

From Hawaii to The Hill: Leg 101

Eliza Talbot |
VP, Business Advocacy and
Community Relations



CHAMBER WEEK 2024

Leg 101 Agenda



What are the Chamber's Goals and Objectives?



Overview of Hawaii's Legislative Process



Chamber's Legislative Priorities for 2024



The Importance of Getting Involved



How Can I Get Involved?



Resources

Chamber's Goals and Objectives



Unify the business community as one voice to make a bigger impact



Protect businesses from harmful bills



Promote policies that improve Hawaii's economic competitiveness and build financial resiliency



"The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii will take the lead to create an economic growth strategy for the State of Hawaii that increases our business climate and economic competitiveness over a 5-year period, and beyond,"

- Sherry Menor-McNamara, President and CEO, Chamber of Commerce Hawaii

2024 LEGISLATIVE FOCUS

Build a More Competitive Economy

Upgrade the Business Climate by Increasing Efficiency

Prioritize and Retain Our Local Workforce

Expand Work-based Learning and Workforce Development

For the full Legislative
Agenda & Digest:

SCAN ME



For information on the 2030
Blueprint for Hawaii:

SCAN ME



Hot Issues this Session

- ▶ Maui's Recovery
- ▶ Recreational Marijuana Legalization
- ▶ Mandatory Family/Sick Leave
- ▶ Cost of Living Reduction Strategies
- ▶ Affordable Housing
- ▶ Workforce Development and Retention
- ▶ Expanding Access to Childcare
- ▶ “Green Fee” - charging tourists fee for entering Hawaii

Hawaii State Legislature

- Hawaii State Capital Building is open to the public
- 76 members
- 51 members in the State House
- 25 members in the State Senate
- “Session” begins annually on the third Wednesday in January and lasts until May

FIND YOUR LEGISLATORS



Awai, Brenton (R)

Senate District 23
Kāneʻohe, Kāhalaʻu Ihu Iki, Kāhala
to Makūliʻi, Schofield Barracks, Kūia
Camp

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 303
Phone: 808-586-7330
Fax: 808-586-7334
brentonawai@capitol.hawaii.gov

Chang, Stanley (D)

Senate District 9
Hawaii Kai, Kuliʻouʻou, Kū, ʻĀina Haina,
Waialae-Kāhala, Diamond Head,
Kaimukī, Kāhala

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 236
Phone: 808-586-0420
Fax: 808-586-0426
stanchang@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dela Cruz, Donovan M. (D)

Senate District 17
Portion of Milani, Milani Mauka,
portion of Waipio Acres, Lanuhani
Valley, Waiʻanae, Whitmore Village

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 200
Phone: 808-586-6090
Fax: 808-586-6090
donaldcruz@capitol.hawaii.gov

Elefante, Brandon J.C. (D)

Senate District 10
ʻĀiea, ʻĀiea Heights, Hāloa,
Pearridge, Newtown, Royal Summit,
Waimānalo, Waiʻanae, Māhala, Pacific
Palisades, and Pearl City

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 217
Phone: 808-586-6230
Fax: 808-586-6231
banellefante@capitol.hawaii.gov

Fovellia, Kurt (R)

Senate District 20
Twa Beach, Ocean Pointe, Twa by
Gentry, Inaʻala Point, portion of Twa
Villages

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 238
Phone: 808-586-6360
Fax: 808-586-6361
kurtfovellia@capitol.hawaii.gov

Fukunaga, Carol (D)

Senate District 11
Mānoa, Mānoa/Punchbowl, Tantalus
and Papakūia

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 216
Phone: 808-586-6460
Fax: 808-586-6461
carolfukunaga@capitol.hawaii.gov

Gabbard, Mike (D)

Senate District 21
Kapolei, Māhala, Kāhala, portions
of Fernandez Village, and Twa

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 201
Phone: 808-586-6030
Fax: 808-586-6039
mikegabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov

Hashimoto, Troy N. (D)

Assistant Majority Whip

Ihara, Jr, Les (D)

Majority Policy Leader

Inouye, Lorraine R. (D)

Majority Whip



Hawaii State Legislature

= two chambers

Senate

State Senators (25)

4-year terms

House of Representatives

**State Representatives
(51)**

2-year terms

re•sources

/ˈrē,sôrs,rə'sôrs/

noun

plural noun: **resources**

provide (a person or organization) with materials, money, staff, and other assets necessary for effective operation.



