

PUBLIC ACCESS ROOM
A division of the Legislative Reference Bureau

NEWSLETTER

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

2009 Legislative Timetable

March

- 6th First Decking: Last day to file non-budget bills for Third Reading in originating chamber
12th First Crossover (Bills)
16th Budget Decking
18th Budget Crossover
18th Last day to introduce Substantive Resolutions
26th Holiday: Kuhio Day
27th Second Lateral (Bills): Must be moved to final committee in non-originating chamber

April

- 3rd (Senate) & 7th (House): First Lateral for Concurrent Resolutions
9th Second Decking (Bills): Last day to file bills in non-originating body
10th Holiday: Good Friday
16th Second Crossover (Bills) & Last day to disagree
17th First Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
24th Constitutional Amendments: Deadline for final form
27th Second Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
30th Last day to file Non-Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading

May

- 1st Last day to file Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading
7th Adjournment Sine Die

CONTACT US!

Public Access Room
Phone.. (808) 587-0478
Fax (808) 587-0793
TTY..... (808) 587-0749
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 these islands using ext. 7-0793)



Contents

Table with 2 columns: Content and Page. Includes 'Answer to a procedural question', 'Finding measures and testimony from years past', 'Workshops and tutorials', and 'Helpful tools for patrons with disabilities'.

“Pull it out of committee?”

While rarely used, the process is provided for in the Constitution...

According to Article III, Section 12, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii,

“...Twenty days after a bill has been referred to a committee in either house, the bill may be recalled from such committee by the affirmative vote of one-third of the members to which such house is entitled...”

That means that if a bill has been in a committee for twenty days (i.e., it has not been passed out), members of the House or Senate (depending on whose committee it is) can vote to “recall” the bill. To do this, one-third of the members (9 senators or 17 representatives) of the appropriate chamber have to think the bill should be brought forward for a vote by the “Committee of the Whole.”

Once recalled, the bill is back in the hands of the chamber. For information on floor actions and procedures, see the House and Senate rules (found on the House and Senate pages of the legislature’s website: www.capitol.hawaii.gov). Watching session is a lot more interesting when you know what’s going on.

Quote:

“The great thing in this world is not so much where you stand, as in what direction you are moving.”

- Oliver Wendell Holmes

No Need to Get Lost in a Maze!


How to Find Acts, Bills or Resolutions from Past Years... and the Testimony Submitted on Them!



Someone's told you about an intriguing bill that was introduced in 2003 and never went anywhere...or, you want to see the full text of a law that amended a section of the HRS (Hawaii Revised Statutes)...or, you'd like to see who offered testimony on that resolution you remember being heard last session...

Where to start? That depends...

When was the measure introduced or acted upon?

Don't Know	20 th Century (1999 or earlier)	2000-2008
<p>Start with a call to the LRB Library or contact us at the Public Access Room.</p>  <p>We'll do our best to help you find tools and clues to narrow your search.</p>	<p>Contact the LRB Library [587-0690] or the Hawai'i State Archives [586-0329].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The Research Librarians of the LRB Library (in Room 005 of the Capitol) can help to identify the appropriate session or dates relevant to your search, and may have the documents you need in the Library's collection. ▶ Government records going back to the days of the monarchy can be found at the State Archives, located adjacent to the Capitol on the 'Iolani Palace Grounds. Staff members at the Archives are knowledgeable and helpful in locating the documents you seek. ▶ At the end of each session, committee testimony is usually forwarded to the State Archives, which keeps it as part of their government record collection. 	<p>You'll find the "Archives" section of the Legislature's website helpful.</p> <p>Tips and instructions appear on the next page.</p> <p>Progress! In researching the "Archives" section of the Legislature's website, you'll find that prior years' documents available online have become more extensive and easier to find with every session that goes by. In the early years, searches on measures and acts required sorting through an index and deliberating between the postings. These days, hyperlinks connect all the relevant postings on measures, and the volume of documents online keeps pace with the actual legislative output. An exceptional improvement was made in 2008, and now all written testimony attached to a measure has also been posted online, and takes only a click to call up. As always, your feedback is appreciated as the Legislature works to make the site as easy to use as possible.</p>

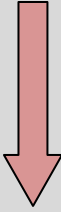
Online Archives on the Legislature's Website (www.capitol.hawaii.gov)

Information from Session Years 2000 to 2008

So, you've narrowed it down to a year or two, and have determined you're looking for something introduced in the current century (*that sounds so weird!*) ... now what?

- From the Legislature's website (www.capitol.hawaii.gov), click on "[Archives](#)."
- **Select the Year and Session you are interested in.**
- The resulting screen looks a lot like the current-day "Bill Status and Documents" page – the more recent the year, the more it resembles present day. As you go back in time, there are fewer and fewer features... a testament to technological progress and the webmaster's responsiveness to users' suggestions.

