

MEMBERSHIP, LEADERSHIP AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership

Members of the House, called Representatives, and members of the Senate, called Senators, are elected by popular vote to represent designated geographic areas of the State, called districts. House and Senate districts are not congruent. Representatives serve two-year terms of office and Senators serve four-year terms. Hawaii does not have term limits for members of the Legislature.

A current list of all [members of the House and Senate](#) with contact information, committee assignments, and other information can be found on the Hawaii State Legislature's website.

Leadership

Major officers of the House and Senate are selected by their respective fellow members. The presiding officer for the House is the Speaker of the House, who is addressed as "Mr. Speaker" or "Madam Speaker." The presiding officer for the Senate is the Senate President, who is addressed as "Madam President" or "Mr. President."

The presiding officers of each house conduct floor sessions in their respective chambers and exercise control over their house's operations, facilities, and property, including by appointing conference committee members and scheduling the legislative timetable in cooperation with the other house. In addition, the presiding officers represent their respective houses in dealing with the public and other agencies. In the absence of the Speaker or President, the Vice Speaker or the Vice President assumes all the duties and responsibilities of the Speaker or the President, respectively.

Both houses are also organized along partisan lines into a Majority Caucus and Minority Caucus, composed of all majority-party and minority-party members, respectively. Each caucus elects its own official leaders.

Current lists of [the House leadership](#) and [the Senate leadership](#), with contact information, can be found on the Hawaii State Legislature's website.

Standing Committees

The subject-matter standing committees of each house of the Legislature initiate inquiries and ascertain facts in preparation for the enactment of laws. This is done through public hearings, receipt of data, review of reports and studies, staff research and investigation, and other activities. The standing committees vary in size, number, and subject area.

Current lists of all [House standing committees](#) and all [Senate standing committees](#), along with membership and contact information, can be found on the Hawaii State Legislature's website.

Standing committees are the main working committees of the Legislature. They are separate and different from interim committees, ad hoc committees, special committees, and other committees that may be convened by the Speaker or the President as circumstances require.

The scope of a standing committee's jurisdiction is set by the organizational rules of each house. In addition to its information-gathering function, a committee may review budget requests, financial plans and programs, and other pertinent matters relating to the committee's subject-matter jurisdiction.

Meetings of a standing committee are called by the committee chair, who prepares the agenda and presides at each meeting. The committee chair is also responsible for preparing files for committee members and the leadership of the committee's house, keeping a record of documents and information presented to the committee, and drafting the reports of the committee's findings and recommendations.

The current House Conference Room Schedule and Senate Committee Hearing Schedule, which show the respective time slots and locations for House and Senate [standing committee meetings](#), can be found on the website of the Legislative Reference Bureau's Public Access Room.