

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

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

We're happy to report that we survived a very hectic February during this legislative session. With the session's frenetic pace, it is very important for people to be able to keep track of changes for the measures they're following. Hopefully, the article which follows will help you do that more effectively.



TRACKING STATUS OF MEASURES

On the legislature's website, www.capitol.hawaii.gov, click on the "Bill Status and Documents" link. In the first box on the left, enter in your bill/resolution/Governor's message numbers in the blank space. Separate them with commas but *no spaces* (e.g., hb500,sb100,gm401,hcr200). You can put as many as 20 entries in this space. You'll see that the "Show Status" box is checked by default. If you wish to read the text of your measures, check the "Show Text" box also. Likewise, if you wish to read the reports generated by the chair(s) of a committee when a measure is passed out of committee, check the "Show Committee Reports" box as well. Press the "Go" button.



At the next page you'll find a hyperlink to the bill status – history – pages (as well as links to the various versions of the bill and their committee reports too, if you have chosen to do so). *Particularly if you are following quite a few pieces of legislation, you might want to "bookmark" this page as a "favorite."* Once you've tagged this page, you can return to it regularly without having to re-enter all your basic information. The information provided on the page will update automatically, as changes occur to your measures.

Quote of the month

"Eighty percent of success is showing up."

Woody Allen

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Next, click on the status link to any one of your measures to access its history. This will let you view a status sheet - much like the one for our fictitious SB5000 - that looks like this (see the definitions that follow for commonly used terms):

Hawaii State Legislature
Bill Status

SB5000 SD2 HD1 CD1

Generated on 5/5/2005 9:28:02 AM

Measure Title: RELATING TO HOUSING.

Report Title: Affordable Housing; Permit Streamlining; Planning; Zoning

Description: Requires agencies in the land use permit review process to expedite review of applications for affordable housing projects. Authorizes the counties to waive certain infrastructure requirements for affordable housing projects. Amends the process for approval of affordable housing projects exempt from planning, zoning, and construction standards.
(CD1)

Package: Gov

Companion: HB 1655

Introducer(s): SMITH, JONES (BR)

Current Referral: HSG/WLO, FIN

Status Sheet Terms and Their Meanings

Measure Number: The measure number listed at the top of the status sheet is the *most current* version of the bill/resolution [e.g. Conference draft 1 (CD1) is the most current version of our fictitious bill, SB5000]. The number itself (SB5000) won't change, but its suffix can (SD2 HD1 CD1).

Measure Title: Working title of measure. Bill titles cannot be changed once introduced; resolution titles can change.

Report Title: Key words in the measure. (\$) = appropriation of money ConAm = Constitutional Amendment

Description: A brief summary of the measure's most recent version.

Package: Indicates whether the measure belongs with a bill package, such as the Governor's administrative package or a particular caucus. Not all measures are part of a package.

Companion: Indicates a measure with identical wording introduced in the opposite legislative body as a companion. Some companion bill sponsors feel it increases the chances for the passage of the measure.

FYI: Only bills introduced as companions will be noted in this field. A bill with similar language that was introduced on its own in the opposing chamber will not be noted as a companion.

Introducer(s): Legislator(s) who introduced the measure are CAPITALIZED; other legislators whose names are listed support the measure. If (BR) follows the name of the introducer, the measure was introduced "by request" as a courtesy, and does not necessarily mean the legislator endorses the measure (i.e., the Governor's package is usually introduced by the House Speaker and/or the Senate President "by request").

Current Referral: The 3-letter abbreviations of House or Senate committee(s) to which the measure was referred for hearing/action. If a measure is referred to multiple committees, the committee acronyms are separated by either commas or slashes. If commas, the measure must proceed through the committees in sequence; if slashes (/), multiple committees will hear the measure at the same time in a joint hearing.

The "life" of a measure is noted in the 'Status Text' field on the Status Sheet. In the example below, the 1st column (Date) indicates the posting date of the line entry. The 2nd column indicates the office entering the data: (H)ouse or (S)enate chief clerk, or (D)ata Systems. The 3rd column (Status Text) lets you know the activity that has occurred.

Date		Status Text
1/25/2006	S	Introduced.
1/27/2006	S	Passed First Reading.
1/30/2006	S	Referred to CPH.
2/9/2006	S	The committee(s) on CPH has scheduled a public hearing on 02-13-06 at 8:30 am in conf rm 016 .
2/13/2006	S	The committee(s) on CPH recommend(s) that the measure be PASSED, WITH AMENDMENTS. The votes in CPH were as follows: 4 Aye(s): Senator(s) Menor, Espero, Sakamoto, Hogue; Aye(s) with reservations: none ; 0 No(es): none; and 2 Excused: Senator(s) Baker, Ige.
2/17/2006	S	Reported from CPH (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2298) with recommendation of passage on Second Reading, as amended (SD 1) and placement on the calendar for Third Reading.
2/17/2006	S	Report adopted; Passed Second Reading, as amended (SD 1).
2/17/2006	S	48 Hrs. Notice 02-21-06.
3/7/2006	S	Passed Third Reading, as amended (SD 2). Ayes, 25; Aye(s) with reservations: none . Noes, 0 (none). Excused, 0 (none). Transmitted to House.

