

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 ♦ Website: LRBhawaii.org/PAR



CONTACT US!

Public Access Room (PAR)

Phone (808) 587-0478
Email..... par@capitol.hawaii.gov

Neighbor Islands (Toll Free): Use these numbers, and then enter extension 7-0478 followed by the # sign.

Hawai'i 974-4000 Kaua'i 274-3141
Maui 984-2400 Moloka'i/Lana'i ... (800) 468-4644



Post-Session Advocacy

Session is Over... What's Next?



This year's regular session has ended, but the work is not quite over. Here's a quick guide.

Bills that Passed the Legislature

This year the Legislature sent 230 bills to the Governor for action. As of publication, he has already taken action on 15 bills. He has until July 11th (the 45th day after *adjournment sine die*) to decide what to do with the rest.

Which Bills Made it to the Governor?

If you'd like to see a list of all the bills under the Governor's consideration, scroll down to the "Governor's Actions" section on the Reports and Lists page of the Legislature's website (capitol.hawaii.gov). You'll find a link to "[Bills Pending Governor's Action](#)." As the Governor takes action on pending bills, you'll be able to view lists of bills that are [signed](#) into law, bills that the Governor [intends to veto](#), ones that become law [without the Governor's signature](#), and bills that are [actually vetoed](#). If there are any [veto overrides](#) by the Legislature there's a list for that, too.

When Does the Governor Need to Act?

The Governor has to send the Legislature his intent to veto list by June 26th (the 35th day after *adjournment sine die*). Keep in mind that a bill on this list may end up not being vetoed. The Governor has until July 11th to decide. Any bill that is not on this list is going to become law on the bill's effective date with or without the Governor's signature.

(Continued on page 2)

2017 Legislative Timetable

June
26th Governor's intent-to-veto deadline

July
11th Governor's signing and veto deadline

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FYI -- To find a bill's effective date, scroll down to its last section. The bill could have a designated date (for example July 1, 2017) upon which the law would take effect. Alternatively, the bill might state that the law will be effective "upon its approval." This means it becomes law on the date it is signed, the date it becomes law without the Governor's signature, or the date its veto is successfully overridden by the Legislature.

Let the Governor Know Your Position

If you have a position on a bill that has been sent to the Governor and are interested in registering your support or opposition, you can send comments via the Governor's website (governor.hawaii.gov). Just use the "[Contact](#)" tab -- the first box that appears is for comments on legislation. You can fill in the form with your message, or attach a letter to the form. Either way, your view on the pending legislation will be submitted.

Bills that Died -- Carry Over Bills

The 2017 Regular Session was actually just the first year of a two-year biennium for the Twenty-Ninth Legislature. Any bill that did not pass out of the Legislature this year is still "in the hopper" and can be acted upon next year, once session starts up again. When next year's session begins (January 17, 2018), a carry-over bill can be taken up from wherever it was left. For example, if your bill was in the Senate Education Committee and died there, it could get scheduled for a hearing in 2018 and move forward. The catch? There's usually a reason the bill didn't advance during this year's session. So, you'll need to find the political will to move it forward in 2018. Alternatively, you may want to advocate for drafting a new bill that incorporates changes that give the bill a better chance of passing.

Resolutions

Resolutions that were introduced during the 2017 Regular Session and failed to be adopted are dead – they don't carry over to next year like bills do. What happens with a resolution that was adopted?

A resolution expresses the will and intent of either the entire Legislature (concurrent resolutions that have been adopted by both chambers) or one of the chambers (single chamber resolutions). Resolutions do not require action by the Governor. Instead, the resolution itself specifies the action of the resolution. Get through the "Whereas" paragraphs and scroll down to the "Be it resolved..." sections. One of the last paragraphs will usually specify who will receive copies of the resolution if it is adopted. The House and Senate Chief Clerks are responsible for coordinating and transmitting the resolutions as specified.

If you're interested in seeing all of the concurrent and single chamber resolutions adopted this year, you can find them on the [Reports and Lists](#) page -- scroll down to the "Legislature" section and click on the "[Resolutions Adopted](#)" link.

Get Ready for Next Year

If your bill or resolution did not pass the Legislature this year, get ready for next year! Now is the time to debrief, reassess, and develop a game plan for next session. What worked for you this year? What didn't? Who showed up to testify? Is there an opportunity to strategize with new allies? Remember, legislators can be reached over the interim (the time between regular sessions). In fact, the interim is the 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 2018 Regular Session. Need help getting in gear? Call or email the Public Access Room and we'll be happy to help.

PAR Outreach -- The Process Needs People!

The legislative session is over, but the Public Access Room's work in helping citizens become active participants in their own governance continues.

