



Representative Calvin K.Y. Say

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

St. Louis Heights * Palolo Valley * Maunalani Heights * Wilhelmina Rise * Kaimuki
20th Representative District



Neighborhood
 Report
 March 2012

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Exploring Resolutions

During Session, we talk a lot about bills, but what about resolutions? Legislators introduce and hold hearings on resolutions as well as bills. Although resolutions don't become law, they **do** express the sentiment of the Legislature and may prove vital in moving your issue forward.

Resolutions may range from establishing an honorary designation for a day or perhaps a month, to requesting the formation of a task force or calling for a study of a particular issue. When a bill dies, a legislator may convert some aspect of the bill to a resolution. The deadline to introduce resolutions this year is March 14th.

Once introduced, resolutions are referred to the committees in the same manner as bills, and, like bills, they need to move forward by certain deadlines to remain viable. Unlike bills, the subject matter of resolutions can change, along with their titles.

Resolutions can be introduced as single chamber resolutions (their prefixes are HR or SR) which must pass one reading in the originating chamber, or as concurrent resolu-

tions (prefixes are HCR or SCR) which must pass a reading in both chambers. Single chamber resolutions express the will and intent of either the House or the Senate, while concurrent resolutions express the will and intent of the entire legislature. Concurrent resolutions are often introduced in conjunction with identically-worded single chamber resolutions. Unlike bills, resolutions do not carryover from one year to the next.

The structure of resolutions is very different than bills. While bills are written in sections, resolutions consist of a series of "Whereas" clauses with the broadest passages coming first, followed by more definitive statements, and ending with two or more "Be it resolved" clauses. The last clause specifies where the resolution is to be transmitted upon passage.

To find a list of resolutions already introduced, use the "Reports and Lists" button on the legislature's website homepage (www.capitol.hawaii.gov).

The chart below outlines some of the differences between bills and resolutions.

Bill	Resolution
Enacts law.	Does not have the force and effect of law, and thus cannot require action. Resolutions are used by the legislature or a single chamber to state its official position on an issue or to request action.
If not vetoed, can carryover from the first year of the biennium to the second.	Cannot carryover from one session to the next.
All bills must pass 3 reading in each chamber.	Concurrent resolutions have to pass 1 reading in each chamber. Single chamber resolutions do not cross over to the other chamber for approval – they must pass 1 reading in their originating chamber only.
Prefixes: HB = House Bill SB = Senate Bill	Prefixes: HCR = House Concurrent Resolution SCR = Senate Concurrent Resolution HR = House Resolution SR = Senate Resolution
Once passed by the legislature, bills are enrolled to the Governor.	Resolutions are not enrolled to the Governor. Upon adoption, resolutions are transmitted to the individuals, officers, agencies, or other concerned parties cited in the resolution.

2012 Legislative Timetable

March

- 2nd First Decking
- 8th First Crossover
- 12th Budget Decking
- 14th Budget Crossover
Last day to introduce Substantive Resolutions
- 15th Triple Referral Filing deadline
- 23rd Second Lateral
- 26th Holiday: Kuhio Day
- 30th First Lateral for Senate
Concurrent Resolutions

April

- 3rd First Lateral for House
Concurrent Resolutions
- 5th Second Decking
- 6th Holiday: Good Friday
- 12th Second Crossover & Last day to disagree
- 13th First Crossover for
Concurrent Resolutions
- 20th Constitutional
Amendments: Deadline for final form
- 23rd Second Crossover for
Concurrent Resolutions
- 26th Last day to file Non-Fiscal
Bills to deck for Final
Reading
- 27th Last day to file Fiscal Bills
to deck for Final Reading

May

- 3rd Adjournment *sine die*
(Session pau!)