

## Conference Committees

How do they work?  
When do they meet?  
How do I find them?  
What now?!

### Conference Committees:

- How do they work?
- When do they meet?
- How do I find them?
- What now?!

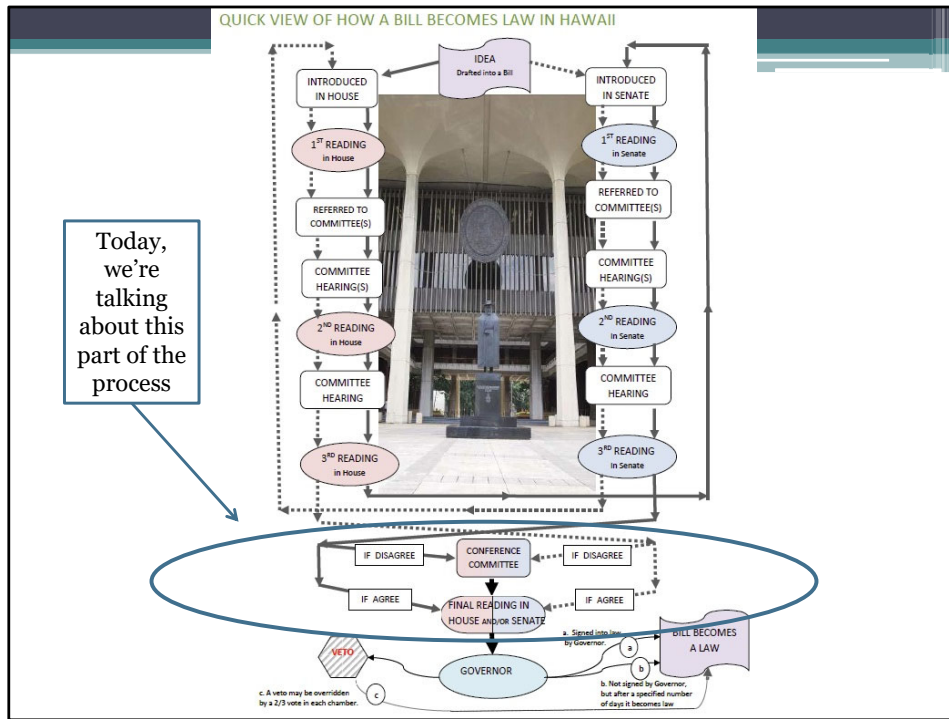
## Going to Conference...

- Opaque
- Lots of activity
- It's been a long session...



If you've made it to Conference, you've come quite a way in the "bill to law" process. Most bills never reach this point!

- Process can appear **opaque** to the public.
- Lots of **action** – sometimes challenging to figure out who/what/where/how to focus energies.
- Comes at the end of a long session – advocates may be **tired**, but this is a crucial phase of the process.



It's this complicated looking part of the process that we're focusing on today.

## Here's a brief glimpse of what a bill needs to go through to become a law...

- Pass through all **committees** (hearings) the House and Senate have referred it to

*and*

- Pass **three readings (votes)** in each chamber (all members)

*and*

- Have **exact wording** agreed to by House and Senate

*and*

- Be signed or allowed to come into law by **Governor**, or House and Senate successfully overrides his veto.



Here's a brief glimpse of what a bill needs to go through to become a law....

- A bill has to have made it through all the committees it was referred to (which is when the public got to offer testimony at hearings) and passed three readings (or votes) on the floor of both the House and the Senate.
- Now we're to the third item on this list – agreeing on the exact wording of the bill that will go off to the Governor.

Have both House and Senate agree on **exact wording**



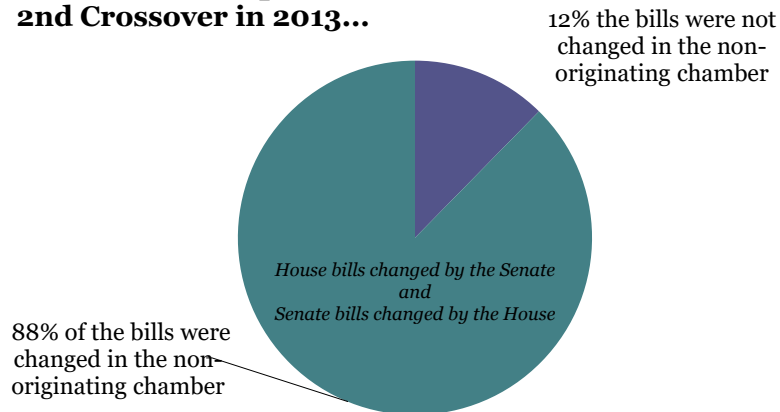
... now this isn't even an issue if the non-originating chamber did not make any changes ...

Agreeing on the exact wording...

- Now this isn't even an issue if the non-originating chamber did not make any changes...

