

PUBLIC ACCESS ROOM

A division of the Legislative Reference Bureau

N E W S L E T T E R

Hawaii State Capitol ♦ 415 South Beretania Street ♦ Room 401 ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 587-0478 ♦ Fax: (808) 587-0793 ♦ URL: www.hawaii.gov/lrb/par**2008 Legislative Timetable****January**

- 16th Opening Day
- 18th Non-Administrative Bill Package Cutoff
- 21st Holiday: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 22nd State-of-the-State Address & Administrative Bill Package Cutoff
- 23rd Bill Intro Cutoff: last day to introduce bills
- 31st Grants/Subsidies Cutoff

February

- 15th First Lateral (bills)
- 18th Holiday: Presidents' Day
- 21st-27th Mandatory 5-Day Recess
- 29th First Decking: last day to file non-budget bills

March

- 6th First Crossover (bills)
- 10th Budget Decking
- 12th Budget Crossover
- 12th Last day to introduce Substantive Resolutions
- 20th Second Lateral (bills)
- 21st Holiday: Good Friday
- 26th Holiday: Kuhio Day

April

- 1st First Lateral for Concurrent Resolutions
- 4th Second Decking (bills): last day to file bills in non-originating body
- 10th Second Crossover (bills) & last day to disagree
- 11th First Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
- 18th Constitutional Amendments: deadline for final form
- 21st Second Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
- 24th Last day to file Non-Fiscal bills to deck for Final Reading
- 25th Last day to file Fiscal bills to deck for Final Reading

May

- 1st Adjournment Sine Die

CONTACT US!**Public Access Room**

Phone (808) 587-0478

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Email . par@capitol.hawaii.gov**Neighbor Islands (Toll Free)***Hawai'i* .. 974-4000, ext. 7-0478*Maui* 984-2400, ext. 7-0478*Kaua'i* 274-3141, ext. 7-0478*Moloka'i/Lana'i*...(800) 468-4644, ext. 7-0478

(Fax from neighbor islands using ext. 7-0793)



Small changes can make a world of difference!

Well, here we are at the beginning of session again. Each year, we try to bring you new resources to increase your access to the Legislature, and ease the path to participating in its processes.

Some fine advances have occurred since last session to make your Capitol lives this year a little simpler, a lot more fun, and potentially much more effective, brought to you through joint efforts of the House of Representatives and the Senate, with help from the Legislative Reference Bureau. Here you go:

RSS feeds – An easy way to find out if there has been any activity on the bills you're tracking -- without having to open each and every status sheet! It can also be used to find out when online testimony has been posted for a hearing, and when the Capitol TV broadcast page has been updated. Let us know if you need assistance, and we'll be happy to walk you through the process. (Or see "RSS Feeds" on the "Site Map" page of the legislative website, www.capitol.hawaii.gov.)

Closed captioning for our televised events – Whether it's opening day ceremonies, regular House or Senate hearings, or informational briefings – if the event is being broadcast, it will also be captioned. This applies to all rebroadcasts in addition to the original events, and is in effect for the broadcasts shown on Neighbor Island stations as well. Clearly, this feature will benefit the Deaf/Hard of Hearing community directly, and the rest of us as well.

Increased WIFI throughout the building – In conference rooms, the galleries of the Senate and House Chambers, the hallways, the PAR – WIFI is operational. This wireless access to the internet will allow you to work on your laptops much more easily, and in many more places.

Email testimony – Just look on the bottom part of any hearing notice to get instructions on submitting testimony. Email testimony addresses for each hearing will now be spelled out specifically. **MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW THOSE INSTRUCTIONS** – testimony sent to other places (for instance, to all Legislators' email addresses) will not be accommodated. So **READ THAT HELPFUL HEARING NOTICE**. (You can sign up to receive hearing notices by email, too. See "Email hearing notices" on the "Bill Status and Documents" page of the legislative website.)

Written testimony accessible online – At or around the commencement of a hearing, testimony that has been received in a timely fashion will be available for viewing via a link on the electronic hearing notice and as an added feature on the "Bill Status and Documents" page. Feel free to call us with any questions, and we'll be happy to help you navigate.

I think you'll really enjoy the profiles on the next page of our returning staff members – Virginia and Larry – and the new ones too – Benn and Sherrie. You probably remember Robbie Watland, who worked in the Public Access Room for several years. He's gone to the UH's government relations department and we wish him well. He promises he won't be a stranger, and we plan to hold him to it.

