

## POLITICS

### This week

# Touchdown

BY JESSIE SCHIEWE | MAR 2, 2011



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**KANU HAWAII AND COMMON CAUSE HAWAII /** Watching politics is a little like watching football. One gets nowhere simply by yelling. Kanu Hawaii and Common Cause Hawaii

created a free, weekly program at the State Capitol rotunda to keep the public up to date on current legislation. These Thursday night meetups are a great way to learn about important bills, as well as the legislative process, such as how a bill becomes a law.

“Because the legislative process is so confusing and inconvenient for regular citizens, this was our idea to bring people together and talk about what bills we’re tracking, what bills people are interested in, and to walk the halls,” says Kasha Ho, community organizer for Kanu Hawaii.

Each meeting focuses on different steps in the legislative process, such as how to get a bill heard by committee and passed on the floor. Next week’s meeting focuses on how the budget is managed in the Legislature. Considering how exciting this nascent legislative session is turning out to be, this is something worth checking out. It’s almost like taking a college-level politics course—sans the costly tuition.

| 5:30pm, Thursdays, until April 28.