

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HOUSE REPUBLICANS REJECT LACK OF NOTIFICATION FOR DECISION MAKING

HONOLULU - Lack of Sunshine Laws in the Hawaii State Legislature have been criticized in the past and more recently, numerous times this session. Another example of this happened yesterday.

The members of the House of Representatives, both in the minority and majority parties, did not have the 24 hour notice to review the bills that were supposed to go to conference committees for more deliberation. Instead, the majority brought them out for immediate vote.

"This rushed decision making was a clear move to pass bills in time to override potential vetoes by the Governor before the end of this session," said Minority Leader Rep. Lynn Finnegan (R-Moanalua, Pearlridge, Aiea, Halawa, Hickam, Pearl Harbor, Moanalua). "The majority rushed through some 30 bills yesterday, instead of giving members of the House and the public 24 hour advanced notice before voting on final reading."

"Although this 24 hour notice is practiced as a courtesy, it is a procedure among others that must be standardized. More important than any political maneuver, is the public's and the member's opportunity for ample time to review a bill before final decision making", added Rep. Finnegan.

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Some of the bills that Democrats will look to override this session in the event of a veto are:

HB 173 HD1 SD1 - A bill mandating that the qualifications for service as the Adjutant General include holding or having held a commission as a field grade officer in the National Guard, Armed Forces, or Reserves and has served as a commissioned officer in the armed forces for at least 10 years, of which five must have been with the Hawaii National Guard. The existing pool of candidates that meet these requirements is only seven, and qualified candidates such as General Eric Shinseki would be eliminated.

HB 1233 HD1 SD1 - A bill that would prohibit discriminatory practices in public accommodations on the basis of gender identity or expression (perceived gender), or sexual orientation.

HB 2454 HD1 SD2 - A bill that requires the Governor, in filling vacancies in the Senate, House of Representatives, and U.S. Senate, to select from a list of three prospective appointees nominated by the political party of the prior incumbent. Requires prospective appointees to be registered members of nominating political parties for at least six months prior to the appointment.

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