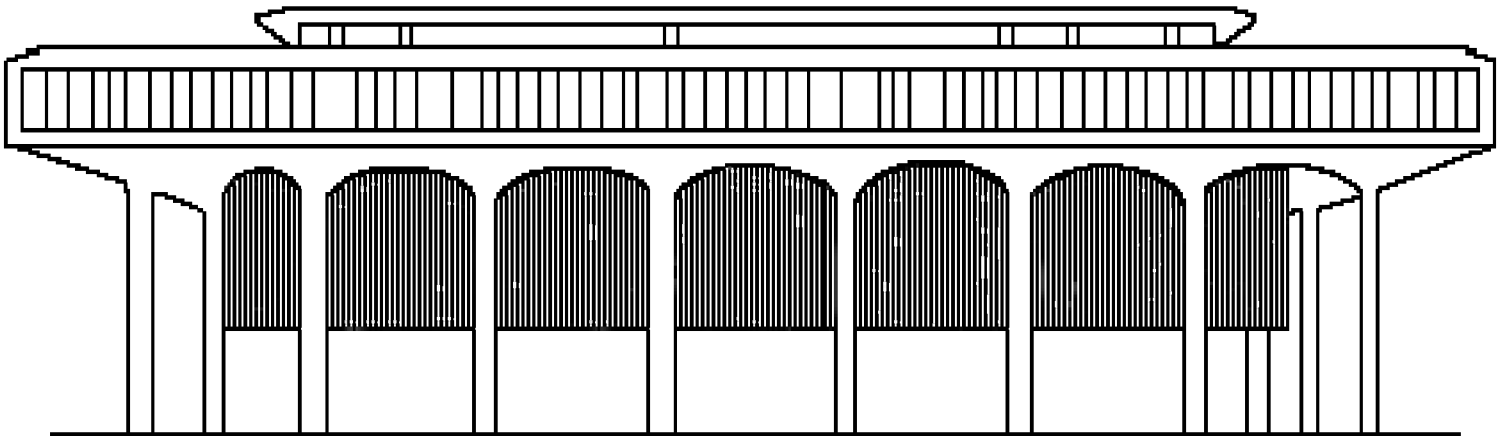


Learn About Our Legislature!

There are **three** separate, but equal branches in our government.
Each branch has different powers.

Today, we are talking about the legislative branch!



Hawaii State Capitol

The Legislative Branch makes the laws.

The other two branches are the Executive Branch and the Judicial Branch.

EXECUTIVE



Governor's Ceremonial Desk

The Executive Branch carries out the laws and makes sure they are followed.

JUDICIAL



Ali'iolani Hale (Supreme Court building)

The Judicial Branch decides if laws are fair and how they can be used.

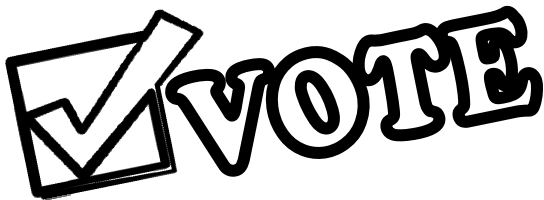
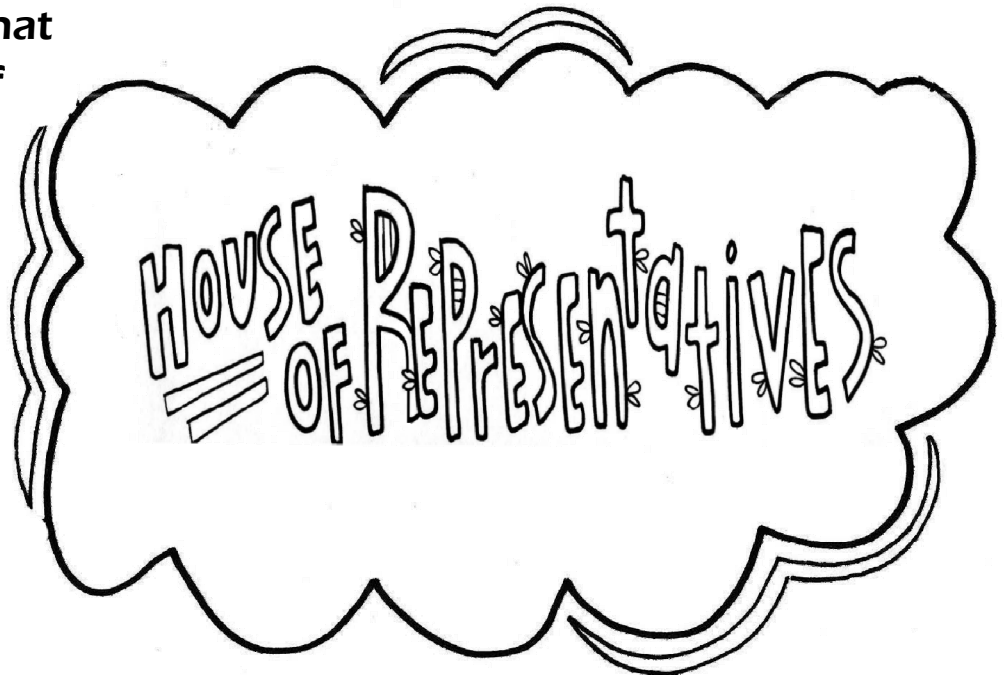
The Legislative Branch



State senators are elected every 4 years. There are 25 senators that make up the Senate.



