

TOWN & UPCOUNTRY UPDATE

January/February 2021

Get Active At The Legislature

Get ready to participate. Session begins on January 20th!



REPRESENTATIVE KYLE YAMASHITA

Aloha Neighbors,

Just about a year ago, no one could have predicted that our lives would be changed so drastically. These months have been difficult, and we have had to adapt. Many sacrifices have been made by all of you, our lifestyles have altered, but I am certain that we will get through this together.

We, at the Legislature, will be working hard during the 2021 legislative session to ensure that our path to economic recovery is on course to benefit all communities.

The first day at the Legislature was Wednesday, January 20, 2021. All House and Senate bills introduced, informational briefings, and committee hearing notices will be at <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>

Thank you for your support during this difficult time. My staff and I will be in the office during the legislative session. Please reach out to us with your concerns. Stay safe.

Mahalo,

Please assist us in our initiative to 'GO GREEN,' and send us your email address to receive newsletters by email.

Call: (808) 586-6330

Email: repyamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov



Accessing the Capitol — Virtually

While the Hawaii State Capitol is closed to the public due to COVID-19 restrictions, you can still connect effectively with lawmakers and keep track of what's going on. Use phone calls and emails to reach out to senators and representatives with your views on pieces of legislation. Try to hone your message to summarize your views or your request, and make sure to include the bill number when appropriate.

If you're not aware of the wealth of information available on the legislature's website (capitol.hawaii.gov), give the Public Access Room (PAR) a call and we'll be happy to point out the highlights. Remember, to find lists of all the bills introduced and the bills authored by a particular lawmaker, and to search for specific bills, try the "[Reports and Lists](#)" button on the homepage.

As noted below, the 2021 session will provide the opportunity to testify remotely, and hearings are being both livestreamed and archived for later viewing.

Remote Testimony — Appear "In Person"

A silver lining to the building being closed is the opportunity to testify from your home, work, or wherever you may be. In addition to your written testimony (which you can offer using the "Testimony" button on the legislature's website), now you may offer remote testimony at hearings that allow oral testimony. Just indicate on the "Testimony" form that you would also like to offer testimony remotely via Zoom — if your request is accepted, you'll be provided a Zoom link on your testimony page. You'll be able to "Zoom" in to the proceedings and speak to the committee at the appropriate time. (For more detailed instructions, look under "[Recent Updates](#)" on the legislature's homepage or go to PAR's "[Engagement 101](#)" webpage: <https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/engagement-101>)

Watching Hearings — As They Happen or Later On

To bring you 'into' the capitol, the hearings and informational briefings taking place this session are being live streamed and archived (available "on-demand"). In addition, certain proceedings will be broadcast on television. Click on the "[Live and On-Demand Video](#)" button on the legislature's website to find links to the streaming sites (Senate and House YouTube pages) and a link to the schedule of any television broadcasts.

Deadlines — They Come Up Quickly!

Our "[Which Deadlines Apply to My Bill?](#)" handout may be helpful as session gets rolling. It allows you to determine which deadlines you need to focus on for a specific bill, depending on the number of committee referrals it has received. Find the chart and other handouts (for example, lists of committees, contact information for legislators, and maps of districts with members' photos) on the "[Current Legislature](#)" tab of PAR's website (lrb.hawaii.gov/par).

Hawaii State House of Representatives
Thirty-First Legislature
 Regular Session of 2021 Calendar

January						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Years Day	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King, Jr Day	19	20 Opening Day	21	22 Non-Admin Bill Package Cutoff	23
24	25 State of the State Address and Admin, Bill Package Cutoff	26 Recess #1	27 State of the Judiciary Address & Bill Introduction Cutoff	28 Recess #2	29	30
31						

February						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 President's Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Mandatory 5-Day Recess Begins	26	27
28						

March						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Last Day Mandatory 5-Day Recess		First Decking (Bills)	
7	8 Recess #3	9	10 Recess #4	11 First Crossover (Bills)	12 Substantive Reso Cutoff	13
14	15 Budget Decking	16	17 Budget Crossover	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Kuhio Day	27
28	29	30	31 First Crossover (Concurrent Resos)			

Hawaii State House of Representatives
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April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Good Friday	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Second Decking (Bills)	10
11	12 Recess #5	13	14 Recess #6	15 Second Crossover (Bills) & Disagree	16 Constitutional Amendments	17
18	19 Second Crossover (Concurrent Resos)	20	21 Recess #7	22 Final Decking (Non-Fiscal Bills)	23 Final Decking (Fiscal Bills)	24
25	26 Recess #8	27	28 Recess #9	29 Adjournment Sine Die	30	

January

Jan 1	New Years Day
Jan 20	Opening Day
Jan 22	Non-Admin Bill Package Cutoff
Jan 25	State of the State Address and Admin. Bill Package Cutoff
Jan 26	Recess #1
Jan 27	State of the Judiciary Address Bill Introduction Cutoff
Jan 28	Recess #2

March

Mar 1-3	Mandatory 5-Day Recess ends
Mar 5	First Decking(Bills)
Mar 8	Recess #3
Mar 10	Recess #4
Mar 11	First Crossover (Bills)
Mar 12	Substantive Reso Cutoff
Mar 15	Budget Decking
Mar 17	Budget Crossover
Mar 26	Kuhio Day
Mar 31	First Crossover (Concurrent Resos)

April

Apr 2	Good Friday
Apr 9	Second Decking (Bills)
Apr 12	Recess #5
Apr 14	Recess #6
Apr 15	Second Crossover (Bills) & Disagree
Apr 16	Constitutional Amendments
Apr 19	Second Crossover (Concurrent Resos)
Apr 21	Recess #7
Apr 22	Final Decking (Non-Fiscal Bills)
Apr 23	Final Decking (Fiscal Bills)
Apr 26	Recess #8
Apr 28	Recess #9
Apr 29	Adjournment Sine Die

February

Feb 15	President's Day
Feb 25	Mandatory 5-Day Recess Begins

Representative Kyle Yamashita

Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 422
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 586-6330



Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) Public Prekindergarten Program

Accepting applications starting March 1, 2021

COVID-19 Updates

Each class is limited to 20 students. As our state progresses through the months ahead in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, class sizes may be reduced to no more than 10 children per group to address the health and safety needs of the children and staff.

Classroom Updates for Schools

The reopening of EOEL Public Prekindergarten classrooms at the following schools for School Year 2021-2022 is pending the availability of state funds.

Maui: Pukalani Elementary School & Kula Elementary School

Eligibility Requirements

Child must be born between August 1, 2016 – July 31, 2017 and be 4 years old on or before July 31, 2021.

Priority for Enrollment

Priority is provided for children whose situations include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following:

- Children who are eligible for **special education services** under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and require general education placement.
- Children in **foster care**.
- Children who are experiencing **homelessness** or **unstable housing**.
- Children who are **English as a second language** learners.
- Children whose family's income is no more than **300% of the federal poverty level**.

Applications

Click on this link: <https://earlylearning.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/EOEL-Public-Pre-K-Program-Application-Packet-SY-2021-2022.pdf>