

**24th STATE LEGISLATURE
JOINT SENATE-HOUSE
2008 COMMITTEES ON CONFERENCE PROCEDURES**

April 2, 2008

The Senate and the House have agreed to the following special procedures for all 2008 Regular Session Committees on Conference meetings. Within these procedures:

“Chairs” refers to all of the designated co-chairs of a Conference Committee.

“Conference Committee” refers to the conference of the House Committee and the Senate Committee assigned by their respective chamber to resolve the differences between the House and the Senate over a particular bill or resolution.

“Lead committee staff” refers to the staff of the lead Chair from the chamber from which the measure in conference originated.

“Managers” refers to all members of the House and Senate assigned to a Conference Committee.

1. **Conference Committee Scope and Amendments**

The authority of the Conference Committee shall be limited to resolving differences between the Senate and House drafts of a bill or resolution. Accordingly:

- a. With the exception of the Executive Budget, the Judiciary Budget, and the Budget of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a Conference Committee shall not amend a bill or resolution by inserting into the bill or resolution any unrelated or new subject matter.
- b. To assure the integrity of individual bills, the merging of two or more distinct but related bills into one encompassing bill shall not be allowed.

2. **Conference Committee Meeting Times**

Conference Committee deliberations shall take place only between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 midnight.

3. **Initial Public Meeting Notice**

The signatures of the chairs shall be obtained before the notice of an initial meeting is posted or distributed. Prior to offering the initial meeting notice for signatures, the chairs shall consult with one another on the information to be included in the notice.

Chairs shall provide at least 24 hours public notice of the first meeting of the Conference Committee, and are strongly encouraged to provide more than 24 hours notice if at all possible. Written notices shall be submitted to the Senate Chief Clerk and the House Sergeant-at-Arms for official postings. The lead committee staff shall post adjacent to the door of the assigned conference room at the time of the meeting.

4. **Notice of Subsequent Meetings**

- a. If agreement is not reached at a duly noticed meeting, but the majority of chairs of their respective chamber agree to meet again before midnight on the same day, the chairs shall announce the time and place at which the Conference Committee will reconvene. Written notice of the reconvening of the Conference Committee on the same day is not required to be distributed. However, written notice containing information on the subsequent meeting must be submitted to the Senate Chief Clerk and the House Sergeant-at-Arms for official posting as soon as possible. The lead committee staff shall post adjacent to the door of the assigned conference room at the time of the meeting.
- b. If agreement is not reached at a duly noticed meeting and the majority of chairs of their respective chamber agree to meet on another day, the chairs shall publicly announce the date(s), time(s), and place of the subsequent meeting(s), and submit copies of the written notice to the Senate Chief Clerk and the House Sergeant-at-Arms for official posting. The lead committee staff shall post adjacent to the door of the assigned conference room at the time of the meeting.
- c. If agreement is not reached at a duly noticed meeting and the date(s), time(s), and place of future meetings are not publicly announced at that noticed meeting, chairs must ensure that written notice, signed by the lead chairs of their respective chamber, is submitted to the Senate Chief Clerk and the House Sergeant-at-Arms for official posting at least 24 hours in advance of the next meeting of the Conference Committee.

5. **Conference Room Notice**

Notices of Conference Committee meetings shall be posted by the lead committee staff adjacent to the door of the assigned conference room at the time of the meeting.

6. **Attendance at Meetings**

Except as otherwise provided in these Conference Committee Procedures, attendance requirements shall be established by the respective chamber.

7. **Conference Discussion**

Except as authorized by the respective chairs, only the respective chairs may speak during conference. All other managers or other authorized persons must be recognized by their respective chairs before speaking on any issue.

8. **Decorum in Conference Committee Meeting and Courtesy to the Public and to the Managers**

- a. Managers shall respect the differing views of other managers and conduct themselves in a courteous manner.
- b. Chairs shall ensure that meetings convene and reconvene at scheduled times. If none of the chairs of one of the Committees are present within 15 minutes of the scheduled meeting time, the chairs of the other Committee in Conference shall have the names of the absent chairs paged through the State Capitol public address system. If none of the absent chairs are present within 30 minutes of the scheduled meeting time, the chairs present shall inform the members of the public present that the Conference Committee cannot be reconvened, and that, pursuant to 4c of these Conference Committee Procedures, 24-hour notification will be provided for a subsequent meeting of the Conference Committee.