Make sure you come and visit us whenever you can, or call us – toll-free from anywhere in the state – if you have a question about legislative process or other goings-on at the Capitol that intrigue you. We're always happy to hear from you, and to help you become a more effective team-member in our ongoing grand experiment in representative democracy. What an honor it is to do this good work.

– Suzanne Marinelli, Public Access Room Coordinator

Quote

Man is the only animal that laughs and has a state legislature.

– Samuel Butler (1835-1902)



PAR Crew (l to r): Virginia Beck, Suzanne Marinelli, Larry Kamakawiwoole, Benn Hanaike, Sherrie Sato

PAR WORKSHOPS

Sign up soon!

The PAR hosts a series of free workshops for the public. If you're interested in attending, please contact us at 587-0478. Most will be held in the PAR (Room 401); seating is limited. If your group or organization would like to host a workshop, contact us to schedule one at a specific date and location. We'll tailor the workshop for you.

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.

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.

Scheduled Workshops

Thu	Jan 17	1:00p	Process
Fri	Jan 18	12:00n	Internet
Fri	Jan 18	1:00p	Documents
Tue	Jan 22	5:30p	Process
Wed	Jan 23	10:00a	Internet
Wed	Jan 23	5:30p	Documents
Thu	Jan 24	1:00p	Process
Thu	Jan 24	5:30p	Internet
Tue	Jan 29	12:00n	Process
Wed	Jan 30	1:00p	Documents
Wed	Jan 30	5:30p	Internet
Thu	Jan 31	1:00p	Process
Thu	Jan 31	5:30p	Documents
Tue	Feb 5	1:00p	Internet
Tue	Feb 5	5:30p	Documents
Wed	Feb 6	5:30p	Internet

We're Here for You!

Former session staffer Virginia Beck, we're happy to say, has now returned to the PAR after a 2-year hiatus in the non-profit sector – she came back when Robbie moved on. With her experience as a session staffer, the wonderful pace of session isn't a great surprise – realizing how much Robbie did, though, is a matter of ever-increasing awe! She's delighted to be here, and already enjoys the never-ending but thought-provoking questions that lead to a wide-range of new information and perspectives. The ocean and mountains, lots of good books, and easy time with friends provide a necessary counterpoint in off-hours.

Larry Kamakawiwoole, a hardy session staffer for the last 4 years, is also back and Larrier than ever. We're grateful that he also occasionally fills in for us during the interim months when the full-time folks have to be gone at the same time. A mainstay of the Public Access Room, he brings a familiarity and ease to the hectic legislative process that helps to make it more accessible to all. When not putting in yeoman hours during session, you will find Larry (who still has energy to burn!) swimming laps at his local pool.

We're always amazed and grateful that we get such fine people coming to work in the PAR year after year. Our two newest additions fit the mold – they're cheerful, helpful, willing to learn huge amounts of information in a tiny amount of time and then share it with our patrons (and do hundreds of other helpful things at the same time).

Sherrie Sato has been transported from her secure vantage as an interested observer of the legislative process to a quizzically active (with session's pace, soon to be *hyperactive*) facilitator of the proceedings. Although this may leave Sherrie with little time for her favorite hobbies, ceramics and gardening/yard work (hey, someone's got to mow that lawn!), she welcomes the opportunity to place her action where her faith lies – working for the greater good.

Fellow staffers were initially puzzled by Benn Hanaike's strange propensity for briefings on Hawaii's economy. It turns out that after living on the mainland for several years, this native son returned to Hawaii to continue his education and is a recent UH Manoa grad with a degree in economics. Benn is working to become informed about the legislation and policies that shape Hawaii's future, and hopes one day to contribute his own positive change to our state. Away from work, he enjoys reading, going to the beach, and claims to "love to cook!" His fellow staffers expect him to prove it.

We're ready to help! Come on by and say hello.

Need an Interpreter for a House Hearing?

You now have the option of emailing your request (at least 24 hours prior to the hearing) to the House Clerk's office by using this address: houseinterpreter@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Just make sure to identify the event you'll be attending, and the services you require (i.e., sign or foreign language interpreter, or wheelchair accessibility). This should make participation just a little bit easier for those in need of these services.