State representatives are elected every 2 years. There are 51 representatives that make up the House of Representatives.



Hawaii's Legislative Branch has two chambers.
There are 25 legislators in the Senate (senators) and 51 legislators in the House of Representatives (representatives).

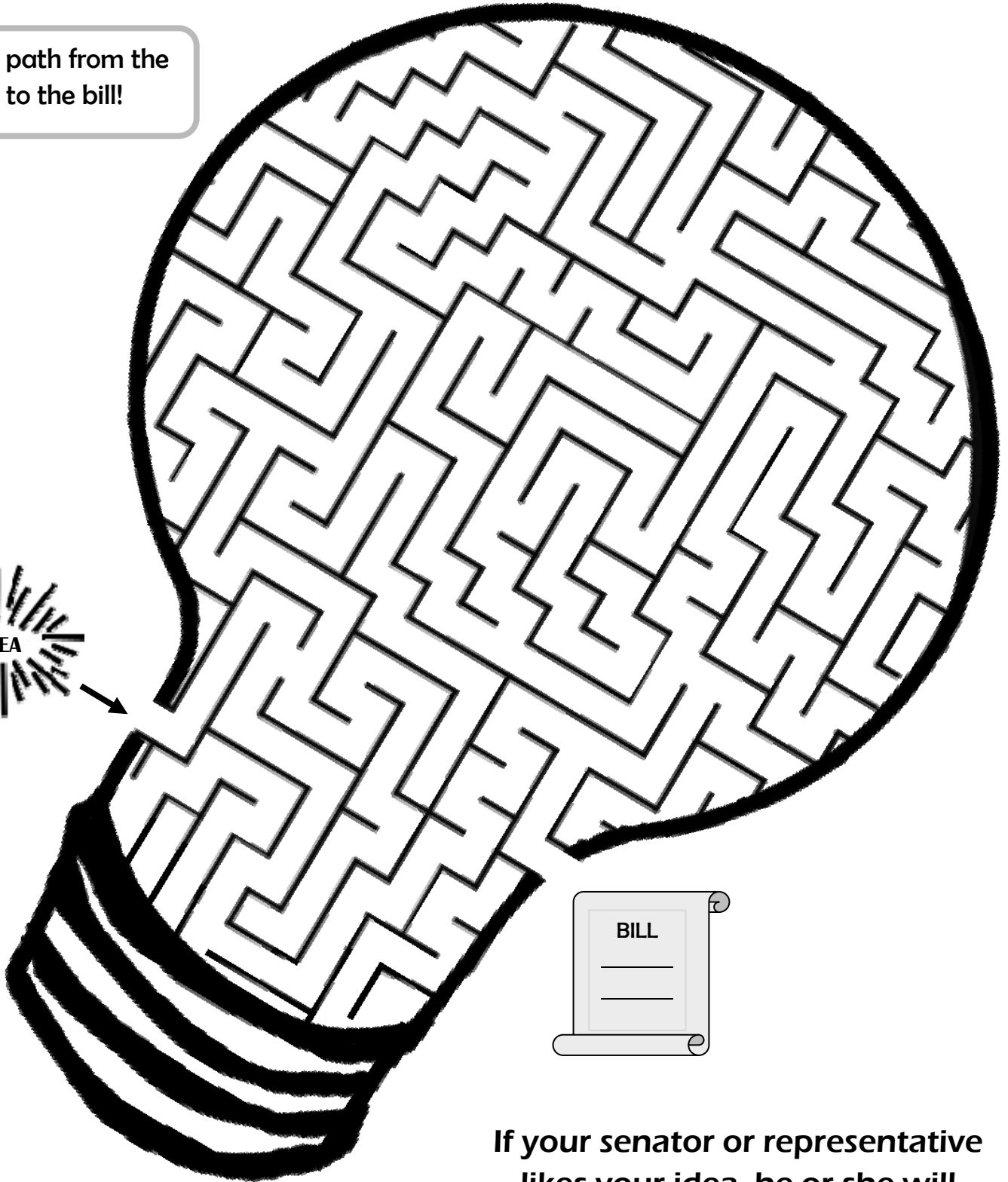
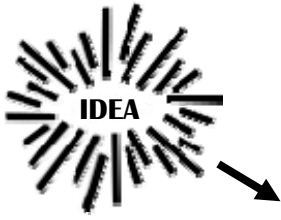
This is a total of ____ legislators!

How a Bill Becomes a Law:

Every law starts as an idea.

