

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

May 8th Adjournment Sine Die
(Changed from May 7th)

Governor's Sign or Veto deadlines*

Bill to Governor before last 10 days of Session (before April 23rd): 10 days to sign or veto, otherwise it becomes law without signature

Bill to Governor in last 10 days of session (April 23rd or later): Intent to veto by June 30th; bill becomes law without signature if neither signed nor vetoed by July 15th

* Deadlines change as adjournment sine die changes.

Quote:

"Have you learned the lessons only of those who admired you, and were tender with you, and stood aside for you? Have you not learned great lessons from those who braced themselves against you, and disputed passage with you?"

- Walt Whitman

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)



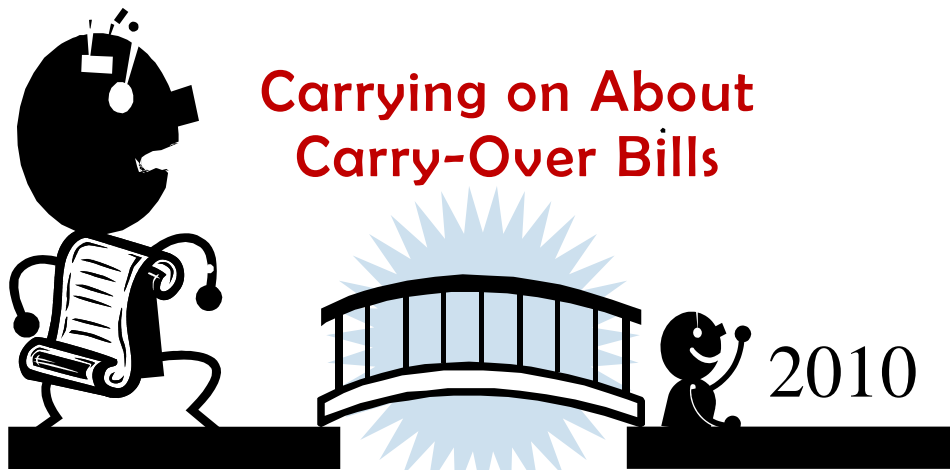
Session's Just About Pau...

Wrapping Up Another Session

- Session's Almost Pau... What now?..... 1
Carrying on about Carryover Bills..... 2
Art in the Atrium..... 3
"You folks at PAR are wonderful, but wouldn't it be great if ___?" 4

What now?

- If a bill has been enrolled to the Governor, you can check out the deadlines at left to see when it will become law if she neither signs nor vetoes it. To find out when the measure takes effect, look to its last section.
Don't stop just before the finish line! You may want to contact the Governor to urge her to sign or veto a bill. As always, it helps when you identify the bill by number - call or email PAR if you need assistance determining it. This page of the Governor's Office website provides their contact information: http://hawaii.gov/gov/schedule/contact
Keep an eye out for activity at the Capitol. Special Sessions may be convened for a variety of purposes by either the Legislature or the Governor (see Article III, Section 10 of the State Constitution for additional information).
If your bill or resolution didn't pass the Legislature this year, get ready for next year! Legislators can still be reached over the interim (the time between Regular Sessions). In fact, the interim's an ideal time to sit down with a legislator or staff member to discuss your issue, plan the next steps and begin to develop legislation for the 2010 Session. It may be hard to believe now, but the third Wednesday in January (1/20/10) will be here before you know it!



As with a headstrong youngster, you’ve nurtured, cajoled, and compelled your bill through the legislative calendar only to find it halted, distressingly, in committee. While this is the fate of the majority of measures introduced each session, the State Constitution offers a reprieve to bills introduced in the first year of our biennial legislature. They become affectionately known as “carry-over bills.”

According to [Article III, Section 15](#) of the Constitution, **“Any bill pending at the final adjournment of a regular session in an odd-numbered year shall carry over with the same status to the next regular session.”**

That is, a carry-over bill starts the next year’s session at the procedural point it attained in its first year. If it got stuck in a particular committee, that’s right where it will be waiting at the start of the next year’s session.

Along with retaining the same status and content, carry-over bills keep the same bill number. Consequently, next session’s *newly introduced* bills will start with alpha numerical designations that are *higher* than where the 2009 session’s bills left off. For example, the last bills introduced in 2009 were SB1680 in the Senate and HB1842 in the House. Depending on what Leadership decides next year, the Senate might start the 2010-introduced bills at SB2000 (an easy to remember number) and the House might start them at HB1843 (the next number in sequence).

Carry-over bills are treated in much the same way as newly introduced bills, although keep in mind...

