

TOWN & UPCOUNTRY UPDATE

2017 Interim Highlights



Aloha,

Shortly, 2017 will come to a close. Earlier this year, we set our goals on doing extensive site visits with various state departments. We also participated in the Finance and Higher Education Committees site visits.

These visits gave us a “big picture” of current projects and to learn about the needs of the state departments for future projects. We were also able to meet with students at the colleges to hear their voices. Some of these visits took us to the countryside to meet with farmers and ranchers.

These site visits allows us to try to move forward more efficiently through procurement. It gives us an advantage to allocate funds prudently for pressing projects.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to you for a bountiful Thanksgiving, a joyous holiday season and a prosperous 2018.

I look forward to continue our work together for a better community.

Happy Holidays,

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

Call(808) 586-6330 or email.

repyamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov



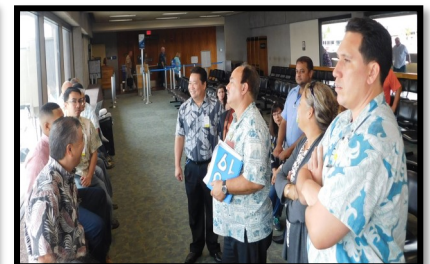
Finance Committee Visits Maui

Members of the House Finance Committee toured various sites on Maui Island in October to view first hand several state funded projects and programs supported by the Legislature. The visit was hosted by Representative Yamashita, who sits on the Finance Committee and oversees Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) for the committee.

While on Maui, Finance committee members met with state officials responsible for the Departments of Transportation and Land and Natural Resources who briefed the lawmakers on improvement projects for Maui Airport and the Haleakala ecosystem protection and restoration initiative.



Finance committee at a briefing update with Department of Land and Natural Resources



Projects update at the Kahului Airport

The committee also met with farmers, ranchers, and representatives of the Maui Farm Bureau to hear from them about the issues and concerns facing their industry. The state lawmakers also went to Haiku Elementary School and met with teachers, parents, and community supporters to discuss facility needs and to learn about the school’s pro-active health wellness program.

“These site visits allow legislators who are not from Maui to see first-hand what is going on in neighbor island communities, and to hear from Maui residents, their concerns and perspectives on issues that affect them. These experiences are invaluable when lawmakers are at the State Capitol and facing decisions that impact the whole state,” said Rep. Yamashita.