Are you Looking for an Act (a bill that became law), a Bill or a Resolution?

Act*	Bill	Resolution
	Enter the Bill or Resolution Number in the Top Box – Do not use spaces – Do not use suffixes (i.e., leave off the draft numbers such as HD1) – Click the appropriate boxes (if available) to indicate what you'd like to view – the text of the measure, the status sheet, committee reports, etc.	

Go to the second-to-the last box on the page – you'll see a 'list of lists.'

- Find the appropriate list ("List of Acts," "List of House Bills," etc.).
- If you know the measure's number, or a word or phrase from its title, you can search for it on the page using your internet browser's search feature (for example, using Explorer you can "Find" by holding down the "control" key and pressing "F" and then entering the search term).
- You should be able to view the text by clicking on one of the hyperlinks. Additionally, you can find the status sheet for the measure – helpful for hearing dates if you'll want to look at testimony.

Can't Find It?

- Try the "text search" feature in the top box of the page.
- Try another year.
- Call the LRB Library or PAR for assistance.

What about Testimony?

Posting written testimony online is a new feature, and is not available prior to 2008. To find written testimony, access the measure's status sheet if possible, so that you can find: 1) the committee which heard the measure; and 2) the date of the hearing. With that information, you can usually find the testimony at the Hawaii State Archives (see contact information on previous page).

* To view the enacted bill with its "Act #" stamp, use the "list of lists" method and click on the act number. If it is available online, this is where it will be found.

"Am I the only one who doesn't find time to even *think* about this stuff until Saturday?!"

Not at all. Folks are juggling all sorts of different responsibilities. The Public Access Room is open on Saturdays from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. throughout session. You can come in to use the computers – read testimony online, research bills, type testimony, send emails – or ask for assistance from our friendly staff. (It's not usually as busy on Saturdays, so it's a great time to come in for a one-on-one tutorial.)

Quote:

"If not actually disgruntled, he was far from being grunted."

- P. G. Wodehouse

- Wonder what just happened? Wonder what happens next?
- Wonder what you can do?



Come on in From Wonder-land ... The folks at PAR can help!

Workshops – Tuesdays at 12 noon & Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.

Advanced tutorials – by appointment.

Free of charge – Held through March in the PAR (Room 401 of the State Capitol).

ABOUT PAR (Public Access Room) – The Public Access Room (PAR) is *the public's* office at the State Capitol. The office is devoted to assisting people engaging in State legislative government. The office is open year-round; its resources (including knowledgeable staff) are available and accessible to all residents. There is never a fee for services.

An Accessible Process

Some Helpful Tools at the Capitol for Patrons with Disabilities

Most of PAR's patrons don't have to think twice as they swing into the office, sit down at a computer and check on a bill's status. But for someone with a physical disability confined to a wheelchair, or an individual with hearing or vision impairments, some of these routine activities could present a greater challenge. And staying on top of legislation at the Capitol is not necessarily an easy task to begin with!

- To ensure ease of use for our patrons, PAR provides increased accessibility in a few key areas. To the right of our entrance, we have a computer station configured for patrons with physical disabilities. It has an attached adjustable keyboard platform, wireless mouse and workstation built to accommodate a wheelchair.
- Internet access is incredibly helpful in tracking and researching legislative matters. To aid patrons with vision disabilities, we have installed the screen reader program JAWS® on another of our public computers. JAWS converts the text displayed on a computer screen into speech and recites aloud the contents of web pages. This allows people with visual impairments to access and use any computer application. While becoming familiar with the JAWS keyboarding system does take time and diligence, it is an incredibly helpful tool.
- The PAR also has a TTY device (teletypewriter, also known as a TDD or Telecommunications Device for the Deaf) located next to our public telephone. The TTY functions as a phone for the hearing impaired by allowing the transmittal of typed messages over existing phone lines. A protocol of accepted terms and usage etiquette enhances conversation on a TTY, but anyone who can type can use it. People without access to a TTY can contact a TTY user in Hawaii by dialing 711, which connects to the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS, or "Relay") – the non-TTY user speaks to the TRS, who forwards the message to the TTY user and waits to receive and forward the TTY user's response. It's a system that works really well, and PAR's TTY device allows real-time communication to or from the hearing impaired while at the Capitol.
- As a last note, the Public Access Room recognizes the importance of service animals trained to provide assistance to individuals with disabilities. A service animal is any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal used to assist someone who is blind, or to alert a hearing impaired individual to sounds, or to steady people with mobility impairments and help them with carrying and picking up things. Service animals are not pets; they offer crucial assistance.

We appreciate your feedback and suggestions for continuing to improve the PAR's accessibility.