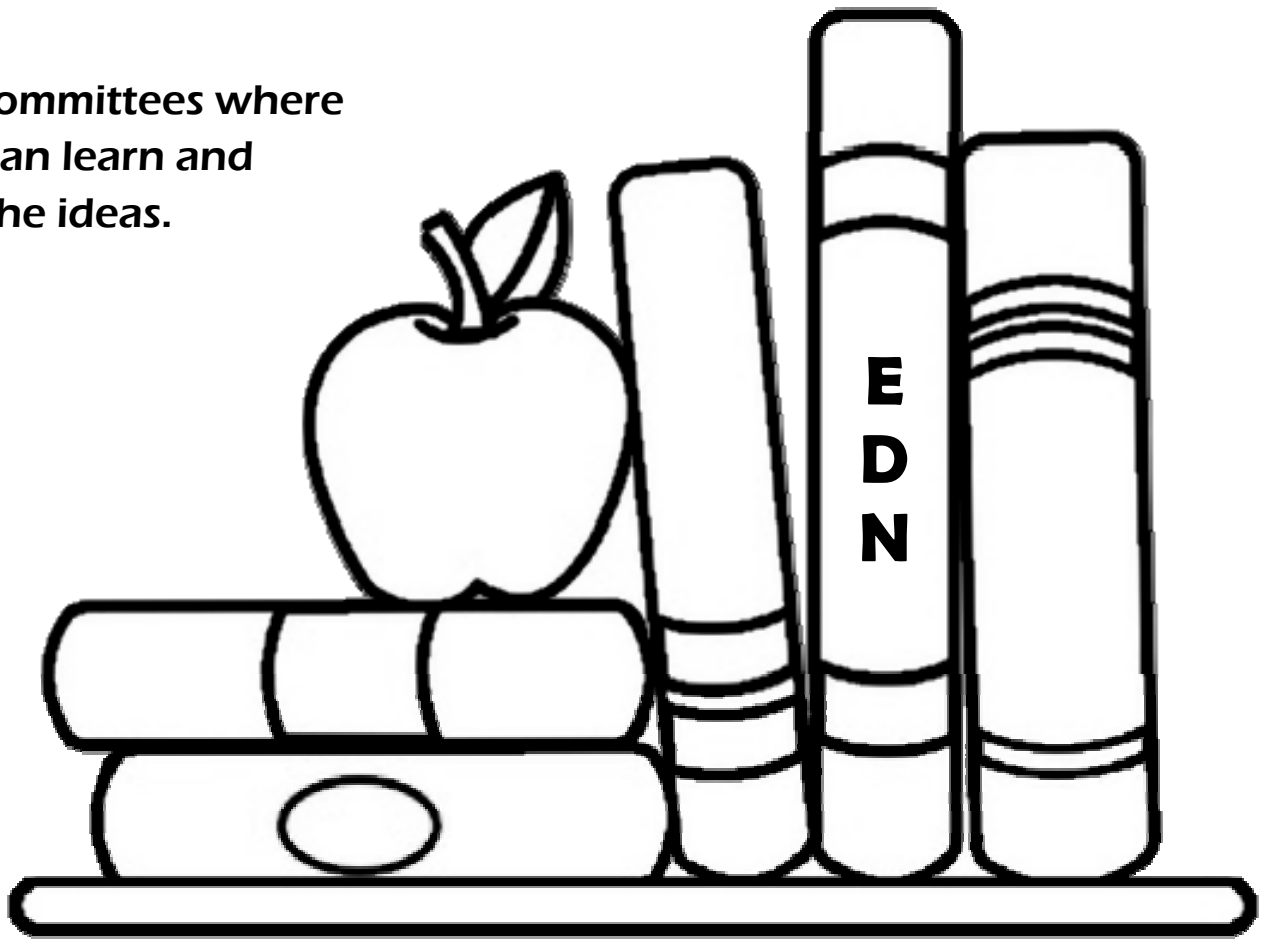
You can share your ideas with your senator or representative.

Find the path from the
idea to the bill!

