

Capitol Connection

Issue 4

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Aloha! We are quickly approaching the **first lateral** deadline on **February 20th, 2004**. At this point all bills must be in the final committee of their referral.

After first lateral, the next major legislative milestone is **First Decking** on **March 5th, 2004**. At this point, committee reports and amendments to bills must be filed at the Clerk's office. If this is not done, bills will not receive further consideration for the session.

I wish you well and please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Y. Ige".

David Y. Ige
State Senator
16th District

Standing Committees

Much of the Senate's work is distributed through designated standing committees that oversee certain specified areas. Examples of these committees include the Senate Science, Art, and Technology Committee (SAT), the Senate Ways and Means Committee, and the Senate Economic Development Committee. After bills are introduced, the leadership of the Senate refers bills to one or more committees. Bills may also be referred to joint committees, where two or more committees meet jointly at one public hearing. The House has a similar committee system.

If the committee chair wishes to hear a bill, a public hearing notice is distributed. This allows interested parties, which could include state agencies, county departments, private organizations, and individual citizens the chance to prepare testimony supporting or opposing the bill.

At the public hearing, people have the chance to elaborate on their written testimony and address questions posed by the committee members. The committee may hold decision making, in which case they can pass a bill as it is, pass it with amendments, or hold the bill in committee, which essentially kills the bill. If a bill is passed, it goes on to the next committee in its referral, or if it is leaving the last committee it was referred to, the bill goes to the entire Senate for a floor vote.

If the committee is unable to hold decision making or wishes to hold decision making later, bills can also be deferred to a later date, when another hearing with decision making will take place, or deferred indefinitely if the date of the next hearing is not known. A committee may be unable to hold decision making if a quorum (a majority of the members of that committee) is not present. To pass a motion in a hearing the committee needs a majority of the quorum.

In addition, some hearings are televised on `Olelo to reach a wider public audience. If you are interested in finding out more information on the committee system in the legislature, please visit the legislature's website at

www.capitol.hawaii.gov.



SAT Chair David Ige and Vice-Chair Melodie Aduja

SAT Committee Update (2/7-2/18)

The Senate SAT Committee has held many hearings by itself and jointly with other committees. Some bills being passed out of the SAT committee are:

SB 2264 — Provides funds to establish a distance learning program for a masters degree in social work at the University of Hawaii. Passed with amendments by Education/SAT. The next committee in its referral is Ways and Means (WAM).

SB 2139 — Establishes and appropriates funds for the museum of Hawaiian Music and Dance. Passed with amendments by SAT/Tourism. The next committee in its referral is WAM.

SB 2377 — Amends the definition of “record” to include digital recordings for the purposes of privacy violations. Passed with amendments by SAT. The next committee in its referral is Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs (JHW).

SB 2902 — Specifies that a violation of federal Do-Not-Call provisions relating to telemarketing constitutes an unfair or deceptive trade practice under Hawaii law. Passed with amendments by SAT. The next committee in its referral is Commerce Consumer Protection & Housing (CPH).

SB2912 — Authorizes the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to provide additional funding to support public, educational, and governmental cable television access in underserved areas. Passed with amendments by SAT/CPH. The next committee in its referral is WAM.

Decision making for a number of other important bills, such as bills regarding venture capitalism, film production, digital media, and amending Act 221, will occur on Thursday, February 19th.

Community Corner

The State Department of Transportation (DOT) will start work this spring to widen the H-1 Freeway along the Waimalu viaduct in the Ewa-bound direction. Neighborhoods in the vicinity of the H-1 Waimalu Viaduct can expect detours and restricted traffic flows as the construction progresses.

Residents in other areas of Aiea, Pearl City, and Central and Leeward Oahu will also be affected by H-1 lane closures during non-peak hours, late evenings, and early mornings. H-1 Ewa-bound lanes may also be closed during the weekends, along with periodic lane closures of H-1 Honolulu-bound lanes.

The Department of Transportation is holding a meeting for residents living in the Waimalu area to discuss construction plans and to hear residents' concerns. I encourage you to attend if you will be affected by the construction. The meeting will be on Wednesday, February 25th from 6 P.M. to 9 P.M. at Waimalu Elementary School. For more information, please see DOT's notice on my website or call DOT at 587-2160.

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published and distributed by:**

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If you have questions or comments,
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