The goal of ACCESS: Legislative Information Service is to encourage citizens to participate in the legislative process through electronic means.

Citizens may communicate with ACCESS in two ways:
1. using a terminal located in a public library, or
2. using a personal computer, modem, and communications software.

To communicate through a personal computer with remote communications, you will need the following items on your personal computer:
1. a communications port
2. a dial-up modem (either internal or external)
3. VT100 Emulation software

Please refer to your computer software manual for specific instructions on how to set up your computer and use your software.

Modems
The State of Hawaii Area Wide Information Access Network is equipped with a bank of autobaud modems capable of receiving calls at 300, 1200 or 2400 baud. Modems used to connect to ACCESS should be compatible with the following industry standards at the respective communication speeds:
- Bell 103 (300 baud)
- Bell 212A (1200 baud)
- CCITT v. 22 bis (2400 baud)

Communications Software
In addition, the modem/emulation software should be set with the following specifications:
- 8 data bits
- No Parity
- 1 stop bit
- Full Duplex
- No Echo
Phone Numbers – Keys to ACCESS

Legislative documents such as bills, resolutions, committee reports, and hearing notices are now accessible by telephone through ACCESS: Legislative Information Service. These documents may be printed or saved to disk. To get the status of a bill or resolution, call AudioACCESS: Bill Status System. The key to accessing legislative information is now the phone number of the service you want.

Here are your keys:

ACCESS
- Oahu: .......................................................... 296-4636 (296-INFO)
- Neighbor Isles: ............................................. 1-800-628-4229

AudioACCESS: Bill Status Service
Direct Calls With A Touch Tone Phone
- Oahu: .......................................................... 548-7777
- Neighbor Isles: ............................................. 1-800-468-4644 and ask for Audio Access, 548-7777
  (hours: 7:45 am to 4:30 pm weekdays)
Examples of VT100 Emulation Software Packages:

IBM PC or COMPATIBLES:
- Crosstalk XVI
- Procomm (Shareware)
- Procomm Plus
- Smartcom III

Apple II Series:
- Mousetalk
- ASCII Express
- Point to Point

Macintosh:
- Red Ryder
- MicroPhone
- MacTerminal

Program Function Keys (PF Keys)
Program Function Keys (PF Keys) are used extensively in ACCESS. Most personal computer keyboards do not have PF Keys, however, VT100 emulation software assigns certain keys to perform the PF Key functions. Refer to your communications software manual.

Printers:
The system software for ACCESS supports the following six (6) printers:

1. Dot matrix printers
2. LN103
3. LA100
4. Xerox
5. HP Laserjet
6. LQP2

If your printer is not listed, consult your printer manual to determine which of the above printer types will allow you to print.
Now There's A Way to Get Easy Access to Legislative Information

The Hawaii State Legislature is committed to increase citizen participation and access to the legislative process. Now, you can have instant electronic access to the text of legislative bills, resolutions, committee reports, hearing notices, and status of legislative measures by using ACCESS: Legislative Information Service.

You are invited to participate in the Legislative Process by Using ACCESS. All You Need Is . . .

• a personal computer, modem, communications software, and phone line to access legislative documents to view on your monitor, print a hardcopy, or download onto disk.
• a touch tone phone to hear a computer-generated voice report the status of bills and resolutions from a regularly updated database.

ACCESS PHONE NUMBERS

ACCESS: Legislative Information Service
View bills, resolutions, committee reports and hearing notices from your computer.

Oahu..................... 296-4636 (296-INFO)
Neighbor Islands......... 1-800-628-4229

AudioACCESS: Bill Status Service
Get the status of bills and resolutions from your touch tone phone.

Oahu ..................... 548-7777
Neighbor Islands ......... 1-800-468-4644 and ask for AudioACCESS (548-7777)
(7:45 am to 4:30 pm weekdays)

For details on how to use ACCESS or to receive an information packet,

Call the ACCESS Help Desk: 548-1738 (Oahu)
Neighbor islands: 1-800-468-4644 & ask for ACCESS Help Desk (548-1738)
Access to the Legislature widened

Public can now connect via computer

By Stu Glauberman

Anyone who knows how to use a personal-computer modem to tap into a computer network can now get instant access to any bill, resolution or legislative committee report lawmakers have before them.

Computer users can also pick up valuable tips on how to lobby and track bills from the access legislative information service, which opened for public use over the weekend.

The telephone number to log into Access on Oahu is 296-4636. It may help to remember the number by thinking of it as 296-INFO.

The free public-access link to the Legislature's computer system makes it possible for personal-computer users to review the full text of all bills, resolutions, committee reports and hearing notices.

A keyword search capability makes it easy to find bills and resolutions on particular topics, such as "education."

With the proper equipment, the documents can be printed out at home.

In addition to providing texts of all documents — put into the system within 24 hours of their release — Access offers an Insider's Guide to the Legislature.

House members Carol Fukunaga, David Ige and Les Ihara Jr., members of an interim legislative access committee, say they have come up with a package of useful and easily understood "menu items."

"We've tried to capture all the information you need to make a difference," said Ige. Here's a sampler of the menus:

- Legislative Timetable — explains the various deadlines for action.
- Legislative Information and Directories — contains brief biographies of lawmakers, lists of committee members' definitions of acronyms and legislative terms, and information on where to find things at the state Capitol.
- How A Bill Becomes A Law — describes the process step by step.
- How to Participate in the Legislative Process — offers suggestions on how to lobby and track a bill.

In addition to the computerized Access service, lawmakers have begun an audio bill-status service.

Callers who dial 548-7777 from Oahu will hear "Aloha, Welcome to Hawaii's Bill Status System" delivered by a computer-generated voice with a strange European accent.