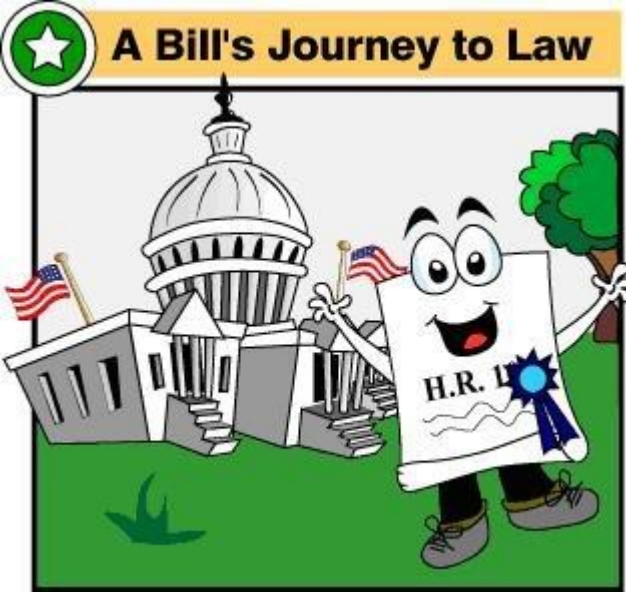
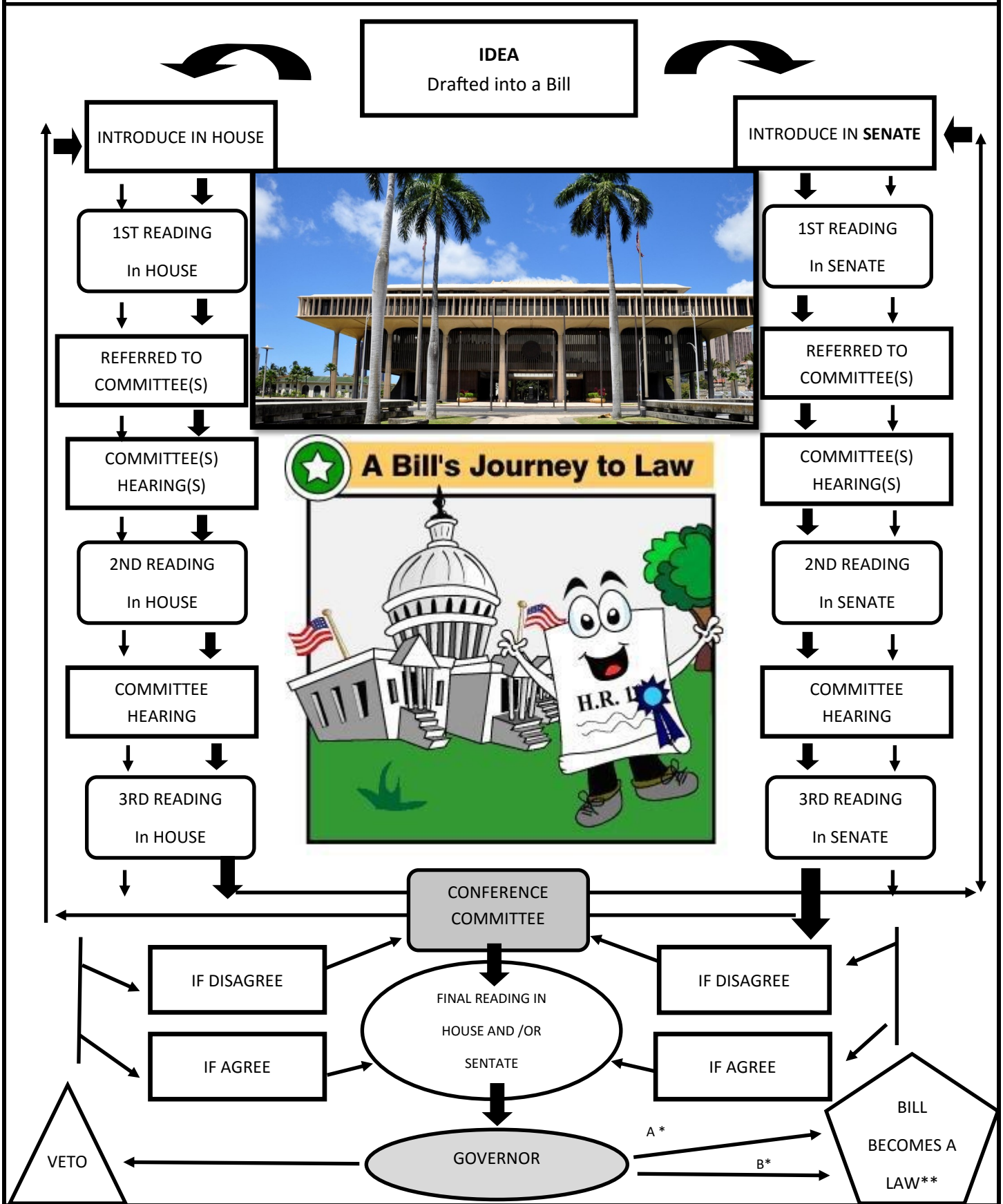