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Reference
Bureau

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State of Hawaii | LRB Public Access Room


PAR provides the public with information, facilities, and services to assist them as they engage and participate in the State legislative process.


State Capitol Room 401
415 S. Beretania St
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 587-0478

Hours
Session: M-F 8am – 5pm
Interim: M-F 8am – 4:30pm

Note: The capitol entrances are open from 7am – 5pm; an ID is required for entry

<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/>


 capitol.hawaii.gov

**Hawai'i State Legislature**
Ka 'Aha'olelo Moku'āina 'O Hawai'i

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Aloha!


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leg·is·la·tion

/,lejə'slāSHən/

noun

1.laws, considered collectively.



Anatomy of a Bill

- 1. Bill Number
- 2. Title - “A Bill for an Act Relating to...”
- 3. Bill Sections
- 4. Second to Last Section
- 5. Last Section - Effective Date

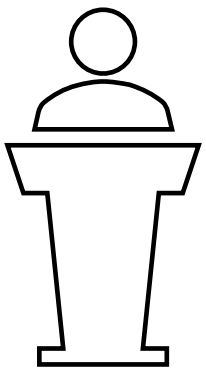
SECTION 1. Section 235-102.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

(text here)

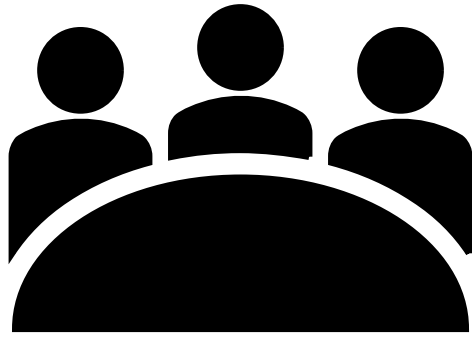
SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.



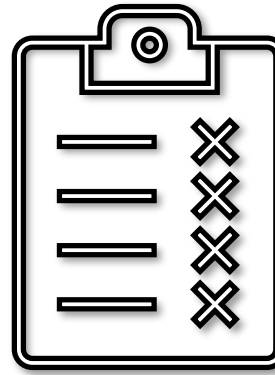
Chamber of Commerce HAWAII



Introduced by a
Legislator



Pass All the Committees It
Is Referred To



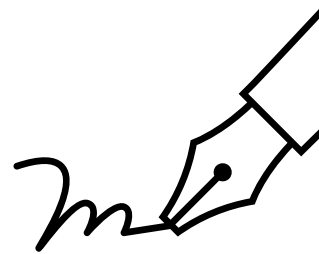
Pass Three Votes
("Readings") in Both the
House and Senate Chambers



