GET ACTIVE AT THE LEGISLATURE

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

MAY 2021

Finishing Up the Regular Session

What Just Happened

Whew! Session seems to fly by even when it feels like it takes forever. So, what just happened? While our office can’t really help to tell you why something passed (or died), we can help point you to what survived. It’s actually the data folks who make things easy for us all. Just head to the legislature’s website (capitol.hawaii.gov) and click on our favorite button, “Reports and Lists”. You’ll find numerous lists that can give you the lay of the land. They continue to be updated as things move along.

The “Reports and Lists” page opens in “Deadline Tracking” mode, which is just what you need. On the right, scroll down to the bottom categories for helpful lists such as “Bills that Passed Legislature”, “Acts” (bills that have become law), and “Resolutions Adopted”. You’ll also find helpful lists regarding the governor’s actions in the last box.

Lobbying the Governor

It’s a long haul getting a bill through the legislature, but it still needs to survive the governor to become law. Have an opinion on whether the governor should sign the bill or veto it? Let him know! There’s a contact form available for you to share your views on legislation that’s in his hands. Just head to the governor’s website (governor.hawaii.gov) and click on the “Contact” tab. You’ll see a box labeled “Comments on Legislation”. You can then fill out the form and either attach a file or type into the “message” box your position and point of view.

Need help finding a bill number? Get in touch with us, and we’ll be happy to help.

A handout with information on the governor’s deadlines can be found on our “Current Legislature” page, or just click here: “Governor’s Deadlines”.

Art at the Capitol

In the midst of all the action, you may have missed some wonderful vignettes of legislators highlighting pieces of art on loan from the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. As part of this year’s “Art at the Capitol”, videos were posted of various legislators with favorite artworks from the “Art in Public Places” collection in their office or district. The snippets are just a minute or so long and offer a moment or two of culture, beauty, and the indescribable that can only be expressed in art. You’ll also enjoy the relaxed and behind-the-scenes glimpses you’re provided of the lawmakers.

Check out the videos on the Art at the Capitol Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/artatthecapitolhawaii

Your Feedback on the Remote Session

This session has been one for the books — with the capitol closed to the public, the legislature scrambled to provide live and archived coverage of all the proceedings, as well as remote oral testimony via Zoom. How did things work out? We hope to participate in a debriefing with the administrative and technical support teams who work for the legislature and would like to have your take on how things went. Call or email the Public Access Room, and we’ll make note of your comments and include them in the discussion.

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