

GET ACTIVE AT THE LEGISLATURE

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

DECEMBER 2021

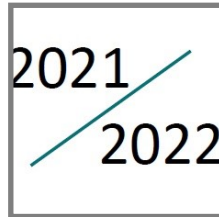
Gearing Up for Session



The Session Calendar



Reapportionment



Second Year



The Capitol

The Session Calendar



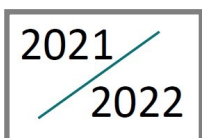
One question that we receive quite often this time of year is, "When will the session calendar be published?" The session calendar, which is established each year by the Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representatives, is usually published between late December and the start of session – this year, January 19th, 2022. (That date, the third Wednesday in January, is set by the Hawaii Constitution as the day the Legislature convenes each Regular Session.) The calendar notes the deadlines that govern legislative activity. Once available, it will be posted under the "[Current Legislature](#)" tab on the [Public Access Room's \(PAR's\) website](#). You'll also find it on the [Legislature's website](#) in the upper left corner. Note: As soon as the calendar is out, we'll be producing our handy "Which Deadlines Apply to My Bill?" information sheet to help you once bills receive their referrals.

Reapportionment



Hawaii, like the rest of the country, is currently going through the redistricting process to redraw district boundaries based on data collected from the 2020 Census. In our state, the nine-member Reapportionment Commission is responsible for determining new boundaries for 2 Congressional districts, 51 State House Districts, and 25 State Senate Districts. (One of the results of reapportionment is that, in addition to the entire House of Representatives, the entire Senate will be up for election in 2022 – with half of the Senate seats designated for a 2-year term and the other half for a 4-year term.) New district boundaries reflecting the updated population data will affect those currently in office, prospective candidates, and voters. Public hearings on proposed plans and maps, which are available online and at numerous locations throughout the State, are taking place through December 10th. For more information, visit the Reapportionment Commission's website: <https://elections.hawaii.gov/about-us/boards-and-commissions/reapportionment/>

The Second Year of the Biennial Session



The upcoming session is the back end of the biennial legislative session, which restarts every other year. As a result, you may see some bills being "pre-filed" — given bill numbers and added to the website a few days before Opening Day. You'll notice that the newly added bills will start with higher bill numbers than last year, which will be how you can distinguish 2022 bills from those introduced last year. (Sometimes, the numbering is continuous from the previous year, and sometimes a convenient starting number, like 1500, is used. It's up to each chamber to decide.)

What about the standing committees? While the committee structure, chairs, and memberships can be changed at any time, it is not likely that they'll change drastically (unless, of course, leadership decides they should or leadership itself changes). There are some changes we can already see and anticipate. With Sen. J. Kalani English's resignation, former representative Sen. Lynn DeCoite was appointed to his seat, and her previously held House seat was filled with the appointment of Rep. Linda Clark. The Senate has already announced some new leadership positions and committee assignments. You can always find the most current information by clicking on the "[Current Legislature](#)" tab of our website.

Frequently Asked: When Will the Capitol Open?



We don't know when the Capitol building will be reopened to the general public but will let you know as soon as we do. Open or closed, remember that you'll be able to watch House and Senate committee hearings on the [House and Senate YouTube pages](#). We also anticipate that remote testimony via Zoom will still be an option for the public in 2022.

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

YouTube [Hawaii Public Access Room](#)
Follow us on Twitter [@Hawaii_PAR](#)
Find us on Facebook [@PublicAccessRoom](#)