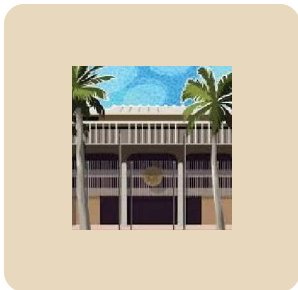


Tips for Speaking Up at the Hawaii State Legislature



1: Identify your state legislators

Go to the Hawaii State Capitol website page called [Find Your Legislator](#) and type your street name in the search box. You'll be shown information about your House and Senate Districts. Click on the blue box to get the names and contact information of the legislators assigned to your address. You can also click on your Senator's or Representative's name to find more about them, including their committees.



2: Create a Capitol account

Sign up for a free [personal account on the Capitol website](#). It is the easiest way for you to submit testimony. Your testimony can be as little as a sentence or longer. Once you have an account, you will also be able to request notice of hearings of specific bills or of committees that you are interested. If identifying your state legislators or creating a Capitol account has you confused, you can find videos on the [Engagement 101 Guide from the Public Access Room](#) that will walk you through the process.



3: Consider contacting the bill sponsor

Agencies who have worked with legislators to draft bills are the most in the know about the history behind why the bill is needed. Often they can offer suggestions and support for drafting testimony. [HawaiiKidsCAN](#) (erica@hawaiikidscan.org) who are sponsoring the Structured Literacy Bill on page 2, and the [Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities](#) (che.silvert@doh.hawaii.gov) who are sponsoring a Smart 911 bill this session are both very supportive of parents who want to testify.



4: Testify & repeat as necessary

If a bill gets scheduled for a hearing, you may get the opportunity to testify for or against the bill in writing and/or in person. If the bill moves from one committee to the next, be ready to send in your testimony again. Try to find others to help you testify and gather legislative support for your bill. Having a bill become law is not an easy process and can take a few years. Be patient, be persistent and be passionate.



5: Get training to grow your knowledge

The [Public Access Room \(PAR\) training videos](#) are a great tool to learn more about the legislative process. For a more indepth learning experience, consider applying for the next [Parent Leadership Training Institute](#) hosted by the Hawaii Children's Action Network. This 20 session unique learning opportunity teaches parents how to identify problems affecting children and work toward solutions. For more information, contact Mai Hall at (808) 531-5502, Ext. 110#.