How a Bill Becomes A Law

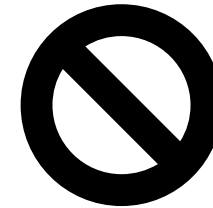


Have the Senate and House
Agree On The Exact Wording



Be signed or
allowed to
become law or
vetoed by the
Governor

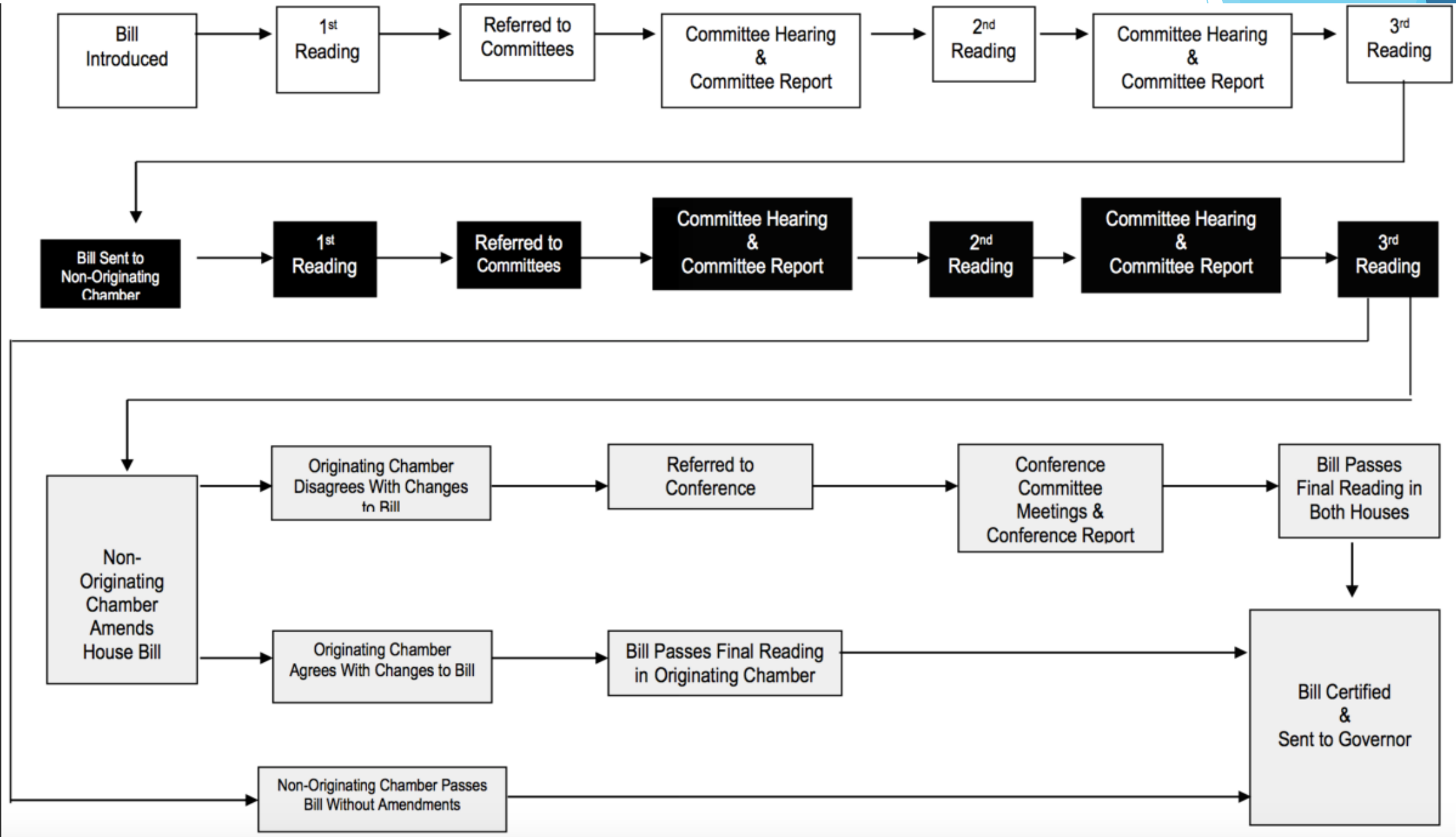
OR



Senate and House
successfully
override the
Governor's veto

Committees & the Public Hearing Process

Life of a Bill



ad·vo·ca·cy

/ˈadvəkəsē/

noun

1. public support for or
recommendation of a particular
cause or policy.

Advocate for your bill!

- Submit Testimony - written or oral (in-person or remote)
- Offer your view on why the bill should become law (or shouldn't)
- Submit written testimony by the deadline
- Get others to testify, too

Testimony Essentials

- ▶ Bill number
- ▶ Your name
- ▶ Are you **for** or **against** the bill?
- ▶ Offering changes/comments?
- ▶ Why?
- ▶ Your name and contact info

Search

How to use the Searchboxes

Bill Status/Measure Status

e.g. SB123 or HB456

Go

*Searches Regular Session

Keyword Search

searches 2022 session

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Hawaii Revised Statutes

searches 2021 HRS

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searches 1959-2021 acts

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The State Capitol building remains closed.

