

PUBLIC ACCESS ROOM

A division of the Legislative Reference Bureau

NEWSLETTER

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Public Access Room (PAR)

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2018 Legislative Timetable

April

- 5th First Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
- 6th Second Decking (Bills): Last day to file bills for Third Reading in non-originating body
- 12th Second Crossover (Bills) & Last day to disagree
- 16th Second Lateral for Senate Concurrent Resolutions
- 20th Constitutional Amendments: Deadline for final form
- 23rd Second Crossover 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* (Session pau!)

Governor's Deadlines

June

- 25th Notice of intent to veto deadline (35th day after adjournment *sine die*)

July

- 10th Veto deadline (45th day after adjournment *sine die*)

Participating After Second Crossover

The Bill's Made it Through Three Readings in Both the House and the Senate... Changes were Made... What Now?!

Bam! Bam! Bam! The lead chair of the conference committee bangs the gavel.



"Is there a conference draft for us to review?"

"Working on it, but not yet."

"What do you think? Roll it over to tomorrow at 10 a.m., same room?"

"Sounds good."

Bam! Bam! Bam! The chair gavel's out.

Exciting? Not really. But that's just about the gist of numerous public meetings of conference committees — the groups of senators and representatives charged with coming up with an agreement on the final version of a bill. The meetings finish quickly and reconvene on short notice. Much of the substantive discussion during the conference committee period takes place outside the meeting room.

So how does the public go about making sure that their views are considered at this stage of the proceedings? The conference committee period is a

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time when legislators work out compromises on bills amongst themselves, and the time for public testimony has passed. But there are still things you can do.

Crucially, you've already laid out the important groundwork over the course of the session. The advocacy and testimony that you provided — when asking for hearings, providing public testimony, and meeting with legislators to discuss your concerns — will be kept in mind as the conferees negotiate.

But what about additional advocacy at this stage?

- Contact the conference chairs and other members (also called managers) separately via phone, email, or with notes, and let them know what aspect of the legislation you believe is a 'must have' or an 'absolutely not' to any final version.
- Ask your own Senator or Representative for assistance in influencing what comes out of the conference process.
- Call on the relationships you've developed at the Legislature during the session — it's hard to know who may be influential at this stage!
- Encourage constituents from the conferees' districts to communicate with their legislators about the legislation.
- Attend the meetings in order to follow the discussions (if any) and to demonstrate the bill's importance to you and your group.

Additionally, the Legislature's website, capitol.hawaii.gov, provides some tools to help you during conference. Click on the "Conference Committee" bar on the "[Reports and Lists](#)" page to find all the conference meetings for the day, track down legislators based on their conference assignments, get lists of all measures in conference and their current status, and a list of room assignments. During each session, Senate and House leadership agree on joint rules governing conference committee operations. You can usually find a link to these conference procedures under the "Recent Updates" alert section on the Legislature's homepage.

- If a bill does get reported out of its conference committees prior to the Final Decking deadlines (April 26th for non-fiscal bills, April 27th for fiscal bills), you can advocate for members to vote for or against it on Final Reading on the floor.
- If a bill passes Final Reading and is enrolled to the Governor, you can ask the Governor to sign or veto the bill. The Governor's website has a comment form dedicated to providing views on pending legislation: <https://governor.hawaii.gov/contact-us/comments-on-legislation/>.

Finally, regardless of the final disposition of your bill, remember to plant the seeds for the interim and next session. You can follow up with allies and legislators and thank them for their support during this session. It's a good time to reflect on what worked, what didn't, and plan for next year. It's also a great time to learn more about the process! And, as always, the Public Access Room (PAR) is here to help!

Word Search answers (see page 4 for puzzle)

1. CHAIR; 2. COMMERCE; 3. COMPANION; 4. CONCURRENT; 5. CROSSOVER; 6. DECKING; 7. GALLERY; 8. LATERAL; 9. NON-PARTISAN; 10. PASSWORD; 11. REFERENCE; 12. SAFETY; 13. SINE DIE; 14. TOURISM; 15. AMEND; 16. BICAMERAL; 17. CAUCUS

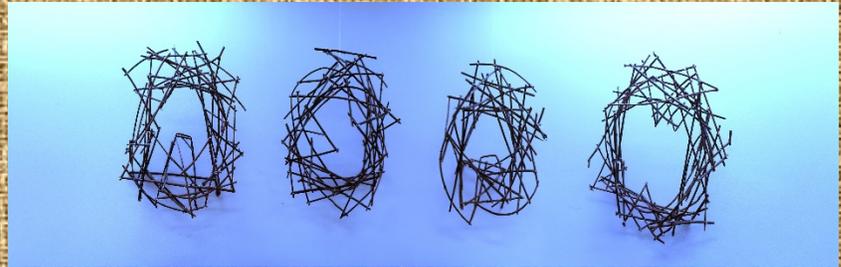


Join us!

Art at the Capitol

Friday, April 6, 2018

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.



For more info visit: <https://www.facebook.com/artatthecapitolhawaii>

Let's Confer on Conference!

Workshop

An overview of the conference process, with time for exploration and discussion.

Wednesday, April 11th, 12 noon - 1:00 p.m.

PAR office (Room 401)

Call or email to save a spot! 587-0478 or par@capitol.hawaii.gov

Seen Anything "Odd" This Session?

Workshop

An exploration into some of the odd things that can happen to legislation as it makes its way through the Legislature.

Wednesday, April 18th, 12 noon - 1:00 p.m.

PAR office (Room 401)

Call or email to save a spot! 587-0478 or par@capitol.hawaii.gov

PAR Hours

Monday - Friday

7:45 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (until May 3rd)

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (during interim — until January 16, 2019)

LEGISLATIVE WORD SEARCH



1. The _____ of a committee determines whether a bill gets scheduled for a hearing
2. House Committee: Consumer Protection & _____
3. _____ bills are identical, but introduced in different chambers
4. A _____ resolution must be adopted by both chambers
5. This is the movement of a bill from one chamber to the other: _____
6. A deadline for a bill to be out of all its committees and in its final form, so it can be made available to members 48 hours prior to being voted on for the third or final time: _____
7. An area above the chamber where guests, family members, and the public can sit and view the Senate or House floor session: _____
8. A _____ deadline is the date by which a bill must move to its final referral committee
9. The Public Access Room is _____, meaning we are politically neutral
10. The Capitol wifi requires no _____ to log on
11. The Public Access Room (PAR) is part of the Legislative _____ Bureau (LRB)
12. Senate Committee: Public _____, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
13. Latin for “without assigning a day for a further meeting”: adjournment _____
14. Senate Committee: Economic Development, _____, and Technology
15. To formally alter via modification, addition, or deletion: _____
16. Literally meaning “two rooms”; used to refer to the two legislative bodies: _____
17. A conference of members of the legislature to decide on policies or strategies: _____

[Word Search answers appear on page 2; for the solved diagram, see PAR's homepage]