

# Capitol Connection

Issue 9

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**W**e are down to the final stages of the legislative process. Both houses are now in the process of scheduling Conference Committee meetings to work on the final language of amended bills.

Please visit *Rainbow Connection* ([www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov)) for Conference Committee notices. And if you have any questions regarding a particular bill, please contact the committee chair.

If you have any questions or comments on this issue of *Capitol Connection*, please feel free to send me an email at [sendige@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sendige@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Sincerely,

*David Ige*

David Y. Ige  
State Senator  
17th District

## The Ins and Outs of Conference

Second Crossover has come and gone and many bills have been received back from the non-originating body in an amended form. Thus begins a very exciting, fast-paced time at the State Capitol.

After bills are returned from the non-originating body, the originating body will review any amendments made and can choose to agree or disagree with the amendments.

For example, the House transmits House Bill 1001 (HB1001) to the Senate for consideration. The Senate makes amendments to HB1001 and returns it to the House. Then the House reviews the Senate's amendments and can choose to agree or disagree with the changes. Should there be a disagreement to the amendments, the measure will be referred to a Conference Committee which is made up of appointed members from both the House and Senate. This committee will schedule public meetings where conferees will attempt to reach an agreement on the final language of a bill before the final decking deadline which falls on Thursday, April 25th for non-fiscal bills and Friday, April 26th for fiscal bills.

There are three possible outcomes for bills which are sent to Conference:

1. No agreement is reached and a bill remains in Conference and will not be reported out for final reading;
2. Objections to a bill are withdrawn and the bill passes final reading in the originating chamber and is transmitted to the Governor for signature; or
3. Amendments to a bill are agreed upon and the originating body generates a Conference Committee report and final amended version of the bill known as a Conference draft, for both bodies to vote on.

Prior to the start of Conference, the Senate and House jointly agree to special Conference Committee procedures, including clarification of the scope and authority of a Conference Committee, requirements for posting meeting notices and open decision making, and deadlines for concluding negotiations and filing Conference Committee reports.

Although Conference Committee meetings are open to the public, no public testimony is accepted at this point. Initial public notice must be given at least 24 hours prior to the first meeting and Conference Committee deliberations can take place only between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 midnight.



**2002 House-Senate  
Conference Committee  
Meeting Room Schedule**

<u>House</u>	<u>Senate</u>	<u>Room</u>
CPC, HSH	CPH	016
TAC, PSM	TIA	212
TRN, LMG	TMG	224
LAB	LBR	225
HLT, HSH	HHS	229
FIN, LMG	WAM	309
EEP, WLU	WLE	312
JHA, PSM	JDC, HAW	325
EDN, HED	EDU	329
EDB, AGR	EDT	423

**Digital Media Update**

Sustaining a viable film industry is part of our continuing efforts to help diversify the State's economy and establish Hawaii as a place to do business.

**SB3021 SD2 HD1** expands the tax credit for motion picture and film production to include up to an unspecified amount of the costs of wages and salaries, capped at \$25,000 per employee; includes commercials in motion picture and film production. Conferees have been assigned but no meeting date has been set.

**HB2576 HD 1 SD2** clarifies the application of certain high technology tax incentives; allows high technology development corporations to use federal funds and enter into undertakings with agencies of the federal government; and to agree to lawful donor conditions where funds are donated. HB2576 HD1 SD2 is scheduled for Conference Committee meeting on Wednesday, 04-17-02 at 3:30 pm in room 423.

**Education Update**

Public education is the most important function of government and numerous bills have been introduced to improve our public school system.

**SB2067 SD2 HD1** repeals the HOPE endowment special fund and transfers the remaining balance to the University of Hawaii tuition and fees special fund to be used for programs to support underrepresented students and promote diversity. Conferees have been assigned to SB2067 SD2 HD1 but no meeting date has been set.

**HB2164 HD2 SD2** amends provisions relating to the Hawaii educator loan program and the Hawaii educator loan program special fund to clarify provisions and support teacher education and retention. Conference Committee meeting for HB2164 HD2 SD2 to reconvene on Thursday, 04-18-02 at 1:30 pm in room 329.

**HB2172 HD1 SD2** appropriates funds for agricultural research and development and for the development of the agribusiness incubator initiative. Conferees have been assigned to HB2172 HD1 SD2 but no meeting date has been set.

**HB2235 HD2 SD1** creates the Pacific Center for Ecosystem Science and appropriates funds. Conference Committee meeting for HB2172 HD1 SD2 to reconvene on, Thursday, 04-18-02 at 1:30 pm in room 329.

**HB2558 HD1 SD2** creates an incentive for students to become teachers and to ensure that these graduates teach in our public schools by providing tuition reimbursements over a period of years if a graduate teaches in a public school. Conference Committee meeting for HB2558 HD1 SD2 to reconvene on Thursday, 04-18-02 at 1:30 pm in room 329.

**SB2816 SD2 HD1** creates a tuition reimbursement program for a person who completes a state-approved teacher education program in Hawaii and who teaches in the Hawaii public school system for a minimum of 6 consecutive years. Conference Committee meeting for SB2816 SD2 HD1 to reconvene on Thursday, 04-18-02 at 1:30 pm in room 329.

**SB3018 SD1 HD1** implements decentralization of education governance and management to the school-community level and other aspects of full education reform. SB3018 SD1 HD1 is scheduled for Conference Committee meeting on Wednesday, 04-17-02 at 3:30 pm in room 329.

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published and distributed by:**

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