

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

2010 Legislative Timetable

January

- 20th Opening Day
Non-Administrative Bill Package Cutoff
25th State-of-the-State Address
Administrative Bill Package Cutoff
27th State-of-the-Judiciary Address
Bill Introduction Cutoff: Last day to introduce bills
29th Grants/Subsidies Cutoff

February

- 3rd State-of-the-University Address
4th Triple Referral Filing
12th First Lateral (Bills): Must be moved to final committee in originating chamber
15th Holiday: Presidents' Day
19th to 25th: Mandatory 5-Day Recess
26th First Decking: Last day to file non-budget bills for Third Reading in originating chamber

March

- 4th First Crossover (Bills)
8th Budget Decking
10th Budget Crossover
Last day to introduce Substantive Resolutions
11th Triple Referral Filing (Bills)
19th Second Lateral (Bills): Must be moved to final committee in non-originating chamber
26th Holiday: Kuhio Day
30th First Lateral for Concurrent Resolutions

April

- 1st Second Decking (Bills): Last day to file bills for Third Reading in non-originating body
2nd Holiday: Good Friday
8th Second Crossover (Bills) & Last day to disagree
9th First Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
16th Constitutional Amendments: Deadline for final form
19th Second Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
22nd Last day to file Non-Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading
23rd Last day to file Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading
29th Adjournment sine die (Session pau!)

CONTACT US!
Public Access Room (PAR)

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Neighbor Islands
(Toll Free)

Use these numbers, then enter ext. 7-0478 followed by the # sign
Hawai'i 974-4000
Maui 984-2400
Kaua'i 274-3141
Moloka'i/Lana'i (800) 468-4644
(Fax from neighbor islands using ext. 7-0793)



Coping and Hoping

Suzanne Marinelli, Public Access Coordinator

No doubt about it – times are tough, and that doesn't seem likely to change for quite a while.

One of the most obvious examples of these tough times is right here at the Capitol, where the legislature is about to convene in just a few days (YIKES!!!). We typically start with a festive Opening Day, with the ceremonies and celebrations that so often characterize gatherings in our world of aloha. But not this year. Instead, we'll be starting the session with somber speeches and stark assessments of the huge challenges that face Hawaii Nei, and then plunge right in. Difficult work and long, difficult days lie ahead.

Continued on page 2

Here we go... 2010 Session!

Table with 2 columns: Item and Page Number. Includes 'Coping and Hoping' (1), 'Website updates' (3), 'Tips on jumping into session mode' (4), and 'Back at it' (4).

This is where you and I come in – regular, everyday citizens, the cornerstones of our democracy. More than ever, the legislators will need your perspectives this session, in order to shape the bills that will move forward, and choose the ones that will stay behind. They simply can't do it without you.

So choose carefully when deciding what bills to follow - don't over-extend yourself. Get together with like-minded people to spread the work around. Pay close attention to your opponents' words, and be ever-mindful that there is something you can agree with them about. Nurture those agreements so they can grow into solutions to the conflicts that vex both sides. Those agreements, in turn, will be a huge help to the legislators as they're considering the bills before their committees. Will you be testifying? If so, keep your comments short, easy to follow, and relevant to the bill under discussion. If you're going to oppose all or a part of a bill, suggest an alternative. Be kind - everybody involved is facing huge difficulties these days, and simple kindness will smooth a lot of rough roads.

It would be easy to go on forever about *coping*, but enough, already. Everybody knows what we're talking about. I want to get on to the *hoping* part:

It's tempting to hope for easy times, but 'easy' doesn't necessarily help us grow. Just the opposite, in fact. I keep thinking about my friend Lynn, who used to be a sailor. Back in the 1970s, she and four of her friends set off from the Virgin Islands to sail around the world. The trip didn't work out quite like that, but Lynn was gone for almost a year. When she returned to St. Thomas, where we both lived at the time, she had many great stories to tell, and one disturbing one that could have ended disastrously. The really cool stories were about sailing through storms, avoiding reefs, making new friends on distant shores, and swimming with sharks. The disturbing one was about getting becalmed.



There they sat, waiting for the wind day after day, somewhere 'way out in the Pacific. They were running out of food and fresh water. Tempers were short. Frustration abounded. Nerves were frayed. People were bickering. And still they sat becalmed, waiting and hoping for wind. *"It seems obvious now,"* she later told me, *"but it was an important lesson for me to take to heart - we needed the wind. A sailboat just doesn't go anywhere if something's not pushing against it."* When the wind finally came, people started working as a team again. Together, they extracted themselves from the dangerous situation that confronted them.

So let's hope for better times, yes, but not necessarily easy ones. Let's hope for enough wind to push us to the places we need to be, but not so much that we're blown upon the reefs. Let's combine our hopes with our efforts, and move together as a crew, a team, a society, all of us working at our individual tasks toward the same goals of *enough*.

Finally, please come visit the Public Access Room on January 20, Opening Day. We'll have our usual potluck buffet, "Cheap Crackers and Rich Conversation," starting around noon and lasting until it's finished, whenever that is. It will be a great opportunity to get re-acquainted if you've been away for a while, and a good chance to make new connections as the session begins. *We hope* to see you, and/or hear from you soon!

The wind is picking up and we're on our way...

## Website Updates



### Daily Documents

Remember the old days when you'd come to the print shops for the mounds of paper that constituted newly filed documents? Or, picking up a daily CD that held all of them? Now, hooray!, you can access them online!

