

PUBLIC ACCESS ROOM

A division of the Legislative Reference Bureau

N E W S L E T T E R

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



2008 Legislative Timetable

January

- 16th Opening Day
- 18th Non-Administrative Bill Package Cutoff
- 21st Holiday: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 22nd State-of-the-State Address & Administrative Bill Package Cutoff
- 23rd Bill Intro Cutoff: last day to introduce bills
- 31st Grants/Subsidies Cutoff

February

- 15th First Lateral (bills)
- 18th Holiday: Presidents' Day
- 21st-27th Mandatory 5-Day Recess
- 29th First Decking: last day to file non-budget bills

March

- 6th First Crossover (bills)
- 10th Budget Decking
- 12th Budget Crossover
- 12th Last day to introduce Substantive Resolutions
- 20th Second Lateral (bills)
- 21st Holiday: Good Friday
- 26th Holiday: Kuhio Day
- 28th First Lateral for Concurrent Resolutions

April

- 4th Second Decking (bills): last day to file bills in non-originating body
- 10th Second Crossover (bills) & last day to disagree
- 11th First Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
- 18th Constitutional Amendments: deadline for final form
- 21st Second Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
- 24th Last day to file Non-Fiscal bills to deck for Final Reading
- 25th Last day to file Fiscal bills to deck for Final Reading

May

- 1st Adjournment Sine Die

Quote

**Act as if
what you do makes a
difference.**

It does.

- William James, psychologist
(1842-1910)

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 neighbor islands using ext. 7-0793)

So what happened?!

To find a list of the laws that have been created so far this session, go to the "Bill Status and Documents" page of the Legislature's website (www.capitol.hawaii.gov). The fifth big box down is a 'list of lists' -- including a list of 2008 Regular Session Acts by act number and a list of the acts arranged by bill number. It is continuously updated as more bills become law. (See the box below for some important dates to keep in mind.)

If a bill you were supporting did not succeed this session, it will not be carried over to next year, since this is the second year of the biennium. It will have to be introduced and start the process afresh for the 2009-2010 session.

**The Legislative Timetable
Some important dates to keep in mind...**

April 15: Tenth day before end of session.

If she has not signed or vetoed it, any bill that was presented to the Governor by April 15th becomes law without her signature 10 days (not counting weekends, holidays or recess days) after it was presented to her.

May 1: Adjournment Sine Die

Last day (day 60!) of legislative session.



June 23: Thirty-fifth day after end of session.

By June 23rd, the Governor must give the Legislature notice of her intent to veto if she (potentially) plans to veto any bill that was presented to her after April 15th.

July 8: Forty-fifth day after end of session.

Any bill that was presented to the Governor after April 15th becomes law without her signature if she has neither signed it by this date nor declared her intent to veto by June 23rd.

Note: For a more precise description of these deadlines, please refer to the Hawaii State Constitution, Article III, Section 16. You can find the State Constitution online at PAR's homepage: <http://hawaii.gov/lrb/par/>



Who's running?

We've been hearing about candidates for office on the National level...

What's going on here in Hawai'i at the State level?

Who's running? When do I vote? What's going on now?

Of course, the State of Hawai'i Office of Elections is the place with the answers to all of your questions! Check out the end of this article for their contact information. But here's the situation in a nutshell:

Election Dates

Hawai'i has its Primary Election scheduled for Saturday, September 20, 2008, and the General Election scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, 2008.

The 2008 Election calendar (<http://hawaii.gov/elections/factsheets/fsbo100.pdf>) lists crucial dates and deadlines:

- **Candidates** – By looking at this calendar, you'll see that new candidates may be entering various races up until the **candidate filing deadline** – **Tuesday, July 22**. By that date, all candidates must have filed with either the Office of Elections or the City/County Clerk for the Primary Election and the OHA Election. Candidates are also required to provide a variety of reports by specific dates throughout the process, and the election calendar provides the timeline.
- **Voters** – You've got until **Thursday, August 21st**, to **register** (and urge others to register!) to vote in the Primary Election. If you're interested in finding out when absentee ballots will be available, or when you can walk-in vote, that information can also be found on the election calendar.
- **Political Parties** – Political parties also need to file reports – the calendar presents the dates by which parties must report their rules, officials, officers, poll watchers, and presidential electors.
- **Certain State and City/County Offices** – In addition to all that, the calendar also specifies mailing deadlines for the government offices, dates by which questions to appear on ballot must be submitted, and direction on when to open walk-in polling places.

- continued next page -

Election Contests

The “Candidate Filing Report,”
listing candidates who have filed for the 2008 Primary and OHA Elections,
is available on the Office of Elections website.

You can find it by going to the Office of Elections website <http://hawaii.gov/elections>, clicking on the “Candidates” link on the list to the right, and then selecting “Candidate Filing Report.” Right now you’ll find the 4-18-2008 version, but the report is updated regularly. If you would like to receive a large print or a taped format to address special needs, you can call the Office of Elections (458-VOTE or 800/422-VOTE).