• Remote Testimony Instructions **NEW**

• 2022 Legislative Timetable

• 2022 Grant-In-Aid

• Senate Special Committee on State of Hawaii Procurement

• Senate Special Committee on COVID-19

• House Select Committee on COVID-19 Economic and Financial Preparedness

• 2022 Senate Leadership and Committee Assignments

• 2022 House Leadership and Committee Assignments

• 2022 House and Senate Directory

• 2022 Senate Committee Hearing Schedule

• 2022 House Committee Hearing Schedule

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House

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Order of the Day



Live Demos



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

Use the web form to submit testimony...



Testimony

*And to request the opportunity to provide
remote oral testimony via Zoom*

Remote Testimony Tips

- ✓ **Keep "chat" panel open** -- this is how legislative staff will communicate with you.
- ✓ Mute your microphone and keep your video stopped, unless it is your turn to testify.
- ✓ When the Chair calls on you, unmute your microphone,
- ✓ If you do not respond you may not be able to testify.
- ✓ Members can ask questions of testifiers

Oral Testimony Tips

- ▶ “Aloha Chair ____, Vice Chair ____ and members of the committee mahalo for the opportunity to testify today...” is a great way to start.
- ▶ Short and simple (may be a time limit)
 - ▶ Introduce yourself and the group or organization (if any) you represent.
 - ▶ Clearly state your position - in favor? Opposed? Alternatives?
 - ▶ Be courteous, respectful, and professional

Remember...

- ✓ You don't have to be an expert
- ✓ Stories are great
- ✓ Use your own words
- ✓ Keep it short

If you don't know and answer, tell them
you will find out AND get back to them

Why Get Involved

- ▶ Strength in numbers
- ▶ Make a difference
- ▶ Become a trusted expert

“A lot of us don’t have familiarity in every area we might have to vote on or have to work on so you need that perspective from the people that will be impacted by the legislation.”

- Rosalyn Baker, State Senator and Chair of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee.

Decision Making



After the committee receives testimony on all bills on the hearing notice, they recess for decision-making



During the decision-making process, the chair and members discuss how they want to proceed



The chair will gavel the hearing back to order and make recommendations on what to do with the pending legislation

The Committee may....

- Vote to **pass the bill without changes** (unamended or “as is”)
- Vote to **pass the bill with changes** (amended)
- **Not a vote! Defer or hold** the bill
 - If they don't set a date for decision making, it may not get voted on at all (it will then die in committee)

The bill is given a **new draft number...**
It keeps the **same bill number**
(SB1, for example), but
a new draft number is added to it

SB1 SD2 HD2

Measure Title: RELATING TO STATE RECOGNITION OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN PEOPLE'S RIGHTS TO HEALTH, EDUCATION, WELFARE, HERITAGE, AND CULTURE.

Report Title: Native Hawaiians; Qualified Native Hawaiian Roll; Appropriation

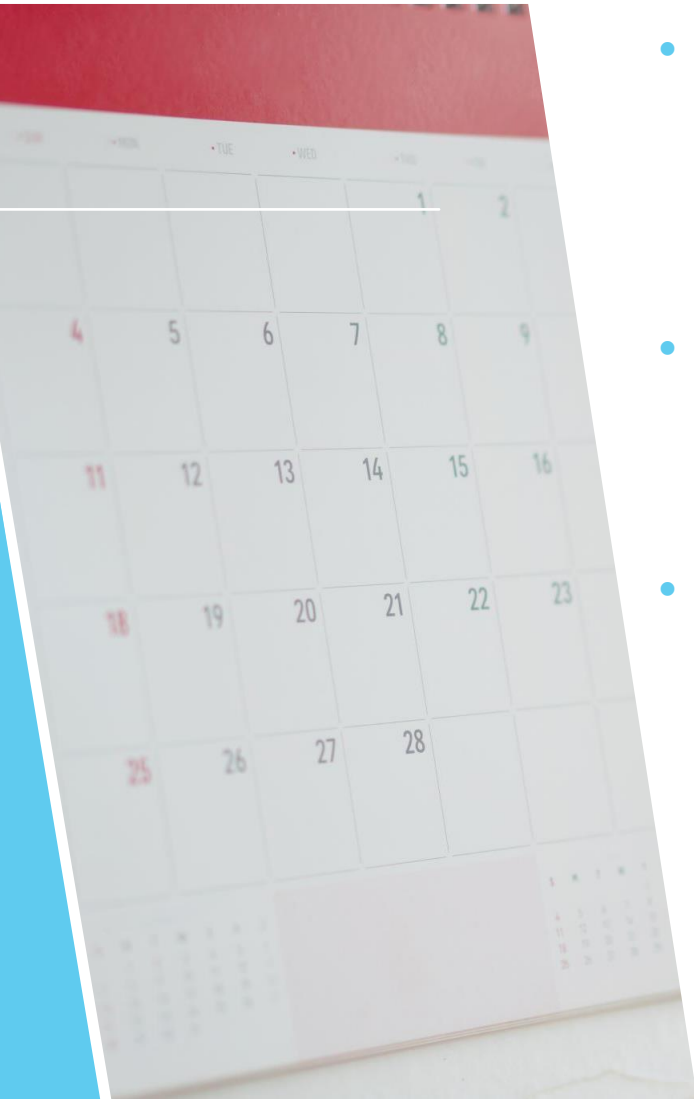
<p>Description:</p>	<p>Establishes a commission to prepare and maintain a roll of qualified to publish the roll for the purpose of organizing a convention of qu governor to dissolve the commission after the commission publishe unspecified funds. Effective January 7, 2059. (SB1 HD2)</p>
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Deadlines to Watch