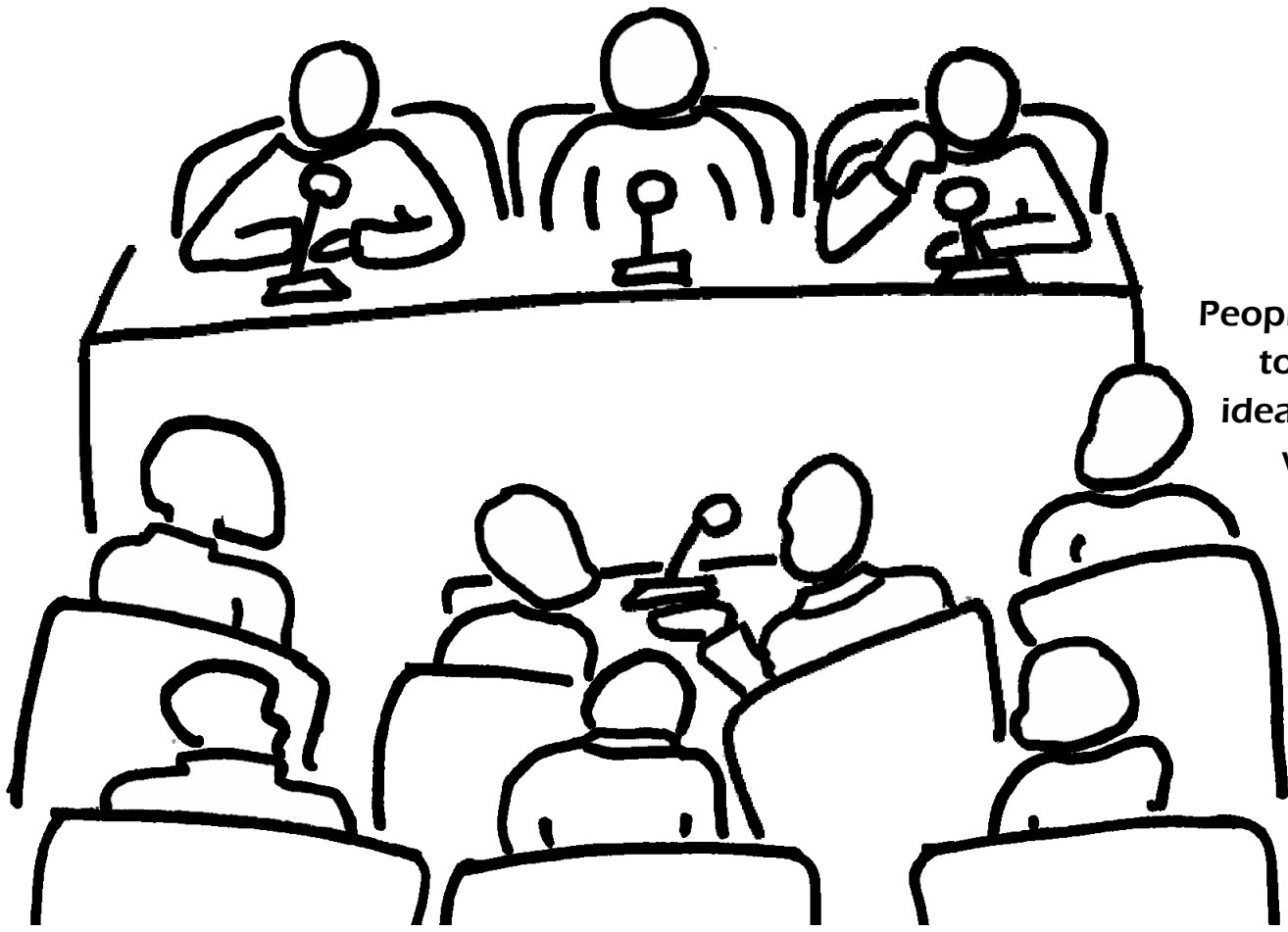


If your senator or representative
likes your idea, he or she will
introduce it as a **bill**.

Bills go to committees where legislators can learn and talk about the ideas.

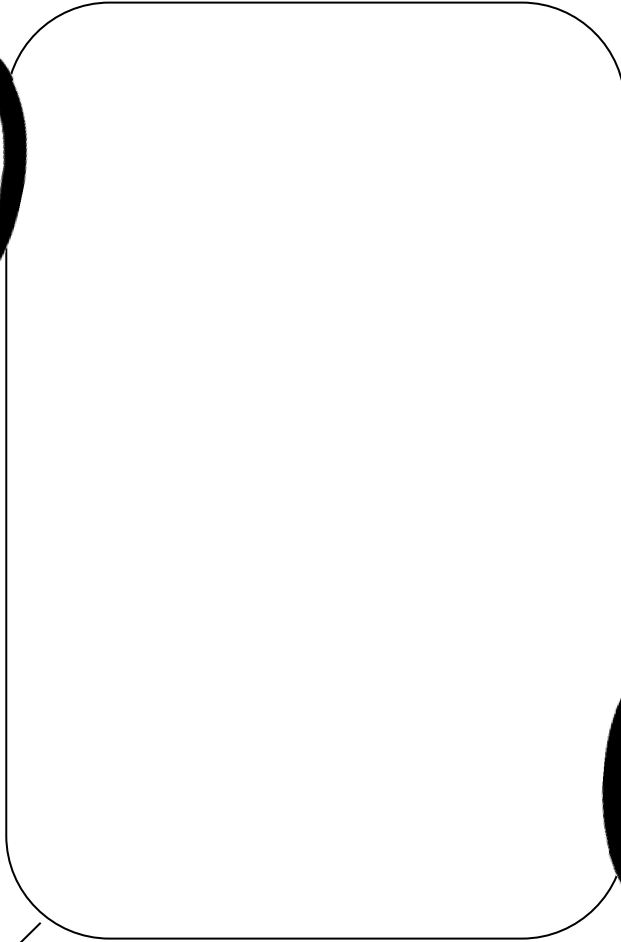
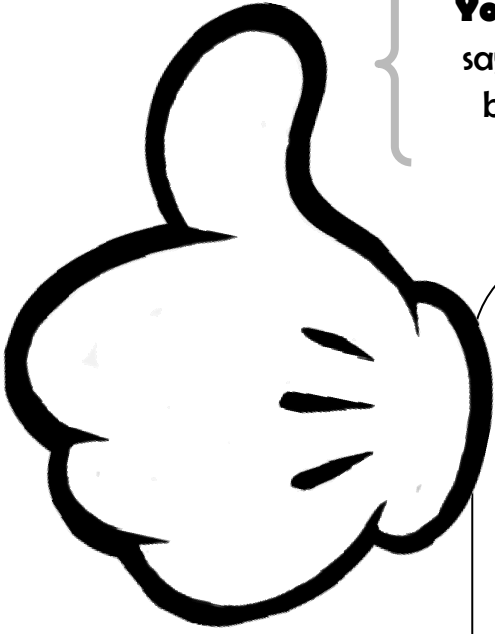


The committee schedules a hearing so they can find out what people think about the bill.



