

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

---

RELATING TO A REGULAR SESSION REVIEW WORKING GROUP.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. (a) The legislature notes that House  
2 Concurrent Resolution No. 138, H.D. 1, S.D.1 (2024) (H.C.R.  
3 No. 138) requested the legislative reference bureau (bureau) to  
4 conduct a study of "a continuous legislature, extending the  
5 regular session, and adding additional recess days" to the  
6 regular session. In addition, H.C.R. No. 138 requested that the  
7 bureau:

8           (1) Discuss the pros and cons of a continuous legislative  
9 session, extending the legislative session, and adding  
10 additional recess days;

11          (2) Focus on what a continuous legislative calendar,  
12 extended legislative calendar, and a legislative  
13 calendar day [sic] with additional recess days for the  
14 State may look like, including bill and budget  
15 deadlines; and

16          (3) Examine salary needs for full-time legislators and  
17 staff.



1           (b) The legislature recognizes that the bureau has  
2 conducted and completed the requested study and submitted its  
3 report, "Sine Die Another Day: Should Hawaii's Legislative  
4 Sessions Be Longer?", to the legislature. In conducting the  
5 study, the bureau:

6           (1) Reviewed applicable state constitutional and statutory  
7 provisions and legislative rules impacting legislative  
8 sessions and the State's typical regular session  
9 calendar to establish a contextual basis for  
10 requirements and limitations that have shaped the  
11 current regular session framework and duration;

12          (2) Solicited information regarding ways in which a  
13 lengthened or continuous regular session could affect  
14 costs and operations of those entities most likely to  
15 be directly affected by a longer regular session;

16          (3) Examined the relevant legal provisions and legislative  
17 calendars of California, Wisconsin, Massachusetts,  
18 Pennsylvania, and Michigan, which have significantly  
19 longer regular sessions than Hawaii, and of the  
20 councils of Hawaii's four counties, which meet  
21 year-round;



(4) Explored certain legal and practical limitations to consider when contemplating a lengthened or continuous regular session;

(5) Provided mock-up legislative calendars illustrating hypothetical longer regular sessions that utilize additional recess days for 2026, an election year, and 2027, a non-election year; and

(6) Discussed other potential impacts and factors to consider with respect to a lengthened or continuous regular session, including a review of legislator and staff compensation.

(c) The legislature makes the following observations based on the bureau's report:

(1) The duration of Hawaii's annual regular session appears to generally fall within the same timeframe as regular sessions in a majority of other states. Also, some states that may technically have longer legislative sessions do not necessarily meet and conduct formal business throughout these entire periods;



1           (2) There does not seem to be a "one-size-fits-all"  
2           legislative session model that the Hawaii state  
3           legislature could easily adopt to lengthen its regular  
4           session, without making significant modifications and  
5           without necessitating significant statutory and  
6           constitutional amendments;

7           (3) The state constitution requires regular sessions to  
8           commence annually at 10:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday  
9           in January and to run for not more than 60 session  
10          days, and requires that each chamber provide, by rule,  
11          a bill introduction deadline;

12          (4) However, the legislature appears to otherwise have  
13          broad discretion to determine its regular session  
14          calendar. Regular sessions may be lengthened by  
15          adding recess days pursuant to an agreement between  
16          the House and Senate, which would not require  
17          constitutional or statutory amendments;

18          (5) Fiscal bills, which generally comprise a supermajority  
19          of all bills introduced each year, usually have an  
20          effective date of July 1st (the beginning of the  
21          fiscal year) to ensure timely passage and avoid



1 creating economic uncertainty and disruption of public  
2 services;

3 (6) The legislative process should continue to prioritize  
4 enactment of fiscal bills well before July 1,  
5 regardless of how long a regular session lasts; and

6 (7) A specific schedule for a "longer" session is needed  
7 to determine operating expenses and staffing needs.

8 (d) The legislature further recognizes that the bureau's  
9 report suggested that:

10 (1) The legislature first determine the essential timing  
11 and framework for a desirable lengthened legislative  
12 calendar for election and non-election years;

13 (2) Establishing specific and concrete proposals regarding  
14 the duration of a lengthened regular session calendar  
15 would allow parties having direct in-depth knowledge  
16 regarding potential fiscal, operational,  
17 administrative, legal, and labor impacts within the  
18 legislative environment to more accurately frame  
19 staffing and budgetary needs and other operational  
20 issues; and



1           (3) This approach would facilitate the preparation of a  
2           more complete and reliable assessment of the  
3           feasibility and cost of establishing a lengthened or  
4           continuous regular session.

5           (e) Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a  
6           regular session review working group to consider the suggestions  
7           proposed by the bureau's report.

8           SECTION 2. (a) There is established a regular session  
9           review working group to determine the essential timing and  
10          effective framework for a lengthened legislative session  
11          calendar for election and non-election years.

12          (b) The members of the working group shall include:

13          (1) One member of the senate, to be selected by the senate  
14          president, who shall serve as co-chair of the working  
15          group;

16          (2) One member of the house of representatives, to be  
17          selected by the speaker of the house of  
18          representatives, who shall serve as co-chair of the  
19          working group;

20          (3) The chair of the senate standing committee on ways and  
21          means, or the chair's designee;



(4) The chair of the house standing committee on finance,  
or the chair's designee;

(5) The attorney general, or the attorney general's  
designee;

(6) The comptroller, or the comptroller's designee;

(7) The chief election officer, or the chief election  
officer's designee;

(8) The chief clerk of the senate, or the chief clerk's  
designee; and

(9) The chief clerk of the house of representatives, or  
the chief clerk's designee.

(c) The co-chairs of the working group shall invite:

(1) The Hawaii State Association of Counties to designate  
one representative to serve as a member of the working  
group; and

(2) The League of Women Voters of Hawaii to designate one  
representative to serve as a member of the working  
group.

(d) The co-chairs of the working group may invite other  
persons to serve as working group members who the co-chairs



1 believe will effectively assist in fulfilling the working  
2 group's duties pursuant to subsections (a) and (e).

3 (e) In making the determinations required by subsection  
4 (a), the working group shall:

5 (1) Study the feasibility of transitioning the Hawaii  
6 state legislature's regular session from one that  
7 meets from mid-January to early May to one that is  
8 lengthened, which for the purposes of this Act means  
9 any regular session that is of significantly longer  
10 duration than Hawaii's typical January-to-May regular  
11 session;

12 (2) Analyze the financial impacts and necessary costs to  
13 operate lengthened regular sessions, including  
14 staffing requirements, changes to legislative  
15 services, operational costs, office space needs, and  
16 impacts on legislation;

17 (3) Analyze and recommend any constitutional, statutory,  
18 and legislative rule changes necessary to implement  
19 lengthened regular sessions;

20 (4) Examine other states that have lengthened sessions, as  
21 deemed appropriate by the working group; and





1           (5) Consider the findings and suggestions made by the  
2           legislative reference bureau in its report submitted  
3           pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution No. 138,  
4           H.D. 1, S.D.1 (2024).

5           (f) The co-chairs of the regular session review working  
6           group may contract the services of a qualified facilitator to  
7           facilitate its meetings if the co-chairs deem it appropriate.  
8           Any contract subject to this subsection shall be exempt from  
9           chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

10          (g) The regular session review working group shall submit  
11          a report of its findings and recommendations, including any  
12          proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty  
13          days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2028.

14          (h) The legislative reference bureau shall provide  
15          assistance to the working group in finalizing the working  
16          group's report and drafting any proposed legislation; provided  
17          that the working group shall submit a draft report to the bureau  
18          no later than October 31, 2027.

19          (i) The regular session review working group shall be  
20          exempt from part I of chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes.



1           (j) The regular session review working group shall be  
2 dissolved on June 30, 2028.

3           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to  
6 facilitate meetings of the regular session review working group;  
7 provided that the contracting of services using funds  
8 appropriated under this section shall be exempt from chapter  
9 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

10           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the senate for  
11 the purposes of this Act.

12           SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to  
15 facilitate meetings of the regular session review working group;  
16 provided that the contracting of services using funds  
17 appropriated under this section shall be exempt from chapter  
18 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

19           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the house of  
20 representatives for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

2

INTRODUCED BY:

Nadine K. Puh

JAN 27 2026



# H.B. NO. 2469

**Report Title:**

LRB; Legislature; Regular Sessions; Length; Working Group;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a Regular Session Review Working Group to determine the essential timing and effective framework for a lengthened legislative calendar for election and non-election years. Requires a report to the Legislature. Requires report finalization and drafting assistance from the Legislative Reference Bureau. Appropriates moneys.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

