



THE 32nd LEGISLATURE
State of Hawaii

April 15, 2024

2024 BUDGET BILL Conference Committee Procedures
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
House Committee on Finance

BUDGET BILL CONFERENCE GROUND RULES

1. **Formal Meetings.** Meetings are to be held in Conference Room 309 of the State Capitol and shall be open to the public. Conference Committee deliberations shall take place only between Monday through Friday and the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.
2. **Conference Discussion.** Only the respective Conference Chairs and Conferees may speak during conference. All Conferees must be recognized by their respective Chair(s) before speaking on any issue. Resource persons may be consulted but shall not be allowed to speak during the conference.
3. **Continuous Meetings.** Once the formal meeting begins, the Conference Committee shall meet until all conference matters are resolved, subject to recesses upon mutual consent of the Conference Chairs.
4. **Conference Decisions.** All operating and capital budget adjustment and proviso decisions shall be mutually agreed upon, publicly announced, and adhered to by both House and Senate Conferees. No unilateral decisions shall be made.
5. **Budget Adjustments and Provisos.** All identical budget adjustments and provisos contained in the House and Senate drafts shall be initially accepted, except that amendments to these items may be made upon the mutual agreement of the Conference Chairs. All dissimilar operating budget adjustments and provisos shall be resolved and publicly announced on the merit of each item as determined by the Conference Chairs. Adjustments that are not resolved shall not be included in the conference draft.
6. **Additional Changes.** All revisions, corrections, or other changes proposed shall not be considered by the conferees unless approved by the Conference Chairs.
7. **Governor's Messages.** All Governor's Message items not included in either the House draft or Senate draft of the budget shall be considered disagree items and resolved on the merit of each item as determined by the Conference Chairs. Adjustments that are not resolved shall not be included in the conference draft.

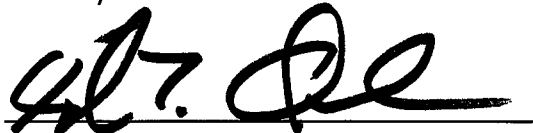
8. Program and Special Provisions. No provision shall be included in the conference draft unless agreed to by both Conference Chairs.
9. Specific Bills. Final decisions on other conference bills which appropriate funds or otherwise impact on revenue collections shall not be made without the approval of the Conference Chairs.
10. Conference Bills. The final form of all bills in Conference committee, including the Executive, Judiciary, and Office of Hawaiian Affairs budgets, as well as all accompanying committee reports, shall be prepared by the house which originated the bill after review, input, and prior concurrence of the Conference Chairs.

Upon the conclusion of negotiations of the budgets for the executive branch, judiciary, and Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the House Committee on Finance shall jointly publish budget comparison worksheets detailing the final agreements until such time as the details can be formatted and published into their final form.

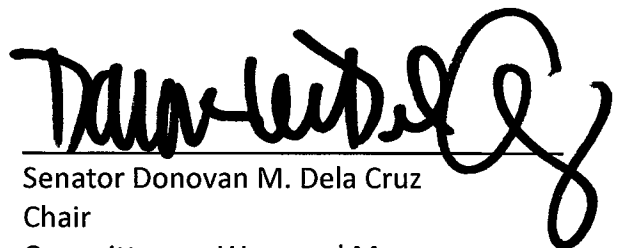
The staffs of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the House Committee on Finance will jointly calculate and confirm the final appropriations to be included in the conference drafts of the Executive, Judiciary, and Office of Hawaiian Affairs budgets. This joint effort will include all operating and capital investment appropriations, purchase of service, grants-in-aid, subsidies, and provisos exclusive of style changes.

Upon completion of calculating the conference draft appropriations, the House Committee on Finance, with the prior concurrence of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, shall commence the preparation of the budget bills and committee reports. The final review of the report and the bill, and the obtaining of signatures, shall be done simultaneously.

11. The above stated rules are to be strictly adhered to unless mutually agreed upon by both Conference Chairs.



Representative Kyle T. Yamashita
Chair
Committee on Finance



Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Chair
Committee on Ways and Means