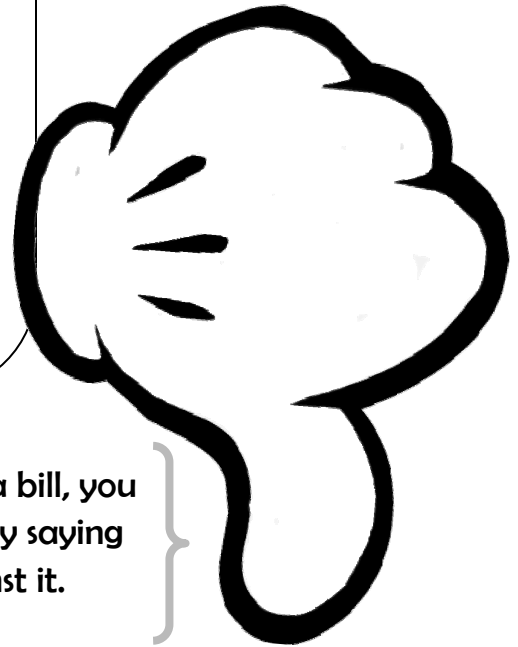
People can come to share their ideas, and even write emails and letters.

You can give testimony saying you *support* the bill becoming a law.



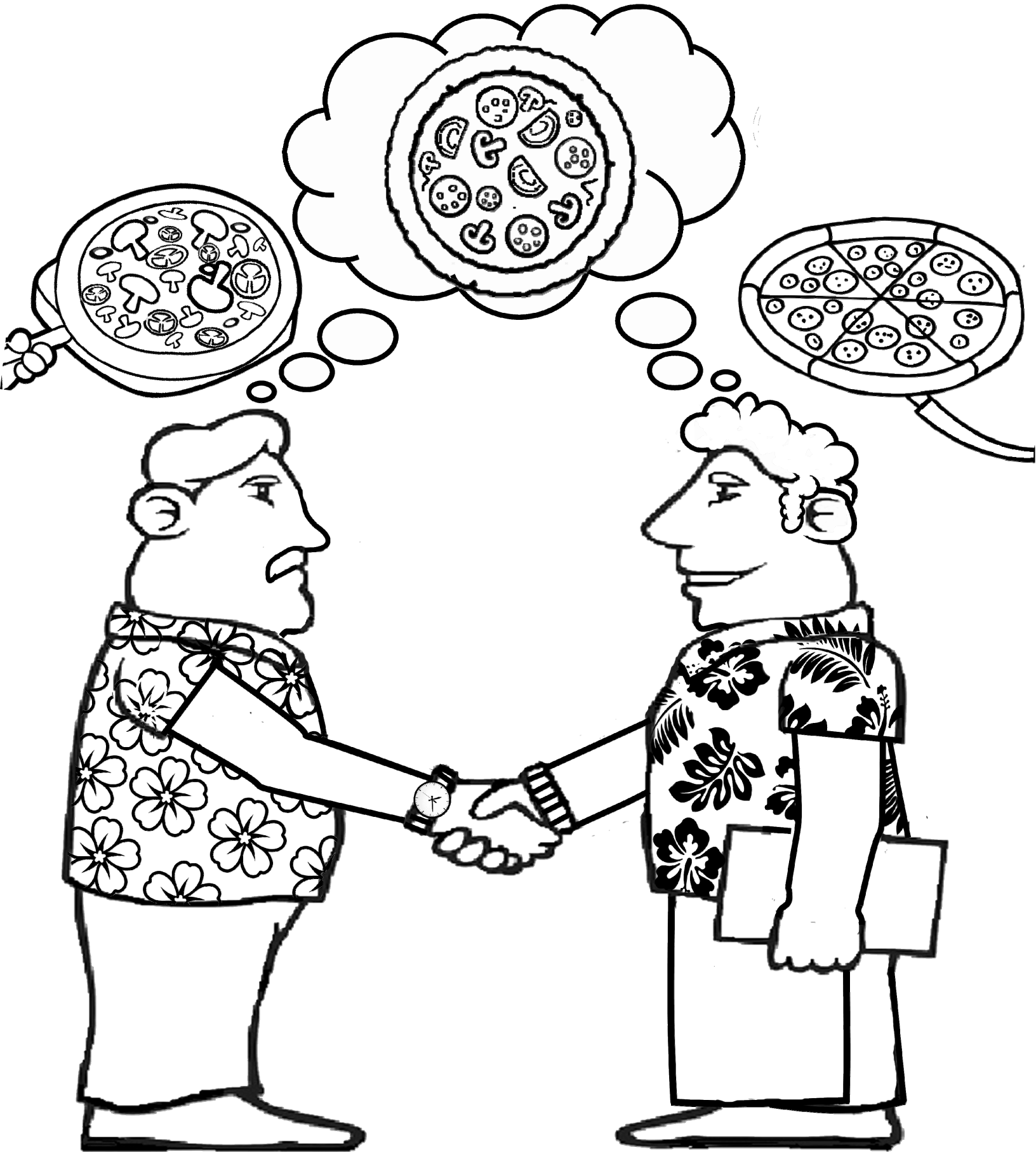
Draw yourself here!

Or, if you *oppose* a bill, you can give testimony saying you are against it.



A bill has to pass through committees in both the House and Senate. And *all* the senators and representatives get a chance to vote on the bill *three* times! They want to make sure it's a good idea for a law.

The House and the Senate also come together to agree on what's in the final bill.

