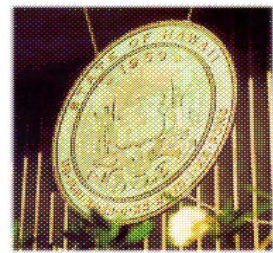


# Capitol Connection

Issue 7

April 17, 2003



This issue of Capitol Connection is about Conference Committees. New procedures and new meeting room schedules are in place as conference occurs. Both items are posted online under "Conference" at: [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov)

Conference Committee deliberations happen towards the end of the legislative session and gives senators and representatives the opportunity to reach agreement on a bill or to iron out their differences in order to produce a conference draft.

Sincerely,

*David Ige*

David Y. Ige  
State Senator  
16th District

## Shedding Light on Conference

The "third" half of the legislative session is underway: the convening of Conference Committees to resolve differences between the House and the Senate on numerous bills.

Up to a few years ago, the work of Conference Committees often was shrouded in mystery, resulting in more than a few late-night surprises moments before the midnight deadline for decking Conference reports. That's all changed; Conference Committee meetings are now announced in advance, open to the public, and on the record.

No longer can Conference Committee chairs strip a bill and insert totally new language on an unrelated issue, or combine two or more bills into one. No more meeting in the wee hours of the morning, as deliberations can take place only between 8:00 a.m. and 12 midnight. And all decision making must be done by 6:00 p.m. on deadline days, which are April 24 for non-fiscal bills, and April 25 for fiscal bills.

So even if negotiations among Conference Committee members get complicated, the procedures they must follow are simple and straightforward. When versions of a bill differ between the House and the Senate, Conference Committee members are appointed from both Houses. They schedule public meetings and attempt to agree on the final language of a bill before the April 24 and 25 deadlines.

If Committee members cannot agree, the bill remains in Conference, and is not reported out for final reading. If the members from the House where the bill originated withdraw their objections to changes made by the other House, then the bill comes up for final reading in the originating House. Or, if Committee members agree on new language, called a Conference Draft, it goes to both Houses for a final vote.

A fourth alternative recently surfaced: one House simply refused to appoint members to serve on a Conference Committee. Without representatives from one body, a Committee can't be formed, and that effectively kills the bill in question.

The first Conference Committee of this legislative session is tackling the budget, and began meeting on April 15. As differences on other bills are formalized, additional Conference Committees will be appointed, and notices of their meetings will be issued.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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As of April 16th, the following SAT bills are headed for Conference:  
**SB 426 SD1 HD1 (RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)**  
 Extends the authority of the Hawaii community development authority to issue special facility revenue bonds to the fiscal biennium 2003-2005 for construction of an ocean science center in Kakaako; increases special facility revenue bond authorization to \$40,000,000; amends definition of "special facility".

Senate Managers: Ige, Taniguchi, Inouye, Kim, Co-Chairs; Espero, and Trimble.

House Managers: Schatz, Wakai Co-Chairs; Waters, and Leong.

**SB 1334 HD1 (RELATING TO THE STATE INTERNET PORTAL)**  
 Extends the repeal date of the temporary Access Hawaii Committee to June 30, 2005.

Senate Managers: Ige, Chair; Aduja, and Hemmings.

House Managers: Magaoay Chair; Nishimoto, Waters, and Meyer.

**HB 1532 HD2 SD2 (MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY)** Appropriates funds for the annual celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Senate Managers: Ige, Chair; Taniguchi, Co-Chair(s); Aduja, Kokubun, and Hemmings.

House Managers: Chang, Karamatsu Co-Chairs; Tamayo, and Leong.

### 2003 Legislative Session Conference Committee Room Schedule

Conference room assignments for 2003 House-Senate Conference Committee meetings are as follows:

<u>House Committee(s)</u>	<u>Senate Committee(s)</u>	<u>Conference Room</u>
CPC, HSH	CPH	016
EEP	ENE	212
TRN, PSM, LMG, INT	TMG	224
LAB	LBR	225
HLT, HSH	HTH, HMS	229
FIN, LMG	WAM	309
WLH, AGR	WLA	312
JUD, PSM, WLH	JHW	325
EDN, HED	EDU	329
EDB, WLH, TAC	ECD, SAT, TSM	423

## Community Corner

Congratulations to 51st Cherry Blossom Festival Queen Heather Asako Suehiro and her court: Miss Congeniality Ayja Ai Nakasone, Princess Stacie Sumie Sato, Princess Lyndsey Mieko Alohalani Haraguchi, Princess Lisa Chiemi Kitagawa, Princess Alana Alissa Yoshiko Anderson, and Miss Popularity Kristin Michele Ross.

Heather, a University of Hawaii graduate, is the daughter of James and Karen Suehiro of Pearl City. She is currently a teacher at Waimalu Elementary School.



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