

JAN 22 2021

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE II, SECTION 1, OF THE HAWAII  
STATE CONSTITUTION TO CHANGE THE AGE QUALIFICATION FOR  
VOTING IN STATE OR LOCAL ELECTIONS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the age  
2 qualification to vote in any federal, state, or local election  
3 is eighteen years of age. However, there are individuals whose  
4 dates of birth fall between the primary and general elections  
5 and therefore, due to current age restrictions, are unable to  
6 participate in state and local primary elections, which  
7 determine the ballot for the general election in which they will  
8 later be eligible to vote. Granting voting rights to these  
9 individuals to participate in the voting process for state and  
10 local elections may improve voter turnout among youths and  
11 better educate youths about the democratic process.

12           The purpose of this Act is to propose an amendment to  
13 article II, section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution to  
14 change the age qualification for voting in certain state or  
15 local primary elections to include individuals who are seventeen



1 years of age but will be eighteen years of age on or before the  
2 next state or local general election.

3 SECTION 2. Article II, section 1, of the Constitution of  
4 the State of Hawaii is amended to read as follows:

5 "Section 1. Every citizen of the United States who shall  
6 have attained the age of eighteen years, have been a resident of  
7 this State not less than one year next preceding the election  
8 and be a voter registered as provided by law, shall be qualified  
9 to vote in any state or local election[-]; provided that every  
10 citizen of the United States who is seventeen years of age but  
11 will attain the age of eighteen years by the date of the next  
12 state or local general election, has been a resident of this  
13 State not less than one year immediately preceding the next  
14 state or local general election and is a voter registered as  
15 provided by law, shall be qualified to vote beginning with the  
16 state or local primary election immediately preceding the state  
17 or local general election by which the citizen will attain the  
18 age of eighteen years."

19 SECTION 3. The question to be printed on the ballot shall  
20 be as follows:



1 "Shall a United States citizen who is seventeen years of age  
2 but will attain the age of eighteen years by the date of the  
3 next state or local general election, has been a resident of  
4 this State not less than one year immediately preceding the  
5 next state or local general election, and is a voter  
6 registered as provided by law, be qualified to vote  
7 beginning with the state or local primary election  
8 immediately preceding the state or local general election by  
9 which the citizen will attain the age of eighteen years?"

10 SECTION 4. Constitutional material to be repealed is  
11 bracketed and stricken. New constitutional material is  
12 underscored.

13 SECTION 5. This amendment shall take effect upon  
14 compliance with article XVII, section 3, of the Constitution of  
15 the State of