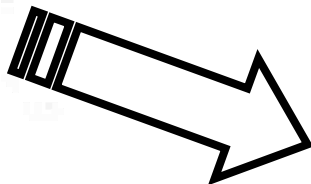
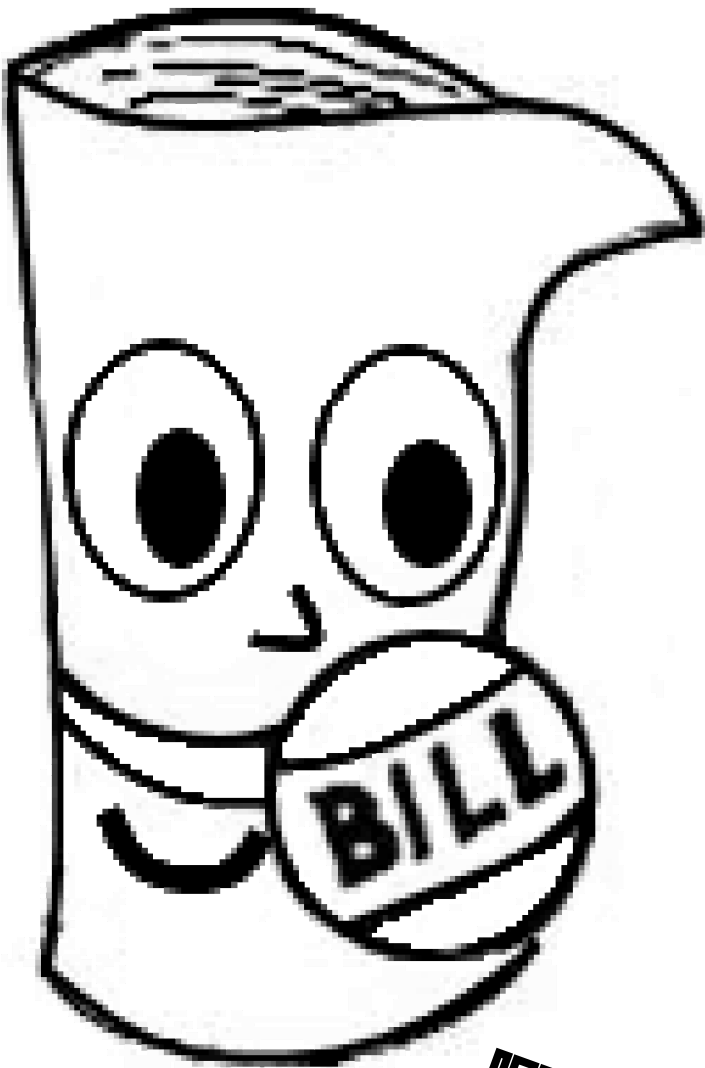


After the House and Senate come to an agreement,
the bill is then passed on to the Governor to be signed.

Sign your
name below!



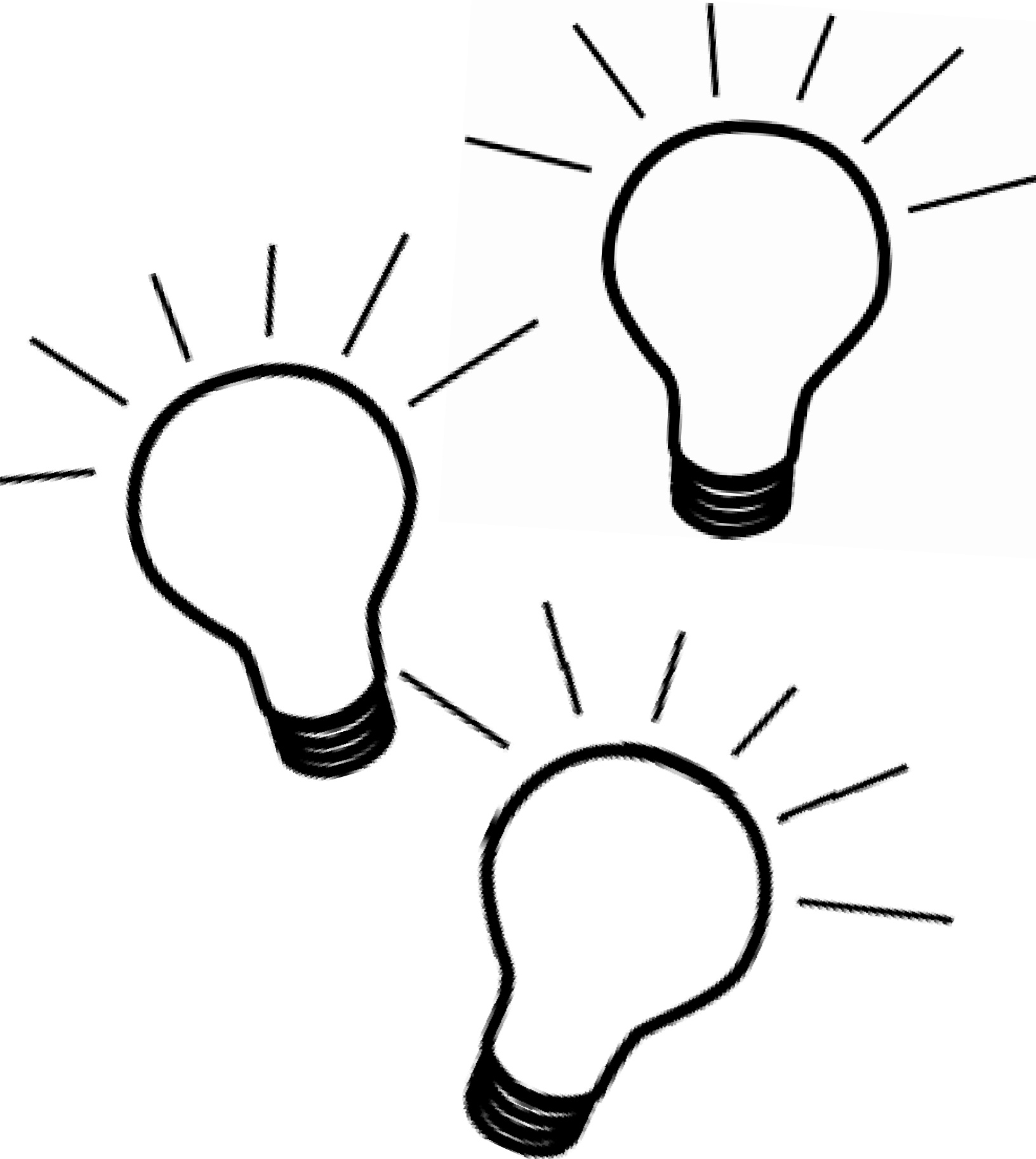
Now you know a little about what it takes for a bill to become a law!



