IAN 2 3 2009

### A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES II, III, AND XVII OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO PROVIDE FOR INITIATIVE.

#### BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

- 1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to propose
- 2 amendments to Article II, Article III, and Article XVII of the
- 3 Constitution of the State of Hawaii to provide for initiative.
- 4 The legislature finds that no method exists for initiative in
- 5 Hawaii and that this political mechanism would be in the best
- 6 interest of the citizenry.
- 7 SECTION 2. Article II of the Constitution of the State of
- $oldsymbol{8}$  Hawaii is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately
- 9 designated and to read as follows:

### 10 "INITIATIVE

- 11 <u>Section</u>. The initiative power is reserved to the people.
- 12 An initiative measure shall be submitted to the people by
- 13 presenting to the chief election officer a petition containing
- 14 the signatures of registered voters equaling not less than ten
- 15 percent in the case of a law, except for gambling or lottery
- 16 which requires sixty percent, and not less than sixty percent in



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1	the case of an amendment to this constitution, of all votes
2	counted for all candidates for governor at the preceding general
3	election preceding the filing of the petition. The initiative
4	petition shall be filed with the chief election officer not
5	later than ninety days prior to the general election at which
6	the initiative is to be submitted directly to the people. All
7	initiative measures shall have printed above the title the
8	following:
9	"INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE
10	SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE PEOPLE."
11	Each initiative measure shall embrace but one subject,
12	which shall be expressed in its title. The enacting clause
13	shall be:
14	"BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE
15	OF THE STATE OF HAWAII."
16	The initiative measure shall be enacted into law when
17	approved by a majority of votes counted for the measure. If two
18	or more conflicting initiative measures shall be approved by the
19	people at the same election, the measure receiving the highest
20	number of votes shall prevail.
21	No initiative measure that names any individual to hold any
22	office, or names or identifies any private corporation to
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- 1 perform any function or to have any power or duty, shall be 2 submitted or have any effect. No initiative measure shall be 3 submitted which pertains to land use issues. 4 An initiative measure proposing to prohibit a specific 5 activity or to terminate an existing statutory or regulatory 6 right or privilege shall be submitted to the people in such form 7 that they may vote in the affirmative if they favor the right to 8 engage in the activity or continuance of the right or privilege. 9 Prior to the circulation of any initiative petition for 10 signatures, a copy shall be submitted to the attorney general 11 who shall prepare a title and summary of the chief purpose and 12 aim of the proposed measure. The title shall not exceed ten 13 words and summary shall not exceed fifty words. 14 If, after an initiative petition is submitted to the 15 attorney general, any bill introduced into the legislature which 16 may be contrary as determined by the attorney general in either 17 form or essential substance to the initiative petition is 18 enacted into law, that law and that initiative measure shall be 19 submitted to the people in order that they may choose between 20 them. That contrary law shall remain in effect pending the 21 general election ballot. The measure receiving the highest 22 number of votes shall prevail. If the initiative measure is
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1 approved, such contrary law shall be void. If any law is 2 enacted which is the same or similar to and accomplishes the 3 same purpose as an initiative measure as determined by the 4 attorney general, the chief election officer shall by a public 5 announcement declare the initiative measure void and order it 6 stricken from the ballot. 7 No initiative measure shall be filed with the chief 8 election officer which may be either similar or contrary in 9 either form or essential substance to a bill already introduced 10 into the legislature. If, after the adjournment of the 11 legislature sine die, such bill has not become law, or does not 12 carry over, an initiative measure of either similar or contrary 13 form may be filed with the chief election officer for submission 14 to the people. 15 A defeated initiative measure shall not be resubmitted to 16 the people by the initiative petition in either the same form or **17** essential substance, as determined by the attorney general, either affirmatively or negatively for a period of two years. 18 19 All initiative petitions shall be submitted to the chief 20 election officer for certification. Each sheet containing 21 petitioners' signatures shall be attached to the title, summary and text of the initiative petition. No laws shall be enacted 22

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- 1 limiting the number of copies of a petition which may be 2 circulated. Any registered voter of this State shall be 3 competent to solicit signatures. The petition shall be signed 4 by registered voters. All signers shall add their address as 5 shown on their voter registration form and the date upon which 6 they sign the petition. Every sheet of the petition containing 7 signatures shall be verified by affidavit of the petition 8 circulator that each name on the sheet was signed in the 9 presence of the affiant and that in the belief of the affiant 10 each signer is a registered voter of the State. The chief 11 election officer shall certify that the signers are registered 12 voters of this State. 13 The chief election officer shall not release any petition 14 for inspection by the public or any governmental agency, except 15 where the supreme court orders inspection of such petition when 16 a question has been raised regarding the sufficiency of a petition. If any petition under this section has been determined 17 18 to be insufficient, the petition shall be returned to the 19 circulators within thirty days of its filing with the notations
- Any measure under this section shall be presented to the

  people in such a form that a "yes" vote, on a yes or no ballot,

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of specific insufficiencies.