There are two helpful new selections on the Bill Status & Documents' 'list of lists' regarding 'daily documents' (see the second-to-last box on the Bill Status page).

- "Daily Documents" option will bring up a report listing all the documents that have been filed on a certain date. The format will be similar to the other lists, exportable and with active links. You'll be able to choose bills, resolutions and/or other docs.
- "Daily Documents Zip Files" will provide a zipped file that includes .html and .pdf versions of all of the documents filed on a certain date.

Questions? Call or email us... 587-0478 or [par@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:par@capitol.hawaii.gov).

### "Could somebody e-mail me when my bill gets scheduled?"



#### "Sure thing!"

That is, you can easily ask the Legislature's website to alert you when a measure you're interested in gets scheduled for a hearing.

This is a great enhancement to the Legislature's website. While you can still sign up to be emailed all the hearing notices for specific committees, **now you can also receive the notices for only the bills and resolutions you're interested in.**

It's easy to sign up for these alerts, and it's a great way to make sure you don't miss an important opportunity to offer testimony. It's easy to add to or change the list, too.

Try it out!

#### How to sign up...

- Go to the [Bill Status and Documents](#) page of the [Legislature's website](#).
- Look for the link, "[Subscribe to Hearing Notices by Email](#)."
- Click on "New User." You'll be asked for your name and email address, and you will need to create a password.
- Then, go to your email inbox where you'll receive an email message asking you to confirm your account.
- Return to the "[Subscribe to Hearing Notices by Email](#)" link; enter your email address, password, and click "log in."
- Type in bill or resolution numbers for which you'd like to receive hearing notices. Click the boxes next to the committees whose hearing notices you'd like to receive. When done, click "Review and Exit."
- Take a look at your selections. If you're done, click "Finished." If you want to make changes, click "Back to Edit Selections."
- You're good to go!



## Tips on Jumping in to Session Mode

- **Review the session timetable** (see page 1), and note important deadlines on your calendar so they won't catch you unaware. Not sure what they mean? Give us a call, or check out the "Walk through Session" document on PAR's website (<http://hawaii.gov/lrb/par>).

- Bills will start appearing on the website on the first day of session, Wednesday, January 20. Each day, more will be added until the bill entry deadline of Wednesday, January 27. How to keep up? **Try using the handy 'list of lists' on the Bill Status and Documents page** (second to the last box on the page). Open the link that shows "Senate Bills Introduced" or "House Bills Introduced" for handy, easy-to-browse lists. You can review carried-over bills or the latest ones added. Newly introduced ones will have bill numbers above HB1843 and SB1680 (the last filed in 2009).

Need help? Call, and we'll coach you through the process... it's an easy way to get an overview of all the legislation being considered, without being overwhelmed.

- **Explore the website.** Find a carryover bill's status sheet to remind yourself of what it looks like, and review the helpful links that appear at the top of the page. Do you know where the "submit email testimony" form is? Take a look at how easy it is to pull it up, and think of how you'll describe it when you're encouraging a friend to add their voice to your issue.
- Need a refresher (or introduction) on the legislative process and how things work around here? **Sign up for a PAR workshop or tutorial**, or drop in for our two regularly scheduled classroom hours: Tuesdays 12 noon, Thursdays 5:00 p.m. We're happy to help!



## Back at it!

## It's a New Year, and your seasonal Public Access Room staff is back on board



*(l to r) Sherrie Sato, Larry Kamakawiwoole, Virginia Beck and Suzanne Marinelli in front of Suzanne's wall sculpture, "Escaping the Net," in the PAR*

The public and PAR are fortunate to have both **Larry Kamakawiwo'ole** and **Sherrie Sato** back on board as PAR's experienced session crew. Once again, they'll be the friendly voices on the phone and will be here to greet you in Room 401. They're ready to answer questions, help you find resources on the computers or sit down with you for a one-on-one tutorial on all things legislative.

What's new?

Well, this session Larry (having moved to town) will be enjoying his morning commute a bit more – perhaps an easy stroll to start off the day instead of arriving in the wee hours of the morning on an Express Bus. He and his wife are delighted with their new digs in the Ala Moana area.

Sherrie claims to have not much new to report... though we'd like to remind her that we're still waiting to see those photos from her trip to Ireland over the interim!



## **Come to a ‘Drop In’ Workshop at the Public Access Room**

(Room 401, State Capitol)

**Tuesdays, 12 noon – 1 p.m.**

**Thursdays, 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.**

*No need to register,  
just show up and let us know you’re ready to learn!*

We’ll use our “We the Powerful” module as our framework, and will tailor the workshop based on participants’ experience and interests. Our primary focus is to help you become a more active and efficient participant in your legislative government. You’ve got the power; we’ll help you learn to use it.

- If you prefer to schedule a one-on-one tutorial, give us a call or email and time permitting, we’ll set something up.
- If you’re part of a group that would benefit from our presentation, we can help out there, as well. We offer group workshops at the Capitol or at your location.
- The Public Access Room (PAR) is non-partisan, and there is never a fee for our services.

## You're invited!

Please come to our opening day potluck.  
We'll have modest pupus,  
good information,  
cheap crackers and rich conversation, and  
our almost famous punch!

Opening Day Potluck  
Public Access Room (401)  
State Capitol  
Wednesday, January 20, 2010  
12 noon – pau

Join us as old friends, and come meet some new ones. Don't forget to bring good cheer and your best coping and hoping skills to share. We look forward to seeing you on opening day and throughout the year.

Questions?

Public Access Room: Room 401, State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania St.

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