

The Hawai'i County Charter outlines a series of deadlines for the annual budget process, ensuring a structured progression from the Mayor's initial proposal to the County Council's final approval before the start of the fiscal year on July 1st. These deadlines are primarily detailed in Article X of the Hawai'i County Charter (<https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/weblink/1/edoc/78959/County%20Charter.pdf>), which governs the county's financial procedures.

The process is designed to provide ample time for review, public input, and deliberation by both the executive and legislative branches of the county government.

Key Deadlines in the Budgetary Timeline:

1. DEM's Draft Budget Submission:

- a. DEM submits to the draft CIP budget to the Long-range Planning Division around January 1st.

2. Mayor's Budget Submission:

- a. **Deadline:** On or before **March 1st** of each year.
- b. **Charter Section:** 10-3
- c. The Mayor is mandated to prepare and submit the proposed operating and capital budgets for the upcoming fiscal year to the County Council. This comprehensive proposal must include a budget message that explains the main goals and features of the financial plan.

3. Public Hearing:

- a. **Timeline:** At any time after March 1st, but **prior to the first reading** of the budget bills.
- b. **Charter Section:** 10-4
- c. The County Council is required to hold at least one public hearing to receive testimony from the community on the proposed budgets. This ensures public participation in the fiscal decision-making process.

4. County Council Action:

- a. **Deadline for Final Reading:** On or before the **first day of June**.
- b. **Charter Section:** 10-5
- c. The County Council must complete its review, make any amendments, and pass the budget ordinances on their second and final reading by this date. Should the Council fail to act by the June 1st deadline, the Mayor's proposed budget, as submitted in March, is automatically deemed adopted.

5. Mayor's Review and Veto Power:

- a. **Timeline:** The Mayor has **ten working days** after the Council's final action to approve or veto the budget.
- b. **Charter Section:** 10-7
- c. The Mayor can approve the budget, allow it to become law without a signature, or veto the entire budget or specific line items. If vetoed, the budget is returned to the Council with the Mayor's objections.

6. Council's Veto Override:

- a. **Timeline:** The Council can take up a veto override at its **next regular meeting**.
- b. **Charter Section:** 10-7

- c. A two-thirds vote of the entire Council is required to override a mayoral veto, in which case the budget as amended by the override becomes law.

7. **Final Adoption:**

- a. **Implicit Deadline:** The entire process is structured to ensure the final adoption of the budget **before the fiscal year begins on July 1st.**
- b. **Charter Section:** 10-8
- c. This section on the effect of the budget solidifies that the appropriations made in the budget ordinance become the legal basis for county expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year.