

# GET ACTIVE AT THE LEGISLATURE

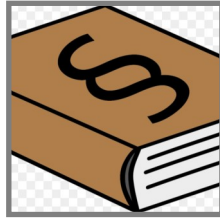
An occasional email brought to you by the Public Access Room (PAR)

JULY 2021

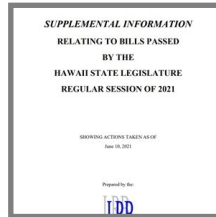
## Emerging from the 2021 Regular and Special Sessions



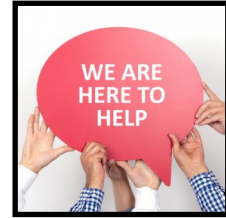
Unusual Special Session



Finding the New Laws

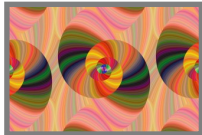


Old Laws Affected?



Here to Help!

### An Unusual Special Session



It's not *that* unusual to go into special session on the 45th day after *adjournment sine die* — it provides the legislature with the opportunity to override any vetoes delivered by the governor. What is highly unusual, and what happened this year, is that in addition to delivering veto overrides (six bills became law despite the governor's vetoes), the legislature also amended three vetoed bills. During the special session, the bills (HB54, HB1299, and SB589) were amended on the floor and then approved by a majority of the members in each chamber. Subsequently, these bills were sent off to the governor for final approval on July 8. The governor immediately signed HB54 (Act 6, 2021 Special Session) and has until July 22 (ten days, not including weekend days, from the presentation of the bills to the governor) to sign the other two into law. If he does not sign an amended bill by then, it would have the effect of a "pocket veto" and the bill would not become law. ([Hawaii State Constitution, Article III, Section 16](#)).

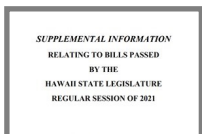
Wondering when the legislature last amended vetoed bills in this manner? It looks like that would be back in 1974, when HB2428 "Relating to the Administration of General Assistance to Needy Persons" was vetoed, amended in special session, and subsequently signed into law ([Act 1, 1974 Special Session](#)) by Acting Governor Ariyoshi.

### Finding the New Laws



The new laws can be found at two sites on the legislature's website ([capitol.hawaii.gov](#)): for the Regular Session laws, use the "[Reports and Lists](#)" button and then find the "[Acts](#)" list near the bottom of the page; for the Special Session acts, use the "[2021 Special Session](#)" link found in the "Recent Updates" box. Remember, to find when a new law actually takes effect look at the last section of the bill — you'll find a particular date or an indication that the law is effective upon approval (in which case it becomes effective on the date the bill was enacted into law).

### Which Old Laws are Affected by the New Laws?



It takes a while for the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to be updated — in hard copy and online. If you're interested in the effect new legislation has on a certain chapter or section of the law (or on a Session Law passed in a previous year), the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) provides a helpful resource for you. Check out the "[Supplemental Information Relating to Bills Passed](#)" booklet that is published each year at the close of session. Not only does it have a helpful topical index, but it also contains a table of all of the HRS sections and session laws affected by legislation passed during the year's Regular Session. So, for example, you can look up a particular HRS section and see which bill(s), if any, affected it. One caveat — a bill passed by the legislature may or may not have actually become law (it could have suffered a veto that prevented it from becoming law), so always check the bill's status page to ensure that the bill was ultimately enacted. Find the resource: Go to the LRB website ([lr.b.hawaii.gov](#)) and navigate to the "Publications" tab, then select "[Session Reports](#)".

### Here to Help!



While the Hawaii State Capitol remains closed to the public, the Public Access Room (PAR) is available to help you find information, learn more about the legislative process, and answer any questions you may have. Don't forget, we also offer tutorials and workshops over Zoom — get in touch with us and we can set something up!

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