In terms of the offices in the State Capitol, the offices that will be voted on are:

- All of the seats for the State House of Representatives, which are 2-year terms
- Roughly half of the State Senate seats, which are 4-year terms (the other half will be up for election in 2010)

The Office of Elections website has wonderful online resources: <http://hawaii.gov/elections>. If you have questions, or would like to volunteer to work at a precinct on election days, call (808) 453-VOTE (8683) or, from the Neighbor Islands, 800/442-VOTE (8683). You can also send them an email at elections@hawaii.gov.

CUSTOMIZED WORKSHOPS... for you!

*Are you interested in being more involved with the legislative process?
Feel passionate about an issue and want to see action at a legislative level?*

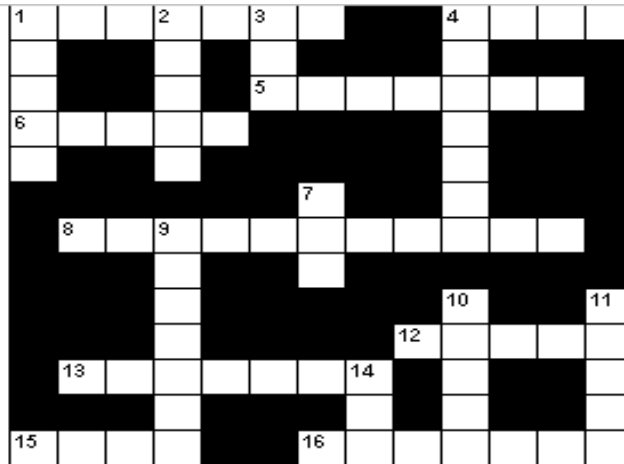
The Public Access Room (PAR) staff can help you and your colleagues become more knowledgeable about the legislative process! We offer free instruction and workshops on such subjects as:

- how to track legislation (using traditional methods and RSS feeds)
- understanding the conference committee process
- navigating and getting the most out of the Hawai‘i State Legislature’s website as well as other internet sites
- understanding legislative documents and the legislative process

Contact PAR at 587-0478 to sign up for a workshop, or to request one for your group or organization. We’ll work with you to find a mutually agreeable time and location.

Get your colleagues up to speed on the process before they need to get into action. And don't forget to schedule a refresher course for yourself over the interim!

Legislative Puzzlement



Answers: see PAR's
homepage
<http://hawaii.gov/lrb/par>

CLUES

Across

- 1** The building in which a legislative assembly meets (often misspelled!); part of the Legislature's web address: [www.____.hawaii.gov](http://www.legis.hawaii.gov)
- 4** "I know you've heard the viewpoint of a number people here today -- hers and his and theirs -- but because of my unique experience, I think it's important you hear _____. That's why I'm here to testify today." (hint: possessive pronoun)
- 5** The seasoned lobbyist _____ her colleague to keep his eyes open for new bills that might be of interest by using the "text search" feature on the legislature's "Bill Status and Documents" page. *(She also suggested contacting the Public Access Room for a free tutorial on legislative process, documents and bill tracking. A great thing to do over interim!)*
- 6** After a bill is introduced, its first reading is pretty automatic -- the next thing to look for is which committees they _____ it to.
- 8** With 13 across, a three-word phrase (the last two words are Latin) that is used to signify the end of regular session -- it means the session has ended and there's no date set to reconvene (hint: look at May 1st on this year's session "Timetable" on the "Legislative Information" page of the Legislature's website)
- 12** Conformity to fact or actuality; it's suggested that when offering testimony it's best to tell the _____ and not exaggerate
- 13** See 8 across
- 15** Statute in draft before it becomes law; Article III Section 14 of the Hawai'i State Constitution states that "No law shall be passed except by _____." Thousands are introduced in Hawai'i each year -- only a fraction become law.
- 16** One of the 25 members who serve a four-year term and meet in the chamber which is decorated in 'sea and sky' colors

Down

- 1** A decking deadline refers to the time by which an amended bill that is to be considered for third reading must be submitted to the _____ of the appropriate chamber.
- 2** Opposite of 'outer'
- 3** The legislature appropriates funds for the executive, legislative and judicial branches; it also appropriates funds for this entity (abbrev.)
- 4** A Governor's _____ is a communication from the Governor to the Legislature; it may convey a departmental report or accompany a bill which has been signed or vetoed, for example.
- 7** The codified general and permanent laws of the State of Hawai'i (abbrev.); many bills attempt to add or change one or more of its sections
- 9** The official chronological record of the proceedings of the Senate and House; certified, indexed, printed and bound at the close of each session (hint: also, the Wall Street _____)
- 10** A place or scene where forces contend or events unfold -- for example, the political _____
- 11** If you're hoping that a certain bill will be scheduled for a hearing in the committee it's been referred to, you're in luck if the member who serves as _____ of the committee is in support of the measure.
- 14** It's a good idea to keep your _____ on bills that you oppose as well as ones you support (hint: homonym of a 'yes' vote)