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1 shall indicate an affirmative vote for the measure as the 2 measure is written. 3 The initiative measure shall be effective, if approved, one day after the election results are announced unless otherwise 4 5 provided for in the measure. 6 The veto power of the governor shall not extend to 7 initiative measures approved by the people. No measure enacted 8 by the people shall be repealed or amended by the legislature 9 unless otherwise provided in the measure; provided that the 10 people may amend an initiative at any time. 11 The petitioners shall bear all cost of the preparation and 12 circulation of the petition, except for the services performed 13 by the attorney general under this section. After the petition 14 has been filed with the chief election officer, all further costs shall be part of the usual expenditures of the State." 15 16 SECTION 3. Article III, section 1, of the Constitution of 17 the State of Hawaii is amended to read as follows: 18 "LEGISLATIVE POWER 19 Section 1. [The] Except as provided in article II, 20 section , the legislative power of the State shall be vested in 21 a legislature, which shall consist of two houses, a senate and a 22 house of representatives[. Such power], but the people reserve

- 1 to themselves the powers of initiative as set forth in article
- 2 II, section . The legislative power and initiative power shall
- 3 extend to all rightful subjects of legislation not inconsistent
- 4 with this constitution or the Constitution of the United
- 5 States."
- 6 SECTION 4. Article III, section 14, of the Constitution of
- 7 the State of Hawaii is amended to read as follows:
- 8 "BILLS; ENACTMENT
- 9 Section 14. No law shall be passed by the legislature
- 10 except by bill. Each law shall embrace but one subject, which
- 11 shall be expressed in its title. The enacting clause of each
- 12 law shall be, "Be it enacted by the legislature of the State of
- 13 Hawaii."
- 14 SECTION 5. Article III, section 16, of the Constitution of
- 15 the State of Hawaii is amended to read as follows:
- 16 "APPROVAL OR VETO
- 17 Section 16. Every bill which shall have passed the
- 18 legislature shall be certified by the presiding officers and
- 19 clerks of both houses and shall thereupon be presented to the
- 20 governor. If the governor approves it, the governor shall sign
- 21 it and it shall become law. If the governor does not approve
- 22 such bill, the governor may return it, with the governor's

- 1 objections to the legislature. Except for items appropriated to
- 2 be expended by the judicial and legislative branches, the
- 3 governor may veto any specific item or items in any bill passed
- 4 by the legislature which appropriates money for specific
- 5 purposes by striking out or reducing the same; but the governor
- 6 shall veto other bills passed by the legislature, if at all,
- 7 only as a whole.
- 8 The governor shall have ten days to consider bills
- 9 presented to the governor ten or more days before the
- 10 adjournment of the legislature sine die, and if any such bill is
- 11 neither signed nor returned by the governor within that time, it
- 12 shall become law in like manner as if the governor had signed
- 13 it.
- 14 The governor shall not have the power of approval or veto
- 15 over any initiative measure adopted by the people, as is
- 16 provided for in article II, section .

#### 17 RECONSIDERATION AFTER ADJOURNMENT

- 18 The governor shall have forty-five days, after the
- 19 adjournment of the legislature sine die, to consider bills
- 20 presented to the governor less than ten days before such
- 21 adjournment, or presented after adjournment, and any such bill
- 22 shall become law on the forty-fifth day unless the governor by



- 1 proclamation shall have given ten days' notice to the
- 2 legislature that the governor plans to return such bill with the
- 3 governor's objections on that day. The legislature may convene
- 4 at or before noon on the forty-fifth day in special session,
- 5 without call, for the sole purpose of acting upon any such bill
- 6 returned by the governor. In case the legislature shall fail to
- 7 so convene, such bill shall not become law. Any such bill may
- 8 be amended to meet the governor's objections and, if so amended
- 9 and passed, only one reading being required in each house for
- 10 such passage, it shall be presented again to the governor, but
- 11 shall become law only if the governor shall sign it within ten
- 12 days after presentation.
- In computing the number of days designated in this section,
- 14 the following days shall be excluded: Saturdays, Sundays,
- 15 holidays and any days in which the legislature is in recess
- 16 prior to its adjournment as provided in section 10 of this
- 17 article."
- 18 SECTION 6. Article XVII, section 1, of the Constitution of
- 19 the State of Hawaii is amended to read as follows:
- 20 "METHODS OF PROPOSAL
- 21 Section 1. Revisions of or amendments to this constitution
- 22 may be proposed by constitutional convention, [or] by the



- legislature[-] or by the people under article\_II, section , 1 2 through the initiative process." 3 SECTION 7. Article XVII, section 4, of the Constitution of 4 the State of Hawaii is amended to read as follows: 5 "VETO Section 4. No proposal for amendment of the constitution 6 7 adopted in either manner provided by this article or by article 8 II, section , on initiative, shall be subject to veto by the 9 governor." 10 SECTION 8. Article XVII, section 5, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii is amended to read as follows: 11 12 "CONFLICTING REVISIONS OR AMENDMENTS 13 Section 5. If a revision or amendment proposed by a 14 constitutional convention is in conflict with a revision or 15 amendment proposed by the legislature and both are submitted to 16 the electorate at the same election and both are approved, then **17** the revision or amendment proposed by the convention shall 18 prevail. If a revision or amendment proposed by the legislature 19 is in conflict with the revision or amendment proposed by the 20 people under article II, section , by initiative, and both are 21 approved, then the revision or amendment receiving the highest 22 number of votes shall prevail. If conflicting revisions or
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- 1 amendments are proposed by the same body, or by the people under
- 2 article II, section , on initiative, and are submitted to the
- 3 electorate at the same election and both are approved, then the
- 4 revision or amendment receiving the highest number of votes
- 5 shall prevail."
- 6 SECTION 9. The question to be printed on the ballot shall
- 7 be as follows:
- 8 "Shall the State Constitution be amended to provide for
- 9 initiative, which is the power of the people to introduce
- 10 legislative measures?"
- 11 SECTION 10. Constitutional material to be repealed is
- 12 bracketed and stricken. New constitutional material is
- 13 underscored.
- 14 SECTION 13. This amendment shall take effect upon
- 15 compliance with article XVII, section 3, of the Constitution of
- 16 the State of Hawaii.

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INTRODUCED BY:

### Report Title:

Initiative

#### Description:

Amends articles II, III, and XVII of the State constitution to provide for initiative.