- **Triple Referral Filing (Bills)** - All bills referred to three or more committees must have their first committee file their committee report so that they can be in their second-to-last committee by the following day
- **First Lateral Deadline** - All bills referred to more than one committee must move to their final committee in the originating chamber by this day
- **First Decking** - Deadline for bills to emerge from all committees (with committee reports filed) and be submitted to the clerk of the originating chamber.



Second Reading

- If a bill is reported out of its first committee, it goes to the floor - either for Second Reading (its second vote before the entire chamber) OR to have its committee report accepted and to be sent on to its next committee
- It's not set in stone as to when Second Reading occurs

If your bill moves forward, DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN

- ▶ Ask to have your bill heard at the **next** committee
- ▶ Offer testimony at the next committee
- ▶ AND REPEAT AS NECESSARY

Third Reading

- Once the bill is heard by all of its committees, the bill is back on the floor for the last of the three required votes for the bill to move through the chamber

First Crossover

House bills go through the Senate
Senate bills go through the House

- Note that the deadlines for the bills in their non-originating chamber are labeled as “Second”
 - Second Lateral, Second Decking, and Second Crossover

Second Crossover

- If a bill passes the non-originating chamber WITHOUT changes, it goes back to its originating chamber and is transmitted from there to the Governor
- If AMENDED by the non-originating chamber, it goes back to the originating chamber where that chamber will have an opportunity to either approve of the amendments or disagree with the changes

Conference Committees

- Members meet to resolve disagreements about surviving bills by the Final Decking deadlines
- If they reach an agreement on the final version of the bill, they will publish a Conference Draft version
- Bill goes before the full House and Senate for one last vote

Governor's Office

- ▶ Signs the bill = becomes law
- ▶ Vetoes the bill = dead unless Legislature overrides the veto by 2/3 vote in each chamber
- ▶ Governor neither signs nor vetoes = becomes law without signature

Enacted Bills

- Once a bill becomes enacted, it becomes an Act of law with a number
- Permanent laws end up in the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS)

Biennium 2024

- When a bill dies during session, in the first year of the two-year biennium (2023), the bills carry over to the second year when they can be acted upon.
- They can be revived from right where they were at the close of the first year's session
- At the end of the second year (2024) all bills that haven't passed out of the legislature are dead
- We then have new elections, and a brand-new biennium starts up in the odd-numbered year

JOIN the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii Policy Committees to receive:

- Legislative Updates
- Action Alerts
- Sample Testimonies
- Experienced Advice
- Power in Numbers

BUSINESS ADVOCACY TEAM



Sherry Menor-McNamara
President & CEO



Eliza Talbot
Vice President, Business Advocacy &
Community Relations



Nadia Garcia
Manager, Government Relations

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Relations**
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Nadia Garcia, Manager Government Affairs
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**THE QUEEN'S
HEALTH SYSTEMS**

Mahalo!

Island Plastic Bags 



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

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