Haiku Elementary School meeting with teachers, parents, and community



Meeting with local farmers, ranchers, and the Maui Farm Bureau

How A Bill Becomes Law in Hawaii



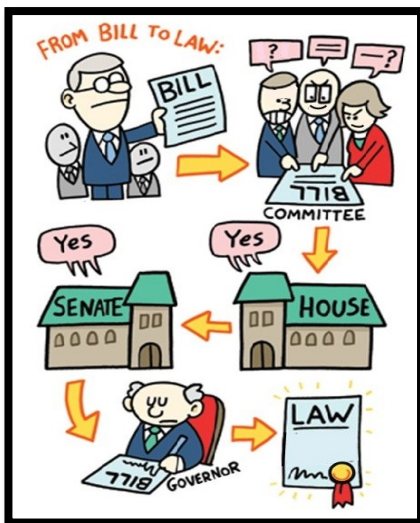
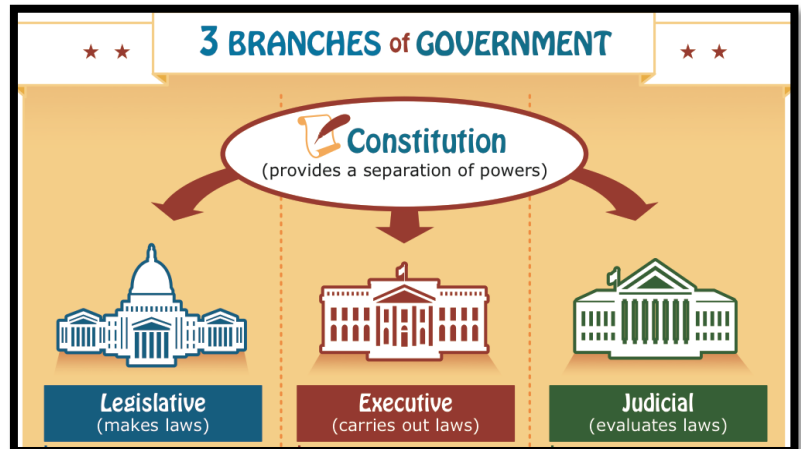
A*: Signed into law by Governor.
 B*: Not signed by Governor, but after a specified number of days it becomes law.

Hawaii State Legislature

The government of the State of Hawaii is structured with a system of checks and balances so that power is not confined to just one branch. There are three separate but equal branches whose powers are outlined in the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

3 Branches of Government

- ◆ **Legislative Branch: Makes the laws**
Leaders: President of Senate;
 Speaker of House of Representatives
 Legislators (Senators, Representatives)
- ◆ **Executive Branch: Implements the laws**
Leader: Governor
 Executive Departments
- ◆ **Judicial Branch: Interprets the laws**
Leader: Supreme Court
 Hawaii Courts



Bills are introduced by legislators at the beginning of session; if successful, they become **acts** of law. Legislators may also propose **resolutions** and **constitutional amendments**. A calendar of deadlines requires legislation to move quickly through committee hearings (where lawmakers hear testimony from the public) and the mandatory **readings** (floor votes) in order to survive.

Both chambers establish **rules** governing their procedures, and organize themselves into various **leadership roles** and standing **committees**. Such roles and assignments allocate power and responsibility, and anyone attempting to influence legislation is aided by an understanding of these dynamics.



Representative Kyle Yamashita

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Hawaii State Public Library System

Where you belong

What is a webcast?

In partnership with the Hawaii State Capitol, the Hawaii State Public Library System provides access to live webcasts of legislative hearings, meetings, and sessions in each of the library branches. Residents have the opportunity to see how the legislature conducts business at the Hawaii State Capitol building via streaming video.

How do they work?

During the Legislative session, walk-in patrons may visit their local library and access the Legislature's proceedings through designated "Legislative Webcast" computers. These computers will have a one-hearing time limit and are muted so patrons should bring their own headphones.

Patrons can select from either House or Senate streaming webcasts and watch the Legislative hearings, meetings, and sessions. Two or more people may view the webcasts at the same time if space permits.

Patrons should [reserve a library computer](#) in advance to view the legislative webcasts. Patrons without library cards may also view the webcasts. Please contact your library staff for assistance.