

Hawaii State Legislature

1. Bicameral Legislature

- a. House - 51 members (43 Democrats, 7 Republicans)
 - i. 2-year terms
 - ii. District size 24,540

- b. Senate - 25 members (24 Democrats, 1 Republican)
 - i. 4-year terms (staggered)
 - ii. District size 50,061

- c. No term limits

2. Sessions

a. Annual sessions

The Legislature convenes annually in regular session at 10:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday in January. Regular sessions are limited to a period of 60 working days, which excludes Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, and designated recess days. Special sessions are limited to a period of 30 days. Any session may be extended up to 15 days by the presiding officers at the request of 2/3 for the members of each house, or by the governor. The state constitution also requires a recess of five days between the 20th and 40th days of the regular session.

b. Special sessions

Special sessions may be called by Governor or lawmakers (two-thirds of each house, or for special sessions to confirm judicial nominations, two-thirds of the Senate).

c. Legislation

i. 2015:

	Introduced	Passed	Acts	Vetoed
House bills	1,515	117	115	2
Senate bills	1,379	135	128	6
Total	2,894	252	243	8

*Passed total includes SB 143 SD1 HD1, which proposes to amend the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

**Act total includes HB 541 HD1 SD2 CD1, SB 118 SD1 HD2 CD1, SB 1092 SD1 HD1, and SB 1297 SD1 HD1 CD1 which became law without the Governor's signature.

ii. 2014:

	Introduced	Passed	Acts	Vetoed
House bills	1,185	129	124	4
Senate bills	1,127	116	111	4
Total	2,312	*245	**235	***8

*Passed total includes HB 420 HD1, HB 748 HD2 SD1 CD1, & SB 2876 SD2 HD2, which propose to amend the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

**Act total includes HB 1830 HD2 SD1, HB 1977 HD2 SD1, HB 2496 HD1 SD1, SB 2288 SD2 HD1 CD1, SB 2365 SD2 HD2 CD1, SB 2470 SD1 HD1 CD1, SB 2483 SD1 HD1 CD1, SB 2682 SD1 HD2 CD1, & SB 2821 SD2 HD1 CD1 which became law without the Governor's signature. It also includes HB 1700 HD1 SD1 CD1 which contains vetoed line items.

***Veto total includes HB 1700 HD1 SD1 CD1 which became Act 122 of 2014 and contains vetoed line items.

3. Standing Committees

a. Session

i. Standing committees, varies every two years.

A. Senate - Currently 14 standing committees

B. House - Currently 19 standing committees

ii. Legislators asked preference for committee assignment and are advised not to serve on committees that meet in the same time bracket.

Senate - each Senator usually assigned to one "A" Bracket committee (Ways and Means, Judiciary, Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health.

A. Morning meeting 8am-11:00am

B. Afternoon meetings 1pm -3:00pm and 3:00pm-5:00 pm

iii. Measures can be amended in committee and during floor sessions of the body.

b. Interim

i. Same standing committees from session to interim.

- ii. No constitutional or legal requirement that committees meet during the interim.
- iii. Although rare, standing committees may meet during the interim if authorized by the presiding officer.

4. Task Forces/Working Groups

- a. Some created by Presiding Officer(s)
- b. Some created by passage of a bill
- c. Some created by concurrent (joint) resolution
- d. Task forces can be comprised of lawmakers, lawmakers and nonlawmakers, or just nonlawmakers
- e. May be supported by chamber or legislative agency staff, executive branch staff, or unsupported
- f. Task forces/working groups may meet on their own schedule

5. Legislative Staff

Senate

- a. Office of the Clerk of the Senate - 19
 - i. Clerk's Office - 6
 - ii. Journal Clerk - 2
 - iii. Data Systems - 8
 - iv. Document Center - 1
 - v. Accounting - 2
- b. Sergeant-at-Arms - 5
 - i. Supply - 1
- c. Senate Majority Research Office/ Majority Attorney - 17
- d. Senate Minority Research Office - 4
- e. Senate Committee Staff
 - i. Ways and Means Committee - 6
- f. Communications - 2 - Senate Majority Leader

Each senator is entitled to at least two full-time staff (year-round). During regular sessions, depending on responsibilities and monetary allocations, each senator may hire additional staff as the senator deems appropriate.

House of Representatives

- a. Office of the Clerk of the House - 8
 - i. Journal Clerk - 2
 - ii. Data Entry and Records - 2
 - iii. Technical Support - 7
 - iv. Print Shop - 2
 - v. Accounting - 3
- b. Sergeant-at-Arms - 9
- c. House Majority Staff Office/ Majority Attorney - 17
- d. House Minority Research Office - 5
- e. House Committee Staff
 - i. Finance Committee - 6
 - ii. Judiciary Committee - 1
- f. Communications - 2

Each representative is entitled to at least one full-time staff (year-round). During regular sessions, depending on responsibilities and monetary allocations, each representative may hire additional staff as the representative deems appropriate.

Legislative branch agencies (nonpartisan) - 3

- a. Legislative Reference Bureau - 37 total
 - i. Research Division - 17
 - ii. Statute Revision Division - 7
 - iii. Library - 6
 - iv. Systems Office - 5
 - v. Public Access Room - 2
- b. Office of the Auditor - 26
 - i. Ethics Commission (administratively attached) - 10
- c. Office of the Ombudsman - 14