YAY!

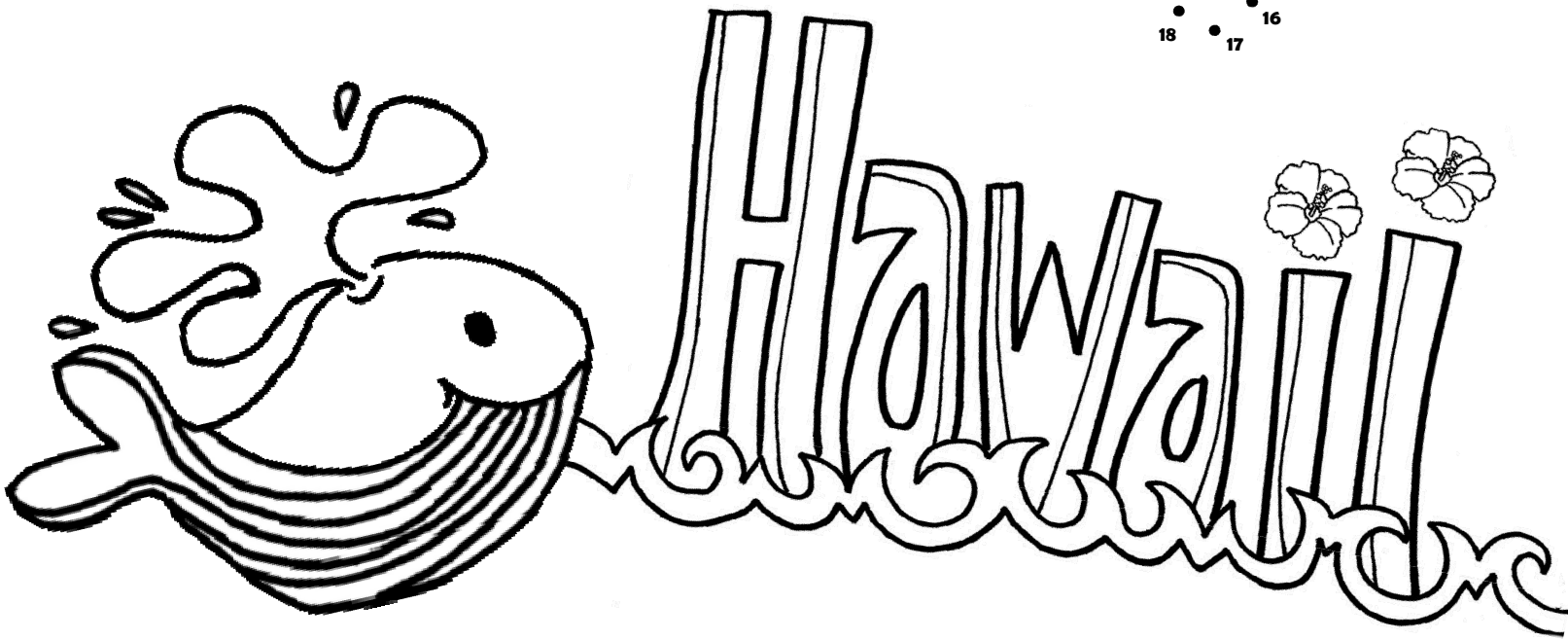
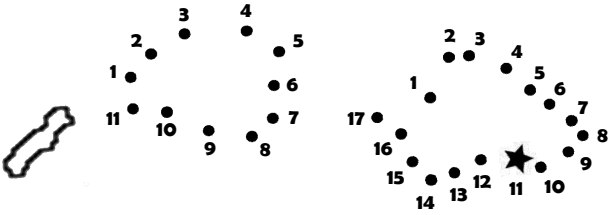
What ideas do you have that you want to see become law?

Write your ideas in the light bulbs below!



Connect the Dots!