## But most bills have been changed...

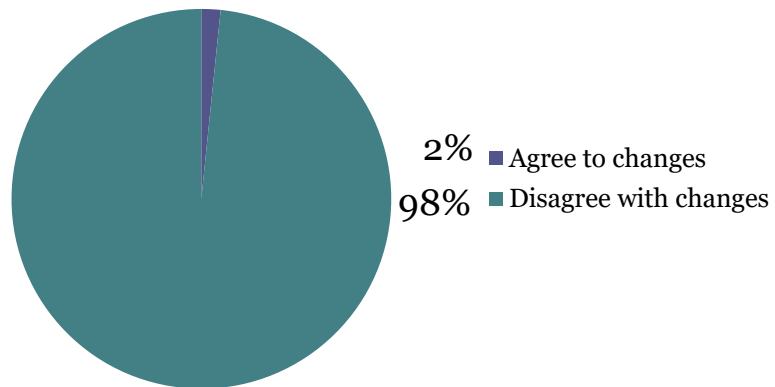
**Of the bills that passed  
2nd Crossover in 2013...**



But at this point, most bills have been changed.

- In 2013, 88% of the bills that passed Second Crossover were changed and 12% were not changed in the non-originating chamber.

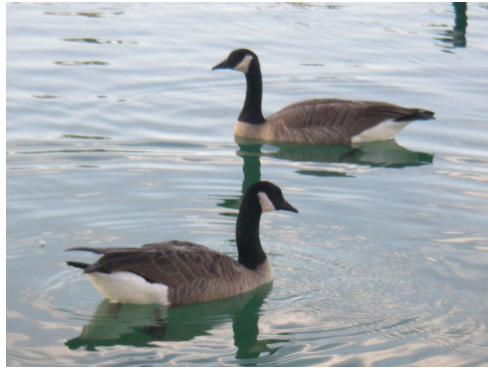
And - almost always - those changes are not “Agreed to” by the originating chamber...



And- almost always- those changes are **not “agreed to”** by the originating chamber.

- Of bills passing Second Crossover with changes in 2013, 98% had the changes **“disagreed to.”**
- Only 2% were **“agreed to.”**

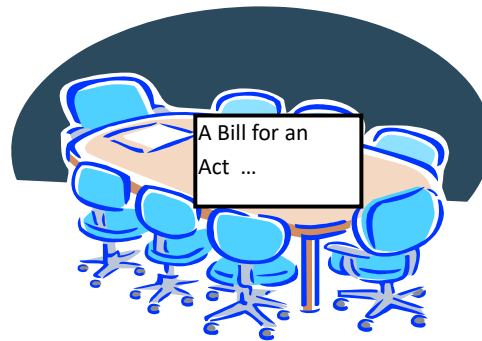
Instead, the originating chamber chooses to “disagree” with the changes made...



- Instead, the originating chamber chooses to “**disagree**” with the changes made...
- Conference Committees start meeting the week after Second Crossover.



Which means that bill will go to  
Conference



If the originating chamber **disagrees** with the changes made by the non-originating chamber, it goes to conference.

## Why Conference?

When the Senate and House pass different versions of a bill, it poses a problem: only one version can go off to the Governor for consideration.

As a result, unless the originating chamber agrees to the other's version, the bill moves into the *conference committee process*.

### Why Conference?

- When the Senate and House pass different versions of a bill, it poses a problem: only **one** version can go off to the Governor for consideration.
- As a result, unless the originating chamber agrees to the other's version, the bill moves into the *conference committee process*.

## What is a Conference Committee?

For **each bill** that reaches this stage, conference committees may be formed with members appointed from each chamber



What is a Conference Committee?

- For **each bill** that reaches this stage, conference committees (one for the House, one for the Senate) may be formed with members appointed from each chamber.

## Not guaranteed...

- Some bills reach this point, and the conferees for one or the other chamber are not appointed
- Then, the bill dies unless something extraordinary happens
- If previous conferees were “discharged,” new ones must be named

### Not guaranteed...

- Some bills reach this point, and the conferees for one or the other chamber are **not** appointed.
- Then, the bill dies unless something extraordinary happens.
- If previous conferees were “discharged,” new ones must be named.

## Who are the conferees?

- **appointed by leadership**
- **chairs** = usually the subject matter chairs (typically the bill's first committee referrals)
- **“managers” or “conferees”** – numbers vary

### Who are the conferees?

- Members are often called **“managers” or “conferees.”** The numbers vary.
- Members of both chambers are **appointed by the Senate President and the House Speaker.** (Minority leadership may be consulted for minority appointments.)
- The House and Senate **Chairs** of the conference committee are usually the subject matter committee chairs for a given measure (typically the bill's first committee referrals).
- You can frequently find more than one Chair for a measure depending on the referral, or you may even find a Vice-Chair heading-up a Conference Committee.

