

NEWSLETTER

Hawaii State Capitol ♦ 415 South Beretania Street ♦ Room 401 ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 ♦ www.hawaii.gov/lrb/par

PAR Hours: Session M-F 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, Sat 8:00 am to 2:00 pm | Interim M-F 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Legislative Timetable

January

- 17th Opening Day
- 19th Non-Administrative Bill Package Cutoff
- 22nd State-of-the-State Address & Administrative Bill Package Cutoff
- 24th Last day to introduce bills
- 31st Grants/Subsidies Cutoff

February

- 19th Holiday - Presidents' Day
- 22nd - 28th Mandatory 5-Day Recess

March

- 2nd First Decking - last day to file non-budget bills
- 8th First Crossover
- 12th Budget Decking
- 14th Last day to introduce substantive resolutions
- Budget Crossover
- 26th Holiday - Kuhio Day

April

- 5th Second Decking - last day to file bills in non-originating body
- 6th Holiday - Good Friday
- 12th Second Crossover - last day to disagree
- 13th First Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
- 20th Deadline for final form of constitutional amendments
- 23rd Second Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
- 26th Last day to file non-fiscal bills to deck for Final Reading
- 27th Last day to file fiscal bills to deck for Final Reading

May

- 3rd Adjournment Sine Die

Quote of the month

"Anyone who has never made a mistake, has never tried anything new."

-Albert Einstein

CONTACT US:

Phone: (808) 587-0478

Fax: (808) 587-0793

TTY: (808) 587-0749

E-mail: par@capitol.hawaii.gov

Neighbor Islands (Toll Free) Phone Fax

Hawai'i...974-4000, then ext. 70478 70793

Maui..... 984-2400, then ext. 70478 70793

Moloka'i / Lana'i..800-468-4644, then ext. 70478 70793

Kaua'i....274-3141, then ext. 70478 70793



NEW BEGINNINGS

Aloha and welcome to the 2007 regular session of the 24th Legislature. The staff of the Public Access Room (PAR) is here to help you participate in the legislative process as you do your part to keep our representative democracy viable and strong. We are located in **Room 401 of the State Capitol** and during session will be open **8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday** and **8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays**.

You can call us at 587-0478 on O'ahu or toll-free from the Neighbor Islands by using the numbers listed above. You may also email your inquiries to par@capitol.hawaii.gov and testimonies to testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov. Keep in mind that during busy times like session, **you will often get a faster answer by phoning than you will by using email**. And of course, we will be delighted to see you in person.

Those of you who are veterans of legislative participation will notice numerous changes in the House and Senate from last year. We will do our best to provide you with good information about those changes as we head into the session. We have our usual array of handouts to help you through those changes; you will find more good information at our website, www.hawaii.gov/lrb/par.

"I'M JUST A BILL...YES, I'M ONLY A BILL..."

...goes the classic School House Rock cartoon that for many Americans marked their first *memorable* civics lesson about law-making. Just as our federal Congress does, Hawaii uses *bills* to create and change laws, and to amend our Constitution.

Only legislators can introduce bills – not the Governor, not the common citizen. However, the Speaker of the House of the Representatives and the President of the Senate introduce the Governor's Administrative Package "by request."

Legislators regularly introduce bills requested by individuals as well.

During each session, the Legislature considers about 3,000 bills, with roughly 8% or so being transmitted to the Governor. A bill must embrace a single subject that is expressed in its

continued on page 2

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2004
STATE OF HAWAII

H.B. NO. 123

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GENERAL EXCISE TAXES.] Title

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 000-00, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
- 2 is amended to read as follows:
- 3 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is
- 4 bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is
- 5 underscored.
- 6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its
- 7 approval.

} Enacting Clause

} Prefatory Language

} Ramseyer Provision

} Effective Date

New Kids on the Block



Dean

Mercy

Larry

As the State welcomes the new and returning members of the 24th Legislature, the Public Access Room also welcomes two new session staffers and a returning “retiree.” **Larry Kamakawiwo’ole** is a familiar face around here. A man of few words, it is no surprise that he lists *Casablanca* and *Shawshank Redemption* as his favorite films. Although he has been enjoying retired life, he cannot seem to stay away from the PAR. This will be his fourth session with us and he looks forward to assisting the exciting and interesting people that come our way. “Louis, I think this is the [continuation] of a beautiful friendship.”

Certainly the only one who can appropriately be called “the new kid” is **Mercedith Nuesca**, affectionately known as Mercy. A Kalihi native, she has traveled the world—climbed to the top of the Duomo, kissed the Blarney Stone, partied at Oktoberfest—only to discover that there is no place like Hawaii, and that the best saimin still comes from the Islands. This will be her first legislative session, so she asks that you please “have mercy.”

Dean Shimamoto comes to us from Representative Cindy Evans’ office in 2006; prior to that he worked at the Department of Health, and so he brings with him years of valuable experience in legislative and state departments. When asked how he spent his time this past interim, he replied that he was “running from the Dawg.” In actuality, Dean had volunteered as a consultant at the Hawaii Small Business Development Center.

Please join us in welcoming the new crew!

continued from page 1

title. Bills wind their way through different committees in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Both chambers can revise them, most often in committee, but sometimes from the floor of a chamber (the entire House or Senate). In Hawaii, bills must also pass three “readings” in each full body of the Legislature before being approved and transmitted to the Governor for action. Once they get there, they can be signed into law, vetoed (rejected), or allowed to become law without the Governor’s signature. Veto overrides must have a 2/3 majority in each chamber to succeed.

Hawaii utilizes the Ramsayer method of formatting, which sets forth prefatory language and the text of the law being amended, with proposed changes shown by underscoring additions and bracketing and striking through the deletions. For more detailed information about bill construction, go to the LRB’s Legislative Drafting Manual (9th Edition) at www.hawaii.gov/lrb/rpts96/dftman.pdf.

PAR WORKSHOPS

The Public Access Room will host a series of workshops for the public on a number of topics that pertain to the legislature. If you are interested in attending any of the scheduled workshops, please contact us at 587-0478. The workshops will be held in the Public Access Room, Room 401 of the State Capitol, and seating is limited so sign up soon. If your group or organization wishes to host a workshop, contact us to schedule one at a specific location, date and time.

Workshop Schedule

Legislative Process – Learn about the Legislative Timetable, Deadlines, Readings, Conference Procedures, and internal rules of the House and Senate.

Useful Internet Sites – Learn about the research tools available on-line including the legislature’s website and the State government website.

Reading and Understanding Legislative Documents – Learn how to read and understand legislative documents including Orders of the Day, Hearing Notices, Bills and Resolutions, Referral Sheets, Journals and Governor’s Messages.

Jan 18 Th	Process	1:30 pm
Jan 23 Tu	Internet	1:00 pm
Jan 24 Wed	Documents	5:00 pm
Jan 25 Th	Internet	1:00 pm
Jan 30 Tu	Process	1:00 pm
Feb 1 Th	Internet	5:00 pm
Feb 6 Tu	Documents	1:00 pm
Feb 8 Th	Process	5:00 pm
Feb 13 Tu	Documents	1:00 pm
Feb 15 Th	Process	5:00 pm
Feb 20 Tu	Internet	1:00 pm
Feb 22 Th	Documents	5:00 pm
Feb 27 Tu	Internet	1:00 pm