Hawaii Senate's Paperless Initiative

Updating the Legislature
for the 21st Century.

Senator Les Ihara, Jr.
Majority Policy Leader

State of Hawaii – Senate

- 1.2 million residents on 8 islands and in 4 counties

- 25 Senators elected to four-year staggered terms

- 60-day sessions convene annually 3rd week of January

Senate Leadership Initiative

Senate President Colleen Hanabusa Announces Sustainability Platform on Opening Day of 2007 Session

2007 Interim
Paperless Pilot Developed

- Senator David Ige appointed technology liaison

- Two work groups formed to explore feasibility of paperless processes

- Senate Leadership approved paperless pilot

Hawaii Senate
Paperless Project Goals

Senators and staff access legislative documents online and eliminate hardcopies

Hawaii Senate
Paperless Project Goals

Agendas of floor sessions and committees hyperlinked to bills, committee reports, testimony, and status

ORDER OF THE DAY

8. Advise and Consent

2923	EDU	G.M. No. 341

Testimony Status

"Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Education Commission of the States, Gubernatorial Nominee, ANN R. BOTTICELLI, for a term to expire 6-30-2012."

AGENDA

HB 2306, HD2
(HSCR953-08)
Testimony
Status

RELATING TO GENERAL EXCISE TAXATION. HTH, EDT, WAM
Exempts from the general excise tax amounts received by managed care support contractors as reimbursements of costs or advances made pursuant to a contract for the administration of the federal TRICARE program. Effective 07/01/2020. (HB2306 HD2)

HB 2540, HD1
(HSCR869-08)
Testimony
Status

RELATING TO TAXATION. HTH, EDT, WAM
Provides an income tax and general excise tax exemption for companies that provide potable water and are exempt under section 501(c)(12) of the IRC. Effective January 1, 2020. (HB2540 HD1)

Hawaii Senate
Paperless Project Goals

- Capitol wireless access to legislative documents

- Online access to public testimony

- Searchable bill contents

- Print shop stops bulk printing of legislative documents

2008 Session
Senate Paperless Pilot

Two committees conducted proceedings in paperless format and members reviewed legislative testimony on laptops

Reasons For Going Paperless

- Emulate a legislature of 21st century organization

- Support sustainability goals

- Increase public access to the legislative process

Senate Paperless Pilot
Planning & Collaboration

Leadership Collaborates with Staff in Planning and Preparation

- Leadership sought input from senators and staff via survey; staff surveys external users

- Two pilot work groups incorporated input in designing paperless processes

- Processes tested in mock hearings, and public feedback resulted in free CDs of bills upon request

Senate Paperless Project

Information Technology Infrastructure

Total Expenditures = $100,000

- 25 tablet PCs – one for each Senator
- 120 Adobe licenses
- Enhanced wireless capacity in conference rooms and chamber
- Enhanced e-mail box capacity

Senate Paperless Pilot
Staff & Legislator Training

- Staff received group training on paperless process and one-on-one training on software and hardware

- Two committee chairs and members participated in several paperless pilot mock hearings and technical staff attended hearings

2008 Results • Paperless Pilot
Paperless Committees

- Both pilot committees managed all committee hearings via interactive agendas on laptops
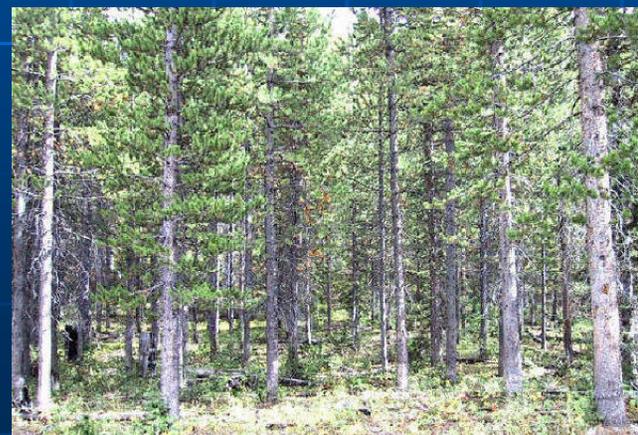

- And eliminated all paper folders of bills and testimony, except three folders (original, public and archives)

- During floor sessions, 23 of 25 Senators accessed daily orders of the day via laptops

2008 Results • Paperless Pilot
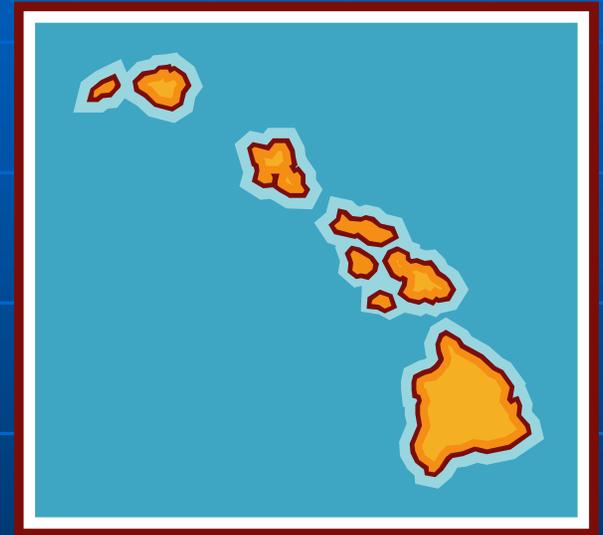## Used Less Paper

- 1,340 cases of copier paper saved (13,400 reams of paper)

- Senate reduced paper consumption by 6O percent

- Saved a forest of 800 trees

2008 Results • Paperless Pilot Legislators & Public Response

- Senators, who were at first reluctant, became "believers"

- Lobbyists and stakeholder advocates provided positive feedback, especially neighbor island constituents

- Media commented positively on enhanced access to legislative documents

Senate Paperless Project
2009 Session

- All committees go paperless
- Text messaging for subscribers
- On-demand video webcasts
- Web-based testimony form
- Testimony text-searchable
- Paper scanners for each senate office
- Digital audio recordings

Senate Paperless Project
Challenges Ahead

- Maintenance of IT infrastructure

- Technical proficiency

- Technology's impact on parliamentary and administrative procedures

Senate Paperless Project
Outstanding Issues

- Digital divide
- Policy on official documents
- Security issues

For More Information on the
Senate Paperless Project

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