# HB1922 HD2 SD1



Submit Testimony

**Measure Title:** RELATING TO WILDLIFE.

**Report Title:** DLNR; Wildlife; Rulemaking Authority; Flexibility; Adaptive Management

**Description:** Expands the department of land and natural resources' rulemaking authority to include any rule deemed necessary to protect certain wildlife. Expands the board of land and natural resources' authority to timely adopt, amend, or repeal certain rules if the board finds that the action is necessary to implement effective and adaptive management measures in response to impacted natural resources or in light of newly available technology or data. (SD1)

**Companion:** SB2912

**Package:** None

**Current Referral:** WTL, JDC

**Introducer(s):** ICHiyAMA, POEPOE

Sort by Date	Status Text
4/12/2024	S Received notice of disagreement (Hse. Com. No. 731).
4/11/2024	H House disagrees with Senate amendment (s).
4/9/2024	H Returned from Senate (Sen. Com. No. 537) in amended form (SD 1). Report Adopted; Passed Third Reading, as amended (SD 1). Ayes, 24;

## All Versions of this Measure

- HB1922\_SD1
- HB1922\_HD2
- HB1922\_HD1
- HB1922

## Committee Reports

- HB1922\_HD1\_HSCR181-24\_
- HB1922\_HD2\_HSCR631-24\_
- HB1922\_HD2\_SSCR3327\_
- HB1922\_SD1\_SSCR3659\_

## Testimony

- HB1922\_TESTIMONY\_WAL\_01-30-24\_
- HB1922\_HD1\_TESTIMONY\_JHA-CPC\_02-15-24\_
- HB1922\_HD2\_TESTIMONY\_WTL\_03-15-24\_
- HB1922\_HD2\_TESTIMONY\_JDC\_04-02-24\_

## Hearing Notices

Committee	Date/Time	Action
WAL	1/30/24 9:00A	430 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE View
JHA	2/15/24 2:02P	325 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE View
WTL	3/15/24 1:00P	CR 229 & Videoconference View

		The committee on WAL recommend that the measure be PASSED, WITH AMENDMENTS. The votes were as follows: 9 Ayes:
1/30/2024	H	Representative(s) Ichiyama, Poepoe, Chun, Ganaden, Hashem, M. Mizuno, Morikawa, Takayama, Souza; Ayes with reservations: none; Noes: none; and Excused: none.
1/26/2024	H	Bill scheduled to be heard by WAL on Tuesday, 01-30-24 9:00AM in House conference room 430 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE.
1/24/2024	H	Referred to WAL, JHA, referral sheet 1
1/22/2024	H	Introduced and Pass First Reading.
1/19/2024	H	Pending introduction.

S = Senate | H = House | D = Data Systems | \$ = Appropriation measure | ConAm = Constitutional Amendment

Some of the above items require Adobe Acrobat Reader. Please visit [Adobe's download page](#) for detailed instructions.

## HB1922 HD2 SD1

3/15/2024	S	The committee(s) on WTL recommend(s) that the measure be PASSED, UNAMENDED. The votes in WTL were as follows: 3 Aye(s): Senator(s) Inouye, Elefante, McKelvey; Aye(s) with reservations: none ; 0 No(es): none; and 2 Excused: Senator(s) Chang, Fevella.
3/12/2024	S	The committee(s) on WTL has scheduled a public hearing on 03-15-24 1:00PM; CR 229 & Videoconference.
3/7/2024	S	Referred to WTL, JDC.
3/1/2024	S	Passed First Reading.
3/1/2024	S	Received from House (Hse. Com. No. 25).



**HB1922** HD2 SD1   

Submit Testimony

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Report Title:	DLNR; Wildlife; Rulemaking Authority; Flexibility; Adaptive Management
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Companion:	SB2912
Package:	None
Current Referral:	WTL, JDC
Introducer(s):	ICHIYAMA, POEPOE

All Versions of this Measure

- HB1922\_SD1 
- HB1922\_HD2 
- HB1922\_HD1 
- HB1922 

Committee Reports

- HB1922\_HD1\_HSCR181-24\_ 
- HB1922\_HD2\_HSCR631-24\_ 
- HB1922\_HD2\_SSCR3327\_ 
- HB1922\_SD1\_SSCR3659\_ 

Testimony

- HB1922\_TESTIMONY\_WAL\_01-30-24\_
- [HB1922\\_HD1\\_TESTIMONY\\_JHA-CPC\\_02-15-24\\_24\\_](#)
- HB1922\_HD2\_TESTIMONY\_WTL\_03-15-24\_


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3/12/2024	S	The committee(s) on WTL has scheduled a public hearing on 03-15-24 1:00PM; CR 229 & Videoconference.
3/7/2024	S	Referred to WTL, JDC.
3/1/2024	S	Passed First Reading.
3/1/2024	S	Received from House (Hse. Com. No. 25).



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### HB1800 HD1 SD1 Submit Testimony

<b>Measure Title:</b>	RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.
<b>Report Title:</b>	State Budget (S)
<b>Description:</b>	Adjusts and requests appropriations for fiscal biennium 2023&2025 funding requirements for operations and capital improvement projects of Executive Branch agencies and programs. Effective 7/1/2024. (SD1)
<b>Companion:</b>	SB2234
<b>Package:</b>	Governor
<b>Current Referral:</b>	WAM
<b>Introducer(s):</b>	SAKI (Introduced by request of another party)