The committee is working on changing the odd-sounding voice. In the meantime, it gives the status of House and Senate bills requested by callers who key in bill numbers using the buttons on a touch-tone telephone.

The service will free legislative staff members from the time-consuming work, Ige said.

While the new services are part of the Legislature's campaign to improve public access to the lawmaking process, Ige said the Legislature is playing a tip-of-the-iceberg role in what will be a vast state-run computer databank.

Laws, library card catalogs, statistics found in the Hawaii Data Book, and dozens of other information banks will be added to the system over the next few years.

Improving the computers at the heart of the public-access effort has cost taxpayers nearly $1.3 million over the past year, according to figures released by the House last week.

About $577,000 was spent on computer equipment and more than $438,500 on software. Figures were not made available by the Senate, which got $750,000 last year to improve public access.

Plugging in the Legislature

ACCESS Legislative Information Service:
Oahu — 296-4636 (296-INFO)
Neighbor Islands — 1-800-628-4229

Audio ACCESS Bill Status Service:
Oahu — 548-7777.
Neighbor Islands — 1-800-468-4644
and ask for Audio Access at 548-7777
Using the Hawaii State Legislature Computer System with Kermit

Although this article shows you how to use Kermit with the State Legislature's computer system, you could access the system if you have a personal computer, modem, and a terminal emulator program i.e., procomm, pc talk, etc. that emulates a VT100, VT102, or VT220 terminal. You would need to adjust the settings as specified and dial the 296-4636 (296-INFO) number.

When a user called the Consultant's Desk and asked how to log into the State Legislature's ACCESS computer system using Kermit, one of our supported IBM PC terminal VT102 emulators, I thought it was an intriguing question and wanted to try it myself. For those of you who want to keep track of a Legislative bill, this system could help you immensely. If you have a computer and modem, you too could keep on top of the happenings of the legislature.

I initially called the Access Help Desk at 548-1738 to get one of the informational packets about the computer system. It's also the number to call if you are experiencing problems and need assistance. This Help Desk is usually open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays, and 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturdays. The person answering was courteous and informative regarding the basic settings for your modem and computer setup. In this case, your settings should be:

- No Parity
- 8 data bits
- 1 stop bit
- full duplex
- echo off
- flow control off

When using the distributed UHCC Kermit with the default settings, you need to change the flow control parameter. While noting that you would key in the **bolded** text, execute the following:

```
KERMIT execute the PC Kermit program
Kermit MS> SET FLOW NONE set flow off
Kermit MS> c connect to the host
AT get the attention of your modem (assuming a Hayes compatible modem)
ok modem responds that it's ready
ATD2964636 dial 296-4636 connect modem responds that it's connected
```

This is just an example of one connect session. Your modem might work differently.

At this point if you press the <RETURN> key a few times, you should get a prompt of 'USERNAME' from the computer. Key in 'ACCESS' and enter the information with the <RETURN> key. You should now have the main menu screen with specific instructions of what you might want to view next.

Neighbor island numbers to call are:
DIAL IN: 1-800-628-4229
Access Desk: 1-800-468-4644

The VAX computer which is running ACCESS should be up 24 hours a day. Your modem should support one of the following standard communication protocols:
- Bell 103 for 300 baud
- Bell 212A for 1200 baud
- or CCITT V.22-bis for 2400 baud.

**Naomi Okinaga**
From the Capitol Bulletin Board System Fact Sheet:

Q How did the CBBS help people participate in the legislative process?

A The CBBS enabled people with access to computers and modems to call in and view notices of committee hearings which were posted on the CBBS. People were also able to request copies of bills and resolutions, which were then filed in the system and made available to users. These services will continue to be provided during the legislative interim, providing users another source of information concerning interim legislative activities. Users can then follow up by contacting their representatives.

Users can also communicate with each other about legislative issues, providing a means of creating new networks of interested people to pursue topics with legislators. The demand for legislative information through the CBBS was so great that a new arrangement, separate from the CBBS—for providing the public on-line access to legislative committee schedules, bills and resolutions, and many other types of legislative information—is being put in place for the 1990 Legislative Session. When this system is operational, eliminating the need to provide that information through the CBBS, the use of the CBBS as a forum for public discussion of legislative issues may be expanded.

Q What is a bulletin board system?

A A bulletin board system is an electronic postal system created by a person with a computer. By attaching the computer to a telephone line and using appropriate software, the computer can be made capable of exchanging information with other computer users over telephone lines. The bulletin board system is like a post office, where individuals may each have private "boxes" to which messages can be sent and where "bulletin boards" can display messages to anyone who dials in. Computer users whose computers are also able to send and receive information over phone lines (through the use of a modem) can send messages to other computer users participating in the system. A bulletin board can function like a "letters to the editor" page of a newspaper.

Q What is the purpose of the Capitol Bulletin Board System?

A The Capitol Bulletin Board System (CBBS) gives people another means of finding out what is going on in the Legislature. It also assists people who wish to participate in the legislative process. The CBBS was established during the 1989 Legislative Session through the efforts of Representatives David Ige and Carol Fukunaga and computer users in Hawaii. The computer on which the bulletin board is running, and the software and the expertise to get the CBBS started, were loaned by Ron Skates of The Computer Station and Computer Distributors of Hawaii. The CBBS received over 600 calls during its first two months of operation, which were the last two months of the 1989 Legislative Session.

Q How can I contact the CBBS?

A The CBBS is part of a statewide electronic network operated by private individuals donating their time and the use of their computers and phone lines. The CBBS is available to users at no charge on the different islands, by dialing these numbers:

Oahu, 536-2888 (State Capitol), 942-2508, 732-6099, 499-1101;
Kauai, 337-9280, 338-9999;
Hawaii, 935-1748.

Hawaii Information Times, Sept. 89