Into the Interim

How the HRS is Affected

Wondering how the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) may be affected by the bills that have been sent off to the Governor? The Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) has made it easy for you to find out which bills may affect particular statutory sections. Just go to the LRB website (lrb.hawaii.gov) and, under “Publications,” select “Session Reports.” Then, select “Supplemental Information Relating to Bills Passed.” After a subject index of all the bills that survived the legislature, there appears a chart. It shows each potentially affected section of the HRS and indicates which bills, if enacted, would affect them. If an HRS section does not appear in the chart, there is no pending legislation that will have a direct effect on it. The chart also indicates which bills affect the Session Laws of Hawaii. It’s important to note that this report is compiled before we’ve reached the Governor’s deadline for action on the bills in his possession. It won’t be until after July 12 that we will definitely know which of the 2022 Regular Session bills will become law. And remember, the date the new laws go into effect can be found by looking at the last section of the newly enacted legislation.

A Great Index of What Passed the Legislature

As mentioned in the previous section, the “Supplemental Information Relating to Bills Passed” report has a wonderful subject index of all the bills that passed the Legislature. So, if you don’t find what you’re looking for using the search features (Keyword Search or Subject Search) on the Legislature’s website, or just prefer an old fashioned index to browse, this report is the place to go. You can look under the index for “Animals”, for example, and easily browse to see if there is legislation that relates to cats, cruelty, dogfighting, dogs, etc. It’s especially helpful when you don’t know the exact search term to use on the website or are interested in a broad subject. Take a look and see if this resource might be of help!

Remember, this report covers the legislation that passed out of the Legislature — some of the bills may end up not being enacted. (Don’t forget to let the Governor know your views on pending legislation!)

Suggestions?

Now that the 2022 Regular Session has come to a close, many of you are taking a moment to debrief on what happened and consider your plans for the interim and next session. So is the Public Access Room (PAR)! And we’d love to hear from you. Which of our resources or services were helpful to you? Which ones were confusing or lacking? What do you wish we had provided that we didn’t? Keeping in mind that we’re a non-partisan office focused exclusively on process rather than policy, share your thoughts with us so that we can improve our services to everyone.

PAR’s Interim Hours, Workshops

The Public Access Room (PAR) is open during the interim from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. That said, you can always call and leave us a message or send us an email. We also can schedule workshops and tutorials outside of our regular hours for individuals or groups who request them. So don’t be shy! Currently, we’re offering Zoom workshops exclusively, but that could change depending on circumstances. Just ask, and we’ll see what we can do!