



1. Find the Hawaii statutory provision you wish to research.

Hawaii Revised Statutes is the state's compilation of general and permanent laws. The current edition includes: volume 1 (2009), volume 2 (2012), volume 3 (2011), volume 4 (2017), volume 5 (2020), volume 6 (2022), volume 7 (2015), volume 8 (2004), volume 9 (2019), volume 10 (2013), volume 11 (2008), volume 12 (2018), volume 13 (2016), Volume 14 (2014), Index (1996), Special Pamphlet-Tables of Disposition (2014) and the latest annual cumulative supplement. Use the index to find the relevant law.

2. Identify the act and the year when the pertinent language was adopted.

The bracketed source note at the end of a statute indicates the enabling/amending acts and each compilation where the statute is included. L__ __ = legislative year; c = Act; am = amended; CC = **Civil Code**; PC = **Penal Code**; RL = **Revised Laws of Hawaii** (1905, 1915, 1925, 1935 (may omit reference to previous compilations of a statute if no amendment after original enactment/last amendment/last compilation), 1945, and 1955); HRS = **Hawaii Revised Statutes** (1968, 1976, 1985, 1993, and by Supplement.)

3. Locate the Act.

Go to the **Session Laws of Hawaii** volume for the year when the act passed. Acts arranged in numerical order and will cite to a House Bill (HB) or Senate Bill (SB). From 1935-1953, check the table of contents for the page number of each act. An act may include a preamble which states purpose of the act.

4. Track the history of the bill through enactment.

After locating the bill no., go to both the **House and Senate Journals** at the back of which are tables, at times, labeled as *History of Bills*. Check each of the pages cited alongside the bill no. to find action on the bill. Among those pages will be the text of committee reports or references to the report no. For before 1951 in the *House Journal* and before 1955 in the *Senate Journal*, the text of the reports may be included in the daily proceedings. Review all relevant reports for stated intent/purpose. At a minimum, there will be one House and one Senate standing committee report. The other cited pages may include floor remarks, and references to special reports and testimony.

Tips/Finding Aids for Locating Legislative History Materials.

- 1901+ in print at the Supreme Court Law Library.
- Pre-1901 refer to the Hawai'i State Archives.
- 1901-1961 use the tracking method suggested in step 4 above.
- 1962-1983 use the **Digest and Index of Laws Enacted**. Acts are published in summary format and numerical order. Cites to standing committee reports and conference committee reports, if any.
- Hawaii State Legislature website: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>
 - **Session Laws of Hawaii** available 1959+. 1984+ includes *Committee Reports on Measures Enacted*, a table listing committee report numbers.
 - **Archive** for 1999+.
 - **House Journal** from 1971 to current and **Senate Journal** from 1975 to current.
- Beginning 1969, a bill that did not pass in the first session (odd-numbered year) of a 2-year legislature may be carried over to the second session (even-numbered year). Committee reports will be found in the journal for the year when the report was issued out of committee.
- Consult **Kānāwai** at <https://kanawai.bywatersolutions.com/cgi-bin/koha/opac-main.pl> for special reports.
- State Archives for pre-2008 testimony and Hawaii State Legislature's website for 2008+ testimony.
- **How to research constitutional, legislative and statutory history in Hawaii**, 3d ed., by Richard F. Kahle, Jr. Legislative Reference Bureau, 2001. [RefRm KFH421.5 L37 A25 2001] Also available online: <https://lrh.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/HowToResearchConstitutionalLegislativeAndStatutoryHistoryInHawaii.pdf>