HOW THE LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF A STATUTE IS RESEARCHED

**Step 1**
Find year of Legislative Session and Act Number in source note of statute.

**Step 2**
Go to Session Laws to find bill number.

**Step 3**
If a House Bill, go to back of House Journal to History of House Bills Table.
If a Senate Bill, go to back of Senate Journal to History of Senate Bills Table.

**Step 4**
Using History of House Bills Table (or History of Senate Bills Table), copy each page number referred to and read each page of Journal to determine what legislative action occurred and if there was any discussion.
When reading Journal pages write down Standing Committee and Conference Committee Report Numbers concerning the bill.*

**Step 5**
Go through Appendices of the Journal to find Standing Committee and Conference Committee Reports using Committee Report Numbers written down in Step 4.**

**Step 6**
If a House Bill, go to back of Senate Journal to History of House Bills Table.
If a Senate Bill, go to back of House Journal to History of Senate Bills Table.

**Step 7**
If a House Bill, go through Steps 4 and 5 in Senate Journal.
If a Senate Bill, go through Steps 4 and 5 in House Journal.

*Since 1984, the Session Laws of Hawaii contains a listing of various committee reports associated with bills passing both both houses of the legislature. From 1963-1983, this same information can be found in the Digest and Index of Laws Enacted published annually for theses years by the Legislative Reference Bureau.

**Committee reports for the Senate before 1951 and the House of Representatives before 1951 are found in the Journal proceedings at the point of discussion.

If committee reports cannot be found in the Journal, the researcher must consult the Archives’ file.