In addition to providing a physical office at the Capitol with staff, public computers, workspace, and many other resources, PAR conducts outreach in the form of numerous training workshops. We've designed workshop material to cover every aspect of the legislative process -- from providing an understanding of how bills are passed and the

state budget is formed, to teaching citizens how they can best use their voices to testify or communicate with their legislators. Our workshops are flexible and can be geared towards newcomers as well as advocacy veterans. We can even tailor workshops for a specific audience, including students of all grade levels.

This outreach is part of a longstanding program to help citizens develop a deeper understanding of how laws are made in our state. During our workshops, we break down what can often be a confusing process. We provide tips, tools, and resources to help empower citizens so they become both more comfortable about participating and more effective advocates on the issues.

PAR conducts weekly training workshops for the public in our office at the Capitol during the legislative session and by request during the interim. But our outreach is not limited to the Capitol or even the island of Oahu. For years now, we've supplemented our on-island efforts with annual trips to the neighbor islands in advance of a new legislative session. Through this outreach, we've reached hundreds of neighbor island residents.

This year we're determined to do more. We made follow up visits to neighbor island communities during the legislative session, and it looks like we'll be able to make a few more trips over the interim. We're looking at expanding our Oahu outreach to conduct workshops in rural communities across the island. There are also the possibilities of offering training via webinars and attending more community events to help spread the news of our services. We look forward to the exciting opportunities ahead!



Get on our email list if you want to be advised of workshops in your community! (Just call 808/587-0478 or email par@capitol.hawaii.gov and let us know you want to be added to the list.)

If you're interested in scheduling training for your group or participating in a workshop, please let us know.

We welcome any suggestions on how PAR can help more people engage in the legislative process!

Special Session?

- We've received a lot of questions about whether the Legislature will convene a special session to consider additional funding for Honolulu's rail transit project. The answer: *We don't know!*
- How could it happen? The Hawaii State Constitution ([Article 3, Section 10](#)) provides a few ways for the Legislature to convene in special session. The House Speaker and Senate President can convene the Legislature in special session at the written request of two-thirds of the members of each of their chambers. The Governor also has the authority to convene the Legislature in special session. *(In addition, the Senate President can convene just the Senate in special session for carrying out its consent responsibilities regarding the appointment of justices and judges.)*
- If the Legislature does convene a special session for rail transit project funding, a new bill or bills would be introduced. Any bill would be subject to the same requirements to become law as if introduced during a regular session -- passing three readings in each chamber on separate days. The bill would most likely be referred to appropriate subject matter committees, where the public would have the opportunity to testify.
- Note: If the Legislature wishes to consider overriding any vetoed bills, they have to reconvene in special session to do that at or before noon on July 11th. However, the Legislature would not be able to consider the rail transit project funding issue during that special session.

<p>Find the Words</p> <p><i>Words can be forwards, backwards, vertical, horizontal or diagonal!</i></p> <p>Bill</p> <p>Committee</p> <p>Hearing</p> <p>House</p> <p>Law</p> <p>Legislators</p> <p>Measure</p> <p>Resolution</p> <p>Senate</p> <p>Testimony</p> <p>Track</p> <p>Workshop</p>	<p>G R A N O I P T T U L A R E A B O B B S</p> <p>A R R T S O C G H S L X E R C V E V I V</p> <p>W H C B P V Y N O M I T S E T R A E L L</p> <p>E K O S O T N G D U B B O T U Q E T O J</p> <p>Y V M U H O H M S J T E L T L Q T E I S</p> <p>F A R M S H O E T A A O U D E U W N A U</p> <p>T O F U K E Z N N D T L T D U B V T U L</p> <p>E Z I E R R I U G I S P I R E G R U B H</p> <p>Y V S C O E E D C I B E O E C T I O N S</p> <p>I E H M W O O O U L V E N Y L F R P U O</p> <p>S G T T A A M O N N M I T U L O S E M C</p> <p>F N X A A M L E U S R O T A L S I G E L</p> <p>T I Y E I T S Q P E A O A L O H A T A P</p> <p>A R U T N P O K E B O W L X Y Z M S S S</p> <p>G A T A Y V C E E E K P R R E O I E U O</p> <p>A E O W O T L T S J R E E Z R T N N R H</p> <p>E H R A T T R O A R A R E S E N A T E K</p> <p>Y C C I T A V R C A R M R Z E P R T A R</p> <p>Y V O I C E E D C S X S D N I R G O N W</p> <p>K E I K I O O O U R A E H S U S H I C O</p>
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PAR Interim Hours:
 May 4, 2017 - January 16, 2018
 Monday – Friday
 8:00am - 4:30pm