

General _ Information and FAQs Hawai'i State Legislature

The Legislature

“The Hawai‘i State Legislature is one of the three branches of Hawai‘i’s state government. Its powers are co-equal to those of the executive and judicial branches. The legislative branch makes laws, the executive branch implements and enforces the law, and the judicial branch interprets them.”

capitol.hawaii.gov

Register with the Hawai‘i Legislature

“Additional resources are available for those who choose to register an account with the legislature. As a registered user, you can track your own personalized list of measures, and get e-mail notifications for hearings on specific measures or for specific committees.”

“Registered users can also submit online testimony more easily, since much of the information needed to send testimony through the website – date/time/place of hearing, etc. – will populate automatically by entering a bill/resolution number.”

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When is the Hawai‘i State Legislature in Session?

“The Legislature convenes annually in regular session at 10:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday in January. Regular sessions are limited to 60 legislative days, and state law requires a recess of at least five days between the 20th and 40th days of the regular session. A special session may be convened by the Governor or at the written request of two-thirds of the members of both houses. The Senate may also convene in special session at the written request of two-thirds of its members to consider judicial appointments.”

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What is a standing committee?

“Standing committees are the main working components of the Senate and House and vary in size, number, and subject area. The scope of each Senate and House standing committee is outlined in the respective chambers' rules.”

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What is the difference between a — resolution (SR/HR) and a — concurrent resolution (SCR/HCR)?

“Resolutions express one chamber’s (House or Senate) position or requests action on behalf of one chamber. Concurrent resolutions express the Legislature’s position or request action on behalf of both chambers of the Legislature (House and Senate).”

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Where can I find the list of _ Acts from previous sessions?

“Navigate to the Archives page, select a year,
and look under the heading Reports and
Lists.”

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I'm trying to find information on a bill that was introduced this session, but I don't remember the bill number. What should I do?

“Use the “Keywords” searchbox to find the bill number, then use the “Bill Status/Measure Status” searchbox to access additional information like the referral, hearing notices, committee reports, and all versions of the bill.”

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I am currently signed up to receive hearing notices by email.
— Do I need to re-register every year?

“There is no need to re-register. Your account information will carry over from year to year, however you will need to refresh the committees you sign up for as they change from session to session.”

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