9. **Decision-Making Meeting**

The decision-making meeting of a Conference Committee shall comply with the following open meeting provisions:

- a. A quorum of the Conference Committee shall be present for the decision-making meeting. A quorum shall be a majority of the House Committee managers and a majority of the Senate Committee managers and shall include a majority of the chairs of the Conference Committee for their respective chamber.

- b. To report a measure out of Conference Committee in amended form (CD), a majority of the quorum of managers for each respective chamber must vote in favor of the proposed amendments, provided that no Conference Committee Report concerning a measure with fiscal implications shall be reported out of a Conference Committee without the signatures of the chairs (or their designee) of the fiscal committees of each chamber.
- c. The lead chair (or the lead chair's designee) representing their respective chamber shall call the roll and be the recorder of the quorum and the votes on that measure for that chamber. (Draft sample attached).
- d. If, after naming a Conference Committee on a measure, the Conference Committee managers representing the chamber from which a measure originated agree to the amendments made by the non-initiating chamber, only a quorum of those representing the originating chamber shall vote on the agreement at a duly noticed meeting. For example, if after naming a Conference Committee on a House measure, the House managers of the Conference Committee decide to agree to the amendments in the Senate draft (SD) of the measure, then only the House managers of the Conference Committee will vote on the measure, returning it to the House in its SD form. For such action, only a quorum of the Conference Committee managers representing the chamber from which the measure originated need to be present. The "Record of Votes of a Conference Committee" sheet detailing the votes of the managers of the originating chamber shall be filed with the appropriate chamber without a Conference Committee Report.

10. **Conference Committee Reports**

- a. A majority of the House and Senate chairs, respectively, of a Conference Committee shall attest to the action of the Conference Committee by signing the Conference Committee Report on behalf of their respective managers. The "Record of Votes of a Conference Committee" sheet detailing the votes of the managers of the Conference Committee shall be attached to the report as a part thereof.
- b. All House measures reported out of Conference Committee shall be filed with the House Chief Clerk and likewise all Senate measures shall be filed with the Senate Chief Clerk. A document filed in the originating chamber shall be deemed simultaneously filed in the other chamber. Only the original Conference Committee Report and the Conference Draft of the measure shall be required for filing.

11. **Decision-making Deadlines**

On the deadline nights for Final Decking of both non-fiscal and fiscal bills:

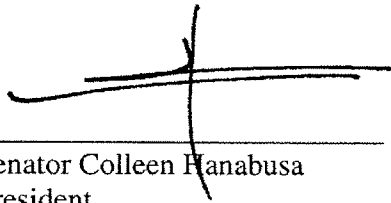
- a. Conference Committees shall conclude their negotiations by 6:00 p.m. to allow adequate time for final preparation of the bills and Conference Committee Reports.
- b. To provide all chairs with ample opportunity to review and sign the Conference Committee Reports before filing, all Conference Committee Reports shall be available for review and signature by 9:00 p.m.
- c. All Conference Committee Reports and Conference Drafts of measures shall be filed with the respective Chief Clerk by 11:30 p.m.

12. **Electronic Transfer**

Should a Conference Committee for which the vehicle is a Senate bill decide to use a proposal drafted by the House, the House Chair shall have the House proposal electronically transferred to the appropriate Senate office so that the Conference Draft can be prepared. The converse shall apply to House bills with proposals drafted by the Senate that the Conference Committee agrees to.

13. **Exceptions to these Procedures**

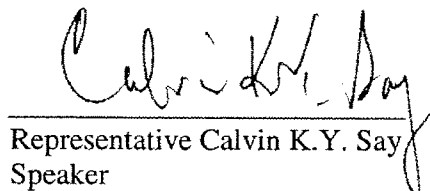
Exceptions to these deadlines and other procedures may be made only with the advance written approval of both the Senate President and the House Speaker.



Senator Colleen Hanabusa
President

4/2/08

Date



Representative Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker

4/2/08

Date