All Versions of this Measure

HB1800\_SD1

HB1800\_HD1

HB1800

Committee Reports

HB1800\_HDI\_HSCRI070-24\_

HB1800\_SD1\_SSCR3419\_

Testimony

HB1800\_TESTIMONY\_FIN\_03-06-24\_

HB1800\_HDI\_TESTIMONY\_WAM\_03-20-24\_

Hearing Notices

3/06/24 10:00A

4/15/2024	S	Received notice of appointment of House conferees (Hse. Com. No. 735).
4/12/2024	H	Bill scheduled for Conference Committee Meeting on Monday, 04-15-24 5:00PM in conference room 309.
4/12/2024	H	House Conferees Appointed: Yamashita Chair; Aiu, Chun, Cochran, Garrett, Kahaloo, Kila, Kitagawa, Kobayashi, Lamosao, Morikawa, Nishimoto, Poepoe, Takenouchi, Alcos, Ward.
4/11/2024	H	Received notice of Senate conferees (Sen. Com. No. 675).
4/11/2024	S	Senate Conferees Appointed: Dela Cruz Chair; Moriwaki Co-Chair; Aquino, DeCoite, Hashimoto, Inouye, Kanuha, Kidani, Kim, Lee, Shimabukuro, Wakai, Fevella.
4/9/2024	S	Received notice of disagreement (Hse. Com. No. 650).
4/5/2024	H	House disagrees with Senate amendment (s).
4/4/2024	H	Returned from Senate (Sen. Com. No. 476) in amended form (SD 1).

## Two committees

- We speak of “the conference committee for HB123” but it’s easier to think of it as two committees...  
the House conference committee for HB123 and the Senate conference committee for HB123
- They meet together – to discuss, confer, and make decisions – but the **votes are taken separately**, and each committee must meet its chamber’s quorum requirements

### Two committees...

- We speak of “the conference committee for HB123” but we’re actually talking about two committees: the House conference committee for HB123 and Senate conference committee for HB123.
- They meet together to discuss, confer and make decisions- but the **votes are taken separately**, and each committee must meet its chamber’s quorum requirements.

Procedures

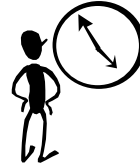
Once available, they can be found under “Legislative Information” found on the drop-down menu under “Laws & Research”

The screenshot shows the Hawaii State Legislature website. The top navigation bar includes 'LEGISLATURE', 'EVENTS', 'PARTICIPATE', 'LAWS & RESEARCH', and 'HELP & INFO'. A dropdown menu under 'LAWS & RESEARCH' is open, showing 'LEGISLATIVE INFO' selected. Below the menu, a document titled '32nd LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION OF 2024 JOINT HOUSE and SENATE COMMITTEES ON CONFERENCE PROCEDURES' is displayed. The document includes a header with the Hawaii State Seal and the text: 'HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE Ka 'Aha 'Ōlelo Moku 'Āina 'Ō Hawaii'. STATE CAPITOL, 415 SOUTH BERTANA STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813. The main text states: 'The Senate and the House have agreed to the following special procedures for all 2024 Regular Session Committees on Conference. These Conference procedures shall be effective from 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 15, 2024, until 11:59 p.m. on Friday, April 26, 2024.' It begins with a section titled '1. Definitions' and includes the text: 'For purposes of these procedures: "Chairs" refers to all of the designated chairs and co-chairs of a Conference Committee. "Conference Committee" refers to the conference of the House Committee and the Senate Committee assigned by their respective chamber to resolve the differences between the House'.

Procedures:

- Conference committee procedures are usually agreed upon in early-mid April.
- Once available, they can be found under “Legislative Information” found on the drop-down menu under the “Laws & Research” tab.

## Procedures



- **24-hours notice** given for 1<sup>st</sup> meeting; subsequently, can just announce reconvene times and locations.
- **Votes are taken separately** (i.e., House conferees vote amongst themselves, Senate conferees amongst themselves).



- Rules specify **quorum** needed for convening and decision making.

Legislators may serve on numerous committees and scheduling votes can be a challenge for legislative staff.

Procedures:

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## Procedures

- **Originating chamber's subject committee chair =**

usually the originating chamber's lead chair, and **responsible for scheduling the meetings**

Procedures:

- **Originating chamber's subject committee chair** is usually the originating chamber's lead chair, and **responsible for scheduling the meetings**.
- Usually, the **lead chairs** are the only ones who speak at the meetings.

## Procedures

- **No new subject matter** should be inserted *[except for the budget bills (Executive, Judiciary and Office of Hawaiian Affairs)]*
- **Not allowed to merge** two or more distinct but related measures into one encompassing measure

Procedures:

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## A Note re: **Fiscal (\$) Bills**

- **Bills with fiscal implications must get approval by money chairs.**

This means that even if you've got loads of support from the other conferees, the fate of your bill – and whether or not it comes out of conference – may not be known until the evening of the Final Decking deadline for fiscal bills.

A Note regarding Fiscal Bills:

- **Bills with fiscal implications must get approval by money chairs.** This includes all bills that have a **FIN or WAM referral**.
- This means that even if you've got loads of support from the other conferees, the fate of your bill – and whether or not it comes out of conference – may not be known until the **evening of the Final Decking** deadline for fiscal bills.

## Can the public testify?

- No. The opportunity for public testimony was during the committee hearing process.
- Conference is the time when legislators work out compromises among themselves.
- The meetings are open to the public (and streamed and archived on YouTube).

