

# Advocacy 101

The Basics on Participating in Hawaii's Legislature



# 1

## Legislators you should contact to support or oppose a bill



Those from your own district  
Find your Legislator tool:

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/fyL/>



Members of relevant committees  
or have addressed similar bills



Members of leadership



# 2

## Sign up on the capitol website

1. Register at [capitol.hawaii.gov](http://capitol.hawaii.gov)
2. Look up bills by number or with keywords such as "invasive species"
3. Sign up for hearing notices
4. Once a bill is scheduled for a hearing, you must submit your testimony (or intent to testify verbally) through the website at least 24 hours before the hearing

## Testimony is important because:

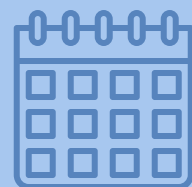
- Legislators try to make the best decisions based on the input they have. Bring your perspective to help guide those decisions.

## What to include in written or oral testimony



# 3

- Committee, hearing date/time/location (listed on hearing notice)
- Clear statement of support or opposition
- State your name and affiliation
- Salutation to the committee chair, vice chair, and members
- A few reasons why you support/oppose (speak from personal knowledge or experience). Can also include video, art, photographs, song, etc.
- Thank them for their time. If you are testifying in person, you have 2 minutes.



# 4

## Important dates

- 3rd Wednesday of January: Start of legislative session
- Jan-Apr: Bill hearings can be scheduled at any point! Sign up for hearing notices, and when scheduled **SUBMIT TESTIMONY!**
- April: End of legislative session

## Other Resources

- Public Access Room Hawaii:  
<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/>
- Videos on navigating the capitol website:  
<https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/engagement-101>