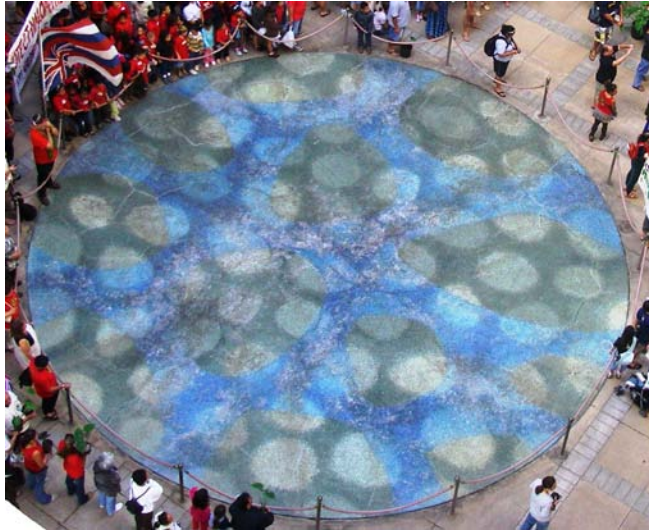
- Is there a *reason* the bill failed to move forward in the previous year’s session? What was the stumbling point? Has the situation changed? If not, what will get it moving forward the second year? Would it be better to let the carry-over bill go and start again with a fresh bill that incorporates a different approach? This may take a bit of strategizing as you speak to the bill’s sponsor and supporters and prepare for next year.
- [Article III, Section 15](#) of the Constitution also states that, **“Before the carried-over bill is enacted, it shall pass at least one reading in the house in which the bill originated.”** The thing to remember here is that if a bill has already successfully crossed over to the non-originating chamber (that is, a House bill has reached the Senate or a Senate bill has reached the House) before the end of the first year’s session, in the second year it will need to return to its chamber of origin for one final vote before it can leave the Legislature and be enrolled to the Governor.
- At the end of an even-numbered year session, all pending bills die. In the fall of even-numbered years, elections take place – the legislators elected will be able to consider an entirely fresh crop of bills for the *next* biennial session that starts in the upcoming odd-numbered year.

**Need help making sense of all this?
You’re not alone! Give us a call ... we’ll be happy to talk you through it.**

“What’s under that tent down there?”

Art in the Atrium*

Before...



*"Aquarius" by Tadashi Sato (1923-2005)
Hawaii State Capitol Rotunda**

During...



Tadashi Sato’s tile mosaic, “Aquarius,” (completed in 1970) is undergoing extensive restoration accompanied by construction improvements. Construction centered on the mosaic tile floor began in late October 2008, and included cutting its concrete underlayment; installation of drain pipes, trenches, and waterproofing; cutting templates; and preparing mosaic tiles.

And After...???

They’ll start installing the tiles mid-May, and by July 2009, “Aquarius” should be better than ever!

**Come check it out when you get a chance, and remember PAR in Room 401 is open over the interim...
9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday... drop in any time!**

** We would have used the word ‘rotunda’ in the headline, but we’re humoring those who tell us, “Technically, there’s no dome so...”. Being a non-partisan office devoted entirely to process rather than policy, we take no stance on this issue.*

“You folks at PAR are Wonderful, but... Wouldn't it be Great if [your idea here] ?”



Next year, the **Public Access Room (PAR)** will celebrate **20 years** of being here for you... the public, the people, the core foundation and mainstay of any democracy.

Things have changed over the years...



Typewriters have given way to computers



Long nights of copying stacks of testimony in the pre-“paperless” days have given way to email testimony



Folks still come in for one-one-one tutorials but we now do lots of ‘over-the-phone’ tutorials on navigating the ever-improving Legislative website

And they keep on changing!

New technology, networking and advocacy methods... Folks getting their information from new media... Changed attention spans, quick tweets and rambling blogs... Changing expectations and standards of engagement in community and political life... New challenges and opportunities as you and your family, neighbors and colleagues participate effectively in the legislative process...

How should PAR change with the changes?

Please -- we want your input! Don't be shy – we need to know what works, what doesn't and what services you'd REALLY like to see us provide.

Room 401 -- Does it accommodate your needs? Do the hours work okay for you? Should we no longer open on Saturdays during session? Would being open one evening a week be useful? Adequate computers? Table space? Comfortable, non-partisan atmosphere?

Workshops -- What information would be helpful? How can we calendar you in? Would it be helpful to have podcasts, or online tutorials?

PAR staff -- Do you feel welcome (we're your office, after all!)? Do we answer your questions? Explain patiently? Help you find the resources you need?

PAR website -- We're ready to get to work on expanding it over the interim...any ideas?

Take a moment and let us know! Click the icon up above to send an email to par@capitol.hawaii.gov ... or give us a call... or stop on in and we'll talk.

March 1990 - 2010!



You're invited to join us next year as we celebrate PAR's 20th Anniversary, which falls on Saturday, March 6, 2010.

Got ideas? Help us brainstorm on how best to celebrate 20 years of access “by the people, for the people.”

Quote:



"There is only one you... Don't you dare change just because you're outnumbered!"

- Charles Swindoll