

Surviving Bills Move to Conference (April 2024)



The conference period this year is from Monday, April 15, through Friday, April 26. The function of conference committees is to reconcile differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill. Bills must move out of conference and be decked for final reading by the Final Decking deadlines (April 25 for non- fiscal bills, April 26 for fiscal bills).

Video of PAR Workshop. We held a workshop on the conference process last week. While due to technical difficulties that recording is not available, Keanu Young re-recorded the presentation.

And Then There Was Conference... ([Video 24:46](#))

We've now entered the conference period and this video is a great way to orient yourself. During conference, legislators work on final versions of the bills that they want to send off to the governor. No more public testimony is accepted, but you can still make your voice heard. Learn about what goes on, how to advocate, and how to keep track of things during the conference period.

[Watch Video](#)



Here's a link if you'd like to share:

<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/video-on-the-conference-process/>

Conference Procedures

Find the procedures that have been established for the conference period. You'll find them at the bottom of the Legislature's homepage (capitol.hawaii.gov) or by going to the "[Legislative Info](#)" page under the "Laws & Research" tab.

The [procedures](#) cover everything from the advance notice required to open conference (24 hours), what qualifies as quorum, and specific times that negotiations must end, reports be filed, and bills decked.

Upcoming Deadlines. Here are the [bill deadlines](#) in the weeks ahead:

- Monday, April 22 = Executive Budget Bill (HB1800)
- Thursday, April 25 = Final Decking, Non-Fiscal Bills
- Friday, April 26 = Final Decking, Fiscal Bills
- Friday, May 3 = End of Session, Final Reading on All Bills

Keeping Track of Things

To make things a little easier to follow, use the "Conference Committee" page. Select it from the bars on the left of the "[Reports and Lists](#)" page (you can find the "Reports and Lists" page under the "Laws & Research" tab of the Legislature's website). To see which bills have been assigned conferees by at least one chamber, choose the "[All Measures in Conference](#)" report. Explore the links available. You can search for measures and notices by legislator or by committee, for example.

Your Office at the Capitol. The non-partisan Public Access Room is here to help answer your questions about the legislative process and how to participate. **Please call 808/587-0478 or email par@capitol.hawaii.gov us!** Come by the office (Room 401) to use a computer, recharge your phone or laptop, or watch meetings remotely. As always, there is also a wealth of handouts you can pick up!



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Our website address is: lrb.hawaii.gov/par

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