#) page for useful tracking tools. If the committees can agree on one of the versions before them or a new "conference draft" by the Final Decking deadline, the bill draft that is agreed to is delivered to one or both chambers for its final floor votes. This assures that, in the end, every member of the House and Senate has had the opportunity to vote on the final version of a bill before it is sent to the governor. Select ["What About Conference?"](#) on PAR's ["Overview of the Legislative Process"](#) page for more information.

### Off to the Governor



Even if a bill passes out of the legislature by the end of session (April 29th), its journey is not quite over. The next step is enrollment to the governor for his consideration. (The exception to this is a bill proposing a constitutional amendment — instead of going to the governor, it gets put on the ballot for the voters to consider.) The governor has deadlines to sign a bill or veto it, depending on when it was sent to him. If he fails to do either by a certain date, the bill becomes law "without signature". For bills sent to the governor after April 8th, his deadline to sign or veto is July 6th. Additionally, he must inform the legislature of any bills that he *may* veto by June 21st. (More information on the deadlines can be found in PAR's ["Which Deadlines Apply to My Bill?"](#) handout.) You can use the governor's contact form to offer your view on a bill that has been sent to him (<https://governor.hawaii.gov/contact-us/comments-on-legislation/>).

### What Happens with Resolutions?



To find out what happens with a resolution that has been adopted, look to the content of the resolution itself. Particularly, read through the "Be it Resolved..." clauses. You'll find the requests for action, usually followed by instructions to send "certified copies" of the legislation to affected parties. This is handled by the House and/or Senate Chief Clerks' offices during the interim. [Note: If the resolution is a concurrent resolution (HCR or SCR), it needs to be adopted by both chambers.]

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](mailto:par@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
(808) 587-0478

Follow us on Twitter [@Hawaii\\_PAR](#)  
Find us on Facebook [@PublicAccessRoom](#)