Following the order of the numbers and connect each dot until you've finished each Island!



Legislative Word Search

Can you find these words hidden in the letters below?

Note: Words appear across and down only.

CHAMBER

HEARING

SUPPORT

COMMITTEE

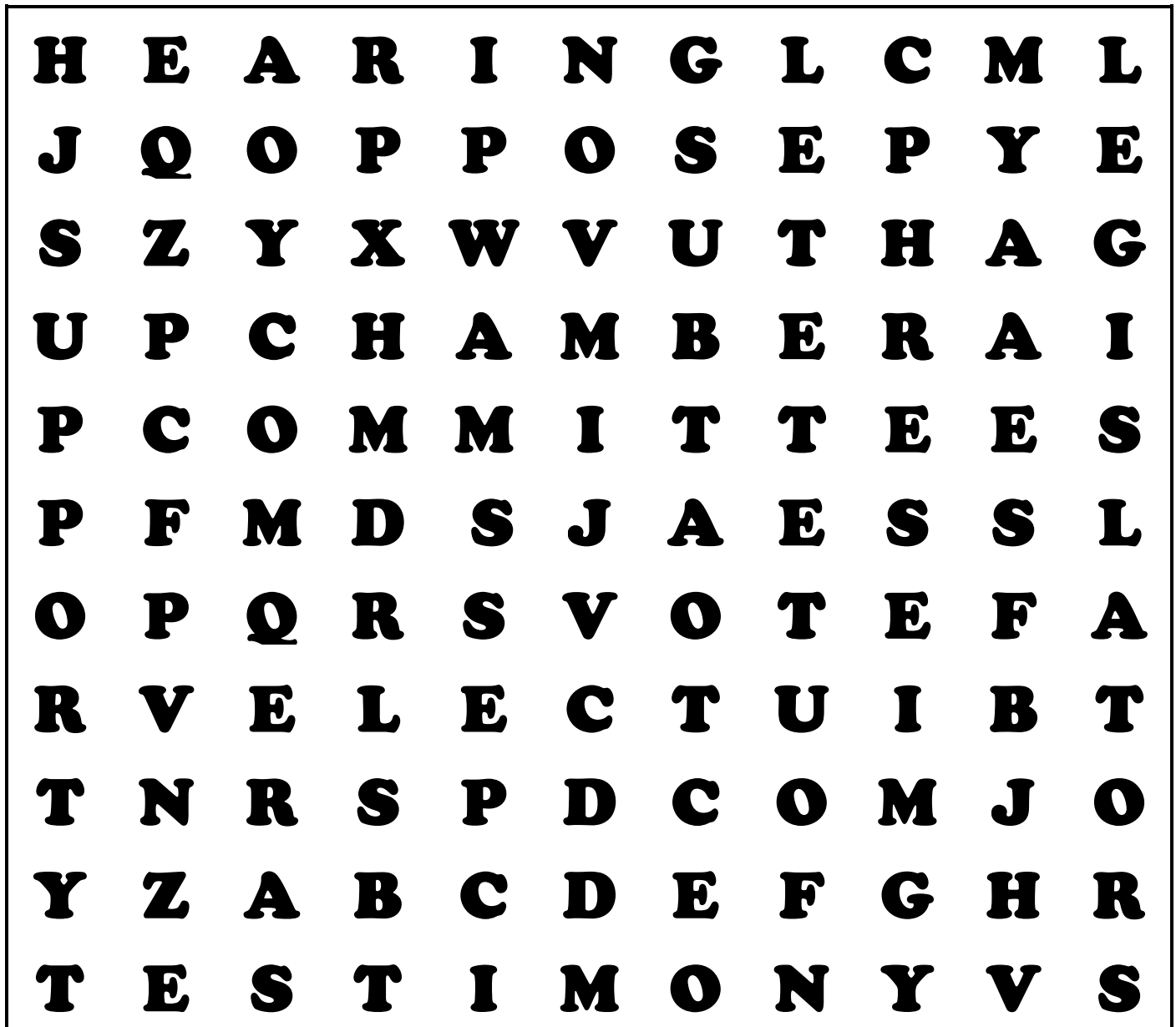
LEGISLATORS

TESTIMONY

ELECT

OPPOSE

VOTE



Legislative Words

- Chamber:** A part of the legislature. There are two chambers in Hawaii's legislature – the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- Committee:** A group of legislators asked to look at bills in a subject area, hold public hearings, and decide which bills should go to the full chamber.
- Elect:** To vote to select a person to represent you and your community. The person with the most votes is the winner and is elected to office.
- Hearing:** A meeting where a committee hears testimony from the public and makes decisions on bills.
- Legislators:** Senators and Representatives – men and women we elect to represent our communities and us.
- Testimony:** A person's speech or written message to a committee for or against a bill.
- Oppose:** To say you don't like or don't agree with a point of view.
- Support:** To say you like or agree with a point of view.
- Vote:** To make a choice in a meeting or election.



Cut off this page and send your ideas to your senator or representative!

I would like to send my ideas to:

Representative _____

Room # _____





Cut off this page and send your ideas to your senator or representative!

I would like to send my ideas to:

Senator _____

Room # _____



**Courtesy of the Public Access Room
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 401
(808) 587-0478
par@capitol.hawaii.gov
<https://LRB.hawaii.gov/PAR/>**

(1/24/2024)