

GET ACTIVE AT THE LEGISLATURE

An occasional email brought to you by the Public Access Room (PAR)

JANUARY 2022

Here We Go! Regular Session is Upon Us



Find the Bills



Ask for a Hearing

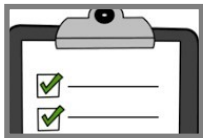


Engage!




Session Staff

Find the Bills That Interest You



To find all the new bills being introduced, click on the "[Reports and Lists](#)" button on the [Legislature's website](#) (capitol.hawaii.gov), and then use the "[House Bills with Action Taken in 2022 Only](#)" and "[Senate Bills with Action Taken in 2022 Only](#)" links. The bills are listed in numerical order so you may have to scroll through the report to get to the 2022 bills — new House bills start with HB1398 and new Senate bills start with SB2001. Browse through the lists and see what ideas are being put forward for consideration this session.

If you want to search through both House and Senate bills for a word (or phrase, using quotation marks) and limit the results to 2022 measures, go to the [homepage](#) and use "Keywords Search" (the second search bar on the left). On your results page, click on the little filter icon , select the "Date" feature, and limit documents to those created in the "Last Month".

Keep note of the bills you find that interest you — you'll want to add them to your "Hearing Notification" and "Measure Tracking" lists. Find videos and instructions on how to do that on [PAR's "Engagement 101"](#) page. For those new to the legislative process who would like a little help deciphering bills, check out our "[Reading Through a Bill and Resolution](#)" (14:11) video on our [YouTube page](#). It helps to demystify things!

Ask for a Hearing



It can sometimes be disappointing to hear from someone who has been patiently waiting to testify, thinking that a hearing is inevitable. By the time they call us about the bill's status, it may be too late! Bills are referred to committees but only get a hearing if they are put on the committee's agenda. Bills may die in committee unless they're moved out by certain deadlines. (Use PAR's "[Which Deadlines Apply to My Bill?](#)" chart to identify pertinent deadlines.) If there's a bill you want to have heard, you may wish to consider making a phone call or sending an email to the chair of the committee it's in! Use the legislature's website and click on the "[Committees](#)" button to find the contact info you need.

Engage!: Resources on PAR's Website



Civic engagement can be challenging, but PAR is here to help! You'll find great resources under the "Engage" tab of [our website](#). On the "[Engagement 101](#)" page, learn how to sign up for hearing notices, create measure tracking lists, and submit testimony. Other pages focus on using the [legislature's website](#) and [advocacy tips](#). As part of your engagement effort, you may want to find individuals or groups who share your position on an issue. It helps to share the workload! Creating good relationships with stakeholders and key legislators will help as session gets underway.

Session Staff: Ashley Kaono



Ashley Kaono is our Assistant Researcher this session. She is from Honolulu and the daughter of a local family. After receiving a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Ashley developed her professional experience working as an AmeriCorps member with Kupu and the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, and as a staffer with both a State representative and a U.S. congresswoman. Ashley is also a graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law where she received a certificate in Native Hawaiian law and worked as a Teaching Assistant in the law school's Scholarly Research Methods course. In her spare time, Ashley enjoys surfing waves of less than three feet. She's a great addition to our team, and we're sure you'll enjoy working with her!

Public Access Room (PAR)
A Division of the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB)
<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par>
415 S. Beretania St., #401, Honolulu, HI 96813
par@capitol.hawaii.gov
(808) 587-0478

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