As with many matters in government, there is a method to the madness. We hope this tutorial on reading and understanding a Status Sheet on the legislature's website has helped make sense of it all. Listed below are some key terms used in the 'Status Text' table. If you still have questions, do not hesitate to give us a call.

Amended, or "Passed with Amendments": Changes in the language of a measure.

Committee: A group of legislators, usually members of the same chamber, assigned to consider a subject or issue, and to submit a report on its recommendations for action by the body which created it. *Standing Committees* are established by the rules of the House and Senate to address particular areas such as health, transportation, or education. *Conference Committees* are appointed from both chambers to reach an agreement on a measure for final approval by both chambers once it has been passed in differing versions by each house.

Committee Report [referenced as (Stand. Com. Rep. No xxx) for standing committees and (Conf Com. Rep. No. xxx) for conference committees on Status Sheet]: The document usually states the purpose of the measure, some of the testifiers, findings of facts and conclusions, and the committee's recommendation to pass the measure with or without amendments.

Deferred: In which a standing committee delays its decision to hold, pass or amend a measure after a hearing. A later hearing may (or may not) be scheduled for decision-making on the deferred matter.

Disagree: Disagreement by the original legislative body to the amendments made to its bill by the non-originating body.

Enrolled/Transmitted: Movement of a measure from one chamber to another, or to the governor.

Hearing, or "...scheduled to be heard...": A formal session of a legislative committee to discuss and take action on measures. The public is usually invited to present oral and/or written testimony about measures, unless otherwise specified by the hearing notice (i.e. decision-making only hearings and for certain House Finance and Senate Ways & Means hearings).

Held (in Committee): The decision of a standing committee not to return a bill or resolution to the full house for further consideration.

Introduction: The transmittal of a bill from a representative's or senator's office to the respective chief clerk's office for acceptance and numbering.

Reading (First, Second, Third): A vote by the entire House or Senate on a bill or resolution. Approval of a bill requires three "readings" by the House and three "readings" by the Senate on separate days.

Referral: The assignment of a measure to a committee or committees. **Re-Referral:** The act of reconsidering the referral of a measure to a committee or committees.

Reported Out: Action by a committee on a measure which moves the measure out of the committee.

Veto: Governor rejects the enactment of measures passed by the Legislature by returning them, with objections, to the Legislature.

New Bill Status Feature Just Added:

How to be notified automatically when the status of a bill has been updated

For those who have tracked legislation in the past, you know that it can be a very very very time consuming process. You check the status of your bill on a daily and sometimes hourly basis wanting to know "has my bill been scheduled for a hearing" or "has my bill been passed out of committee?" The PAR Newsletter in the past has offered some solutions to help trim away the time an individual spends doing such tracking (e.g. subscribing to receive hearing notices via email and book-marking the web page on the legislature's website, listing all the links for bills you are tracking, so you don't need to re-type them in again).

Well, thanks to the innovative webmasters of the legislature's website (www.capitol.hawaii.gov), you are now able to be alerted **automatically** to status updates on individual measures by subscribing to a Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feed. To subscribe to a RSS feed, pull up a status sheet on the legislature's website and click on the RSS icon located at the top of the page. Not familiar with RSS feeds or what is required to subscribe? Don't worry, the webmaster has taken care of any confused or non-tech savvy individuals by creating a "What is this?" link next to the RSS icon to explain easily the benefits of an RSS feed.

If you have any questions or suggestions on how the legislature's website could be improved or updated, please feel free to email the webmaster at webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov or contact the Public Access Room.

March PAR Workshops

The workshops will be held in the Public Access Room (room 401 in the State Capitol) and seating is limited so sign up soon.

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 online 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.

Workshop Schedule

Mar 8 Th	Internet	1:00 pm
Mar 13 Tu	Documents	5:00 pm
Mar 15 Th	Internet	1:00 pm
Mar 20 Tu	Process	1:00 pm
Mar 22 Th	Internet	5:00 pm
Mar 27 Tu	Documents	1:00 pm
Mar 29 Th	Process	5:00 pm

FYI:

March will be the last month for our regularly scheduled workshops. If you would like to have a workshop conducted for you or your group after that time, give us a call at 587-0478. If you can't come to our office, we will try to work out a time and place that will be convenient for you (groups only for this service please). Mahalo.