

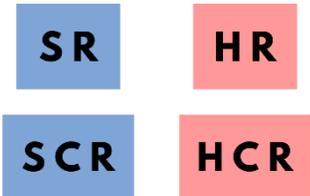


Exploring Resolutions

During Session, we talk a lot about bills, but what about resolutions? In addition to bills, legislators also introduce and conduct hearings on resolutions. Although resolutions don't become law, they do express the sentiment of the Legislature and may prove vital in moving your issue forward.

The deadline to introduce resolutions is typically later in the session. Once introduced, resolutions are referred to committees in the same manner as bills; and, like bills, they need to move forward by certain deadlines to remain viable. Unlike bills, the titles of resolutions can change, along with their subject matter. Also, resolutions do not carry over from one year to the next.

Resolutions can be introduced as single chamber resolutions (their prefixes are SR or HR) which must pass one vote in the originating chamber, or as concurrent resolutions (prefixes are SCR or HCR) which must pass a vote in both chambers. Single chamber resolutions express the will and intent of either the Senate or the House, while concurrent resolutions express the will and intent of the entire legislature.



This chart outlines some of the differences between bills and resolutions:

<u>Bill</u>	<u>Resolution</u>
Enacts law.	Doesn't have the force and effect of law, and thus cannot require action. Resolutions are used by the legislature or a single chamber to state its official position on an issue or to request action.
If not vetoed, can carryover from the first year of the biennium to the second.	Cannot carryover from one session to the next.
All bills must pass 3 readings (votes) on the floor of each chamber.	Concurrent resolutions have to pass 1 vote on the floor of each chamber. Single chamber resolutions must pass 1 vote in their originating chamber only.
Prefixes: HB = House bill SB = Senate Bill	Prefixes: HCR = House Concurrent Resolution SCR = Senate Concurrent Resolution HR = House Resolution SR = Senate Resolution
Once passed by the legislature, bills are enrolled to the Governor.	Resolutions are not enrolled to the Governor. Upon adoption, resolutions are transmitted to the individuals, agencies, or other concerned parties cited in the resolution.
A bill's title cannot be changed.	Both a resolution's title and subject matter can be changed.

To find resolutions introduced by year, click on the [Reports and Lists](#) button in the center of the Legislature's homepage (www.capitol.hawaii.gov) to find lists under Measure Introduction.

Frequently Asked Questions on Resolutions



The structure of resolutions is very different than bills. While bills are written in sections, resolutions consist of a series of "Whereas" clauses with the broadest passages coming first, followed by more definitive statements, and ending with two or more "Be it resolved" clauses. The last clause specifies where the resolution is to be transmitted upon adoption.

What does a resolution do? What are they good for?

- While resolutions don't become law, they do express the sentiment of the Legislature and may prove vital in moving your issue forward.
- Resolutions have a wide range of uses: they can request a study or other course of action; request the formation of a task force or working group; establish an honorary designation for a day or month; or congratulate an individual or organization.
- Some legislators may choose to revive aspects of a dead bill into a resolution. In this respect, resolutions are valuable in keeping discussion on a particular subject moving forward.

What's the difference between concurrent resolutions (HCRs & SCR) and single chamber resolutions (HRs & SRs)?

- Concurrent resolutions are often introduced in conjunction with identically-worded single chamber resolutions in the hope that if the concurrent resolution fails to pass the second chamber, the single chamber resolution still stands.
- Single chamber resolutions may also be used to establish a chamber's rules, leadership positions, and committee assignments.
- There are some things that cannot happen without the adoption of a concurrent resolution by the Legislature. For example, the Legislature cannot regulate new professions or mandate new health insurance coverage without first adopting a concurrent resolution requesting the state auditor to conduct a review. Another example is that the State cannot sell state land or issue easements covering portions of the state's submerged lands without approval by the Legislature through the adoption of a concurrent resolution.

What needs to happen for a resolution to be adopted?

- Like bills, resolutions are referred to committees (at least one, but maybe more) that they need to pass through. In addition, they need to be adopted by a vote on the chamber floor.
- A single chamber resolution (HR or SR) must pass through the committee(s) it was referred to and pass a vote on the chamber floor to be adopted. A concurrent resolution (HCR or SCR) must do the same in its originating chamber, and then crossover to the non-originating chamber and pass through whatever committee(s) it is referred to as well as pass a floor vote in that chamber to be adopted.
- And, of course, there are deadlines by which all of these things must happen. The deadlines for resolutions come a lot later in session than for bills.