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- Conference is the time when legislators **work out compromises** among themselves.
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## Should I attend conference committee meetings?



- Being present allows you to follow any discussions during the meetings.

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- Being **present** allows you to follow any discussions during the meetings.
- It is always good for advocates and/or opponents to be present as a statement of the bill's importance

## Should I attend conference committee meetings?



- Conference period:

*This year, the two weeks between*

*Monday, April 15, 2024 and*

*Friday, April 26, 2024*

### Should I attend Conference Committee meetings?

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- It is always good for advocates and/or opponents to be present as a statement of the bill's importance

## How can I advocate at this stage?

- **Contact the conference members** independently and concisely communicate what aspect of the bill you believe is a “must have” or an “absolutely not” to any final version they come up with.
- **Ask your own Senator or Representative** for assistance in influencing the legislation.

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## How can I advocate at this stage?

- **Encourage constituents** from the conferees' districts to communicate with their legislators about the legislation.
- Talk to **anyone you've developed a good relationship with at the Legislature** to see if they can influence the situation!

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## Following the Action

- Conferees will use '*comparison sheets*' which cite the differences in the language of the two drafts. (These are usually created by the Senate Majority Staff Office (SMA) for Senate Bills and the House Majority Staff Office (HMSO) for House Bills; they are not made available to the public.)
- These *sheets* list the pages and lines of dissimilar verbiage in the drafts, which the Conferees will then refer to in their hearings.
- This tool is used to confine the efforts of the committee members to the points that have not been agreed to.

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- Conferees will use '**comparison sheets**' which cite the differences in the language of the two drafts.
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- This tool is used to confine the efforts of the committee members to the points that have not been agreed to.

## Sample from a Comparison Sheet...

COMPARISON OF BILLS  
H.B. NO. 248, H.D. 1, S.D. 1  
RELATING TO FIREARMS

HOUSE VERSION	SENATE VERSION
<p><b>Section 1, page 1, lines 5 – 7:</b></p> <p>"...magazines [<del>with a capacity in excess of ten rounds which</del>] that are designed for or capable of use with a pistol, <del>but are not authorized for use with the pistol by its manufacturer, is...</del>"</p>	<p><b>Section 1, page 1, lines 5 – 7:</b></p> <p>"...magazines with a capacity in excess of <u>ten</u> <u>fifteen</u> rounds which are designed for or capable of use with a pistol is..."</p>
<p><b>Section 1, page 1, lines 5 – 7:</b></p> <p>"<del>[This subsection shall not apply to magazines originally designed to accept more than ten rounds of ammunition which have been modified no more than ten rounds and which are not capable of being readily restored to a capacity of more than ten rounds.]</del>"</p>	<p><b>Section 1, page 1, lines 5 – 7:</b></p> <p>"This subsection shall not apply to magazines originally designed to accept more than <u>ten</u> <u>fifteen</u> rounds of ammunition which have been modified no more than <u>ten</u> <u>fifteen</u> rounds and which are not capable of being readily restored to a capacity of more than <u>ten</u> <u>fifteen</u> rounds."</p>
<p><b>Section 3, page 1, line 15:</b></p> <p>"SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2112."</p>	<p><b>Section 3, page 1, line 14:</b></p> <p>"SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007."</p>

Here's a sample from a comparison sheet...

- This tool is used to confine the efforts of the committee members to the points that have not been agreed to and eliminates the need to compare the drafts of the measures as a whole.

## Helpful Tools

- Conference Committee discussion moves at a swift pace. You may want to create a tracking chart to help keep track of all of your bills, and their re-convene times.

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House Measure	Position	Weds. 4/20	Thurs. 4/21	Fri. 4/23	Mon. 4/25	Tues. 4/26	Weds. 4/27	Thurs. 4/28	Fri. 4/29	Decisions
HB-79 HD1 SD1 State Funds	Manager					Open 11:30 am	Recon 11:30 am		Recon 11:30 am	CD 1 4/29
HB-121 HD1 SD1 Civil Air Patrol	Co-Chair		Open		Recon 2:00 pm	Recon 2:00 pm		Reconvene 2:00 pm		CD 1 4/28
HB-129 HD2 SD2 Perinatal Care	Co-Chair				Open	Recon 9:15 am			Recon 9:15 am Recon 12:30 pm Recon 4:00 pm	Failed
HB-130 HD1 SD1 Community Reintegration	Co-Chair									
HB-159 HD1 SD2 Charter School	Manager									
HB-160 HD2 SD2 Kupuna Care	Co-Chair	Open			Recon 10:00 am	Recon 10:00 am				CD 1 4/26
HB-200 HD1 SD1 State Budget	Manager									
HB-273 HD1 SD1 Tobacco Products Tax	Co-Chair									
HB-300 HD2 SD2 Judiciary Appropriations	Manager	Open	Recon 2:15 pm	Recon 2:15 pm						CD 1 4/23
HB338 HD2 SD1 BOE Appointment Student Members	Co-Chair									
HB-484 SD2 APRN'S - Full-scope	Co-Chair									
HB-688 HD2 SD2 Keiki Caucus; bullying	Co-Chair									
HB-739 HD2 SD2 Community Care-Foster Family Homes	Co-Chair									

# Where can I stay informed about conference committee actions?

## Measure's Status Page

4/11/2013	H	Received notice of disagreement (Sen. Com. No. 607).
4/15/2013	S	Senate Conferees appointed: Taniguchi, Chair; Ige, Co-Chair(s); Kahele, Kidani, Slom.
4/15/2013	H	Received notice of Senate conferees (Sen. Com. No. 694).
4/18/2013	S	Senator(s) Ige discharged as (Co-) Chair; Added as conferee.
4/18/2013	S	Senator(s) Kidani discharged as conferee(s); Added as Co-Chair(s).
4/18/2013	H	Received notice of change in Senate conferees (Sen. Com. No. 709).
4/19/2013	H	House conferees appointed: Choy, Luke Co-Chairs; Nishimoto, Fale.
4/19/2013	H	Bill scheduled for Conference Committee Meeting on Monday, 04-22-13 10:00AM in conference room 329.
4/22/2013	S	Received notice of appointment of House conferees (Hse. Com. No. 712).
4/22/2013	H	Conference Committee Meeting will reconvene on Tuesday 04-23-13 10:00AM in conference room 329.
4/23/2013	S	Conference committee meeting to reconvene on 04-24-13 10:30AM in conference room 329.
4/24/2013	S	Conference committee meeting to reconvene on 04-25-13 10:15AM in conference room 329.
4/25/2013	S	Conference committee meeting to reconvene on 04-26-13 10:05AM in conference room 329.
4/26/2013	H	Conference Committee Meeting will reconvene on Friday, 04-26-13 at 2:00PM in Conference Room 329.
4/26/2013	S	Conference committee meeting to reconvene on 04-26-13 2:45PM in conference room 329.
4/26/2013	S	The Conference committee recommends that the measure be PASSED, WITH AMENDMENTS. The votes of the Senate Conference Managers were as follows: 3 Aye(s): Senator(s) Taniguchi, Kidani, Kahele; Aye(s) with reservations: none ; 0 No(es): none; and 2 Excused: Senator(s) Ige, Slom.
4/26/2013	H	The Conference Committee recommends that the measure be Passed, with Amendments. The votes were as follows: 4 Ayes: Representatives(s) Choy, Luke, Nishimoto, Fale; Ayes with reservations: none; 0 Noes: none; and 0 Excused: none.

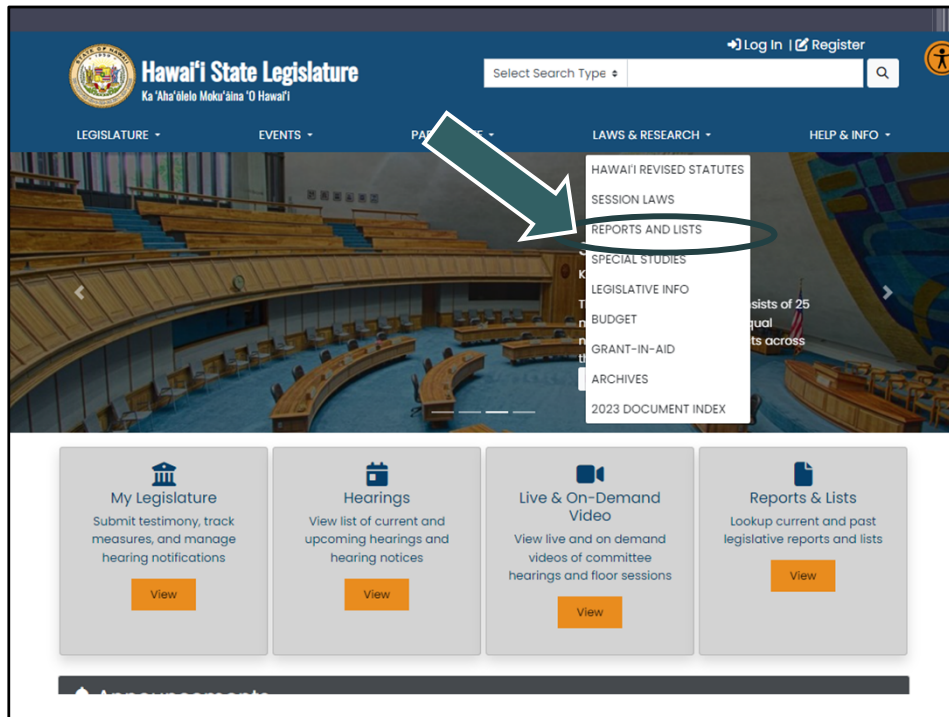
Where can I stay informed about conference committee actions?

- The bill's status sheet will be updated as its conferees are assigned, and meetings scheduled.



Where can I stay informed about conference committee actions?

- Go to the **Reports and Lists** button on the Legislature's website ([capitol.hawaii.gov](http://capitol.hawaii.gov)). It's the last gray box on the homepage.



You can also get to the “Reports and Lists” page by using the drop-down menu under the “Laws & Research” tab.



Reports and Lists page

Deadline Tracking	Deadline Tracking
Advise and Consent	
Appropriations	Measure Introduction
Committee Referrals	House Bills Introduced
Conference Committee	Senate Bills Introduced
Day Updates	
Hearing Notices	
Measures by Introducer	House Concurrent Resolutions
Measures by Package	House Resolutions
Pending Actions	Senate Concurrent Resolutions
Standing Committee Reports	

Conference Committee

On the Reports and Lists page, click **“Conference Committee.”**

**Hawai'i State Legislature**  
Ka 'Aha 'Āiālelo Moku'āina 'O Hawai'i

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2023 Reports and Lists

*Please note:* If you wish to change the year for reports, you must select the year dropdown before selecting any other dropdowns or reports.

Deadline Tracking	Conference Committee
Advise and Consent	Conference Notices
Appropriations	All Conference Notices
Committee Referrals	Today's Conference Notices
<b>Conference Committee</b>	Past Conference Notices
Daily Updates	Future Conference Notices
Hearing Notices	Action Sheets
Measures by Introducer	Action on Senate Measures with House Drafts
Measures by Package	Action on House Measures with Senate Drafts
Pending Actions	Conference Measures
Standing Committee Reports	All Measures in Conference
Subject Search	Listing of All Conference Committee Report Numbers
	Look Up Measure by Conference Committee Report Number: <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>
	By Legislator

You'll see this screen.

## You can find all sorts of helpful information...

- Find all conference meetings for the day...
- Track down legislators based on their conference assignments...
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You'll also find a list of room assignments there, arranged according to subject matter committees.

## Action on Senate Measures with House Drafts



[Print](#)
[Export to Excel](#)
[Export to CSV](#)
[Back to report selection screen](#)
225 records returned.

Measure	Senate Referral	House Referral	Status	Senate Conferees	House Conferees
<b>SB1311 SD2 HD1</b> <small>RELATING TO THE REPEAL OF ACT 192, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2007. (Employee Retirement System; Repeal; Act 192, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007)</small>	LFT, JDC/WAM	LOG, FIN			
<b>SB106 SD2 HD2</b> <small>RELATING TO EDUCATION. (DOA; SOE; Reports; COVID-19; Schools)</small>	EDU, WAM	H.T. EDU, FIN	DESAGREE 04-04-23	Kideri (Chair), Kanaka (Co-Chair), Pevola	Sellef (Co-Chair), Wootton (Co-Chair), Horikawa (Co-Chair), La Oka, Gamba
<b>SB129 SD1 HD2</b> <small>RELATING TO HONORS. (Department of Human Services; No Cost Emergency Shelter and Related Services; Honors; Consent; Providers)</small>	HHS, JDC/WAM	HUS, JHA, FIN	DESAGREE 04-04-23	Shimabukuro (Chair), Eblente (Co-Chair), Inouye (Co-Chair)	Moore (Co-Chair), Tamas (Co-Chair), Kibayashi (Co-Chair), Garcia
<b>SB224 SD2 HD1</b> <small>RELATING TO NOISE CONTROL. (Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney Package; Noise Pollution; County Ordinances; Civil Penalties)</small>	TCA, JDC	JHA	DESAGREE 04-04-23	Lee (Chair), Rhoads (Co-Chair), Eblente	Tamas (Chair), King, Takayama, Souza
<b>SB316 HD2</b> <small>RELATING TO DOGS. (Open Agricultural Land; Liability; Penalty)</small>	AGL, JDC	AGL, JHA	DESAGREE 04-04-23	Gilford (Chair), Ben Ruwemereka (Co-Chair), Richards	
<b>SB586 SD2 HD1</b> <small>RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION. (Mufflers; Exhaust System; Motorcycles; Hopes; Motor Vehicle; Certificate of Inspectors; Motor Vehicle Report; Penalties)</small>	TCA, JDC	JHA	DESAGREE 04-04-23	Lee (Chair), Rhoads (Co-Chair), Motowaki	Tamas (Chair), Takayama, Todd, Souza
<b>SB587 SD2 HD1</b> <small>RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION. (Noisy Exhaust Pipes and Mufflers; Fine Increases; Probable Causes; Police Officer)</small>	TCA, JDC	JHA	DESAGREE 04-04-23	Lee (Chair), Rhoads (Co-Chair), Eblente	Tamas (Chair), Takayama, Todd, Matsuoto
<b>SB735 SD1 HD2</b> <small>RELATING TO THE EXERCISE OF WATER RIGHTS. (Water Rights; Commercial Fish Farming; Native Hawaiian Practices; Exemptions)</small>	WTL/HAN, JDC	WAL, JHA, FIN	DESAGREE 04-04-23	Inouye (Chair), Shimabukuro (Co-Chair), Gilford (Co-Chair)	Schyma (Co-Chair), Tamas (Co-Chair), Klagawa (Co-Chair), Horikawa, Pappas, Souza
<b>SB775 SD1 HD2</b> <small>RELATING TO HUNTING GUIDES. (Hunting Guides; Private Land; Annual Reports; DNR; Written Permission)</small>	WTL, JDC	WAL, JHA	DESAGREE 04-04-23	Inouye (Chair), Gilford (Co-Chair), Eblente	
<b>SB926 SD1 HD1</b> <small>RELATING TO REDESTRANS. (Pedestrians; Safety; Street Crossings)</small>	JDC	JHA	DESAGREE 04-04-23	Rhoads (Chair), Gilford, Awa	
<b>SB1196 SD1 HD1</b> <small>RELATING TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS. (Boards; Commissioners; Hobbyist Member; Limitation)</small>	GOV, JDC	LOG, JHA	DESAGREE 04-04-23	Motowaki (Chair), Rhoads (Co-Chair), Awa	

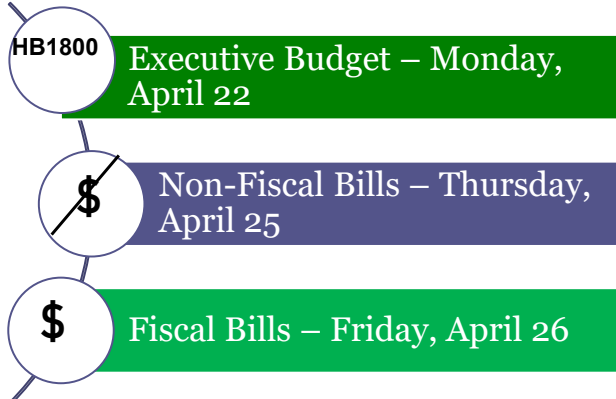
## What's a conference meeting like?

- **Chairs** are usually the only ones speaking
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- Sometimes, one or both sides decide an agreement is not going to be forthcoming (the bill dies)

## What's the deadline for the conference committees to come to a decision?



Final version (CD1) & committee report must be delivered to Chief Clerks' offices



All money bills will have to have the okay from the FIN and WAM chairs. The deadlines for coming out of conference are posted on the session calendar.

Advocacy at this stage requires contacting anyone who may have influence – the conferees, your own legislators, the subject matter chairs, etc. – and getting others to do the same.

Here are the deadlines for bills to come out of conference and be delivered to the Chief Clerks' offices:

HB1800 (the budget bill): Monday, April 22

Non-Fiscal Bills (those not referred to FIN or WAM): Thursday, April 25

Fiscal Bills (those that were referred to FIN or WAM): Friday, April 26

What's the deadline for the conference committee to come to a decision?

April 25th – Decking for non-fiscal bills

April 26th – Decking for fiscal bills

Any conference draft or decision on final form must be delivered to the House and/or Senate Chief Clerk by then (placed on the clerks' "decks," or desks).



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*For example, they could set deadlines:*

**6:00 p.m.** = conclude negotiations

**9:00 p.m.** = committee report available for review and signature

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This year's may be different!





The fate of the bill...

The fate of the bill...

## CD1

### The fate of the bill...

- The conferees may come to an agreement on a **new version of the bill**.
- Both the House conferees and the Senate conferees vote to pass a CD1 (conference draft #1) version of the measure.
- The chairs write a **committee report that will accompany the new draft**; it will be written to the Speaker and President recommending the bill be scheduled for a Final Reading vote in each chamber. Must be available for signature and submitted to the clerk by specific times on the decking deadline.

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## AGREE

### The fate of the bill...

- The originating chamber's conferees may vote to **go along with the non-originating chamber's version (the current version) of the bill.**
- *Note: No quorum or action is required by the non-originating chamber and its conferees.*
- A vote is taken on the floor of the originating chamber to change the previous decision of "Disagree" to an "Agree;" the bill gets scheduled for a Final Reading vote.

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## The fate of the bill...

- The conferees may **fail to come to an agreement** prior to the decking deadline.
- The bill “dies in conference.”
- If it is the first year of the biennium, it will carryover to the next year’s session. There is always the possibility that conferees may resume negotiations and move it forward. (Conferees may be discharged at the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year’s session – requiring action to get negotiations moving again.)

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## Final reading



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- **Not over 'til it's over...** a bill then needs to go off to the Governor, who may sign the bill into law, allow it to become law without signature, or veto the bill. (There is a mechanism by which the Legislature can override the Governor's veto.)

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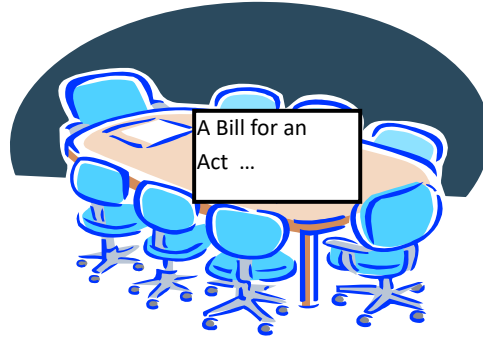
*Note: Exception is a bill that proposes a constitutional amendment; instead of going to the governor, it goes on the ballot.*

CONFERENCE

- Use the tools available to follow what you *can*
- Call on the relationships you've developed with colleagues and allies
- Keep up the effort!

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Pau!



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**587-0478**

**[par@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:par@capitol.hawaii.gov)**

**[lrb.hawaii.gov/par](https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par)**

Pau!

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