

JAN 21 2010

SENATE RESOLUTION

AMENDING THE RULES OF THE SENATE OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO FACILITATE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
AND AN OPEN LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

1 WHEREAS, despite recent progress in efforts to make it
2 easier for citizens to participate in the legislative process,
3 many people still find it difficult to participate; and
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5 WHEREAS, it is especially difficult for working people and
6 neighbor island residents to find the time and resources to
7 participate in the legislative process; and
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9 WHEREAS, the Senate wishes to ensure that the legislative
10 process facilitates the access and uncomplicated participation
11 by all citizens; now, therefore,
12

13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010,
15 that the Senate Rules are amended by adding a new rule to be
16 appropriately designated and to read as follows:
17

18 Rule Public Posting of Amendments to Measures.

19
20 Any amendment that is proposed for bills, concurrent
21 resolutions, or resolutions shall be made available for
22 public review posted on the Legislature's public website
23 within twenty-four hours;
24

25 and

26
27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following Senate Rules be
28 amended as follows:
29

30 1. Rule 21 be amended to read:
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32 "Rule 21 Meetings of Committees."
33



1 Meetings, including decision-making sessions, of
2 leadership committees appointed by the President, and
3 Standing Committees shall be public provided that
4 meetings in executive session may be allowed in such
5 exceptional circumstances when committee discussion
6 could unfairly damage the reputation of individuals or
7 where there is a legal question concerning a bill.
8

9 Notice of meetings and decision-making sessions
10 shall include the number and title of the bills or
11 resolutions, and brief descriptions and committee
12 referrals of each of the subject matters to be
13 covered, and shall be publicly posted by [~~first~~] the
14 referral committees at least 72 hours before their
15 meetings [and by subsequent referral committees at
16 least 48 hours before their meetings, no later than
17 4:00 p.m. on the last work day of the week, provided
18 that these notice requirements may be waived with the
19 approval of the President upon good cause shown]. In
20 giving 72 hours notice, Saturdays, Sundays, and state
21 holidays shall be excluded. The 72 hour notice
22 requirement is waived for the initial decision-making
23 meeting for short form bills. Further, this notice
24 requirement may be waived with the approval of the
25 President upon good cause shown after a recorded note
26 approving the waiver.
27

28 No committee shall sit during the time when the
29 Senate is actually in session without first securing
30 the approval of the President, except Conference
31 Committees that may sit at any time.
32

33 As practicable, committees shall schedule their
34 meetings at times and at places as are convenient for
35 attendance by the general public, and in coordination
36 with other committees of the House or Senate, shall
37 endeavor to hold joint meetings and public hearings on
38 matters of mutual interest.
39

40 The meetings of a Conference Committee shall be
41 conducted as agreed upon by the members of the
42 Conference Committee. Conference Committee meetings
43 and decision-making sessions shall be public. Public



1 notice of Conference Committee meetings shall be given
2 to the extent practicable.

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4 2. Rule 25, paragraph (3), be amended to read:

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6 (3) The report shall also include a reference that
7 testimony on the measure is available electronically on the
8 Legislature's website, a list of all agencies,
9 organizations, or other entities that testified on the
10 measure and whether that testimony supported, opposed, or
11 commented the measure, and a brief summary of the positions
12 taken in the testimonies submitted;

13
14 and

15
16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate Rule material to be
17 repealed is bracketed and stricken and new Senate Rule material
18 is underscored; and

19
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the amendments made to the
21 Senate Rules by this Resolution take effect upon the adoption of
22 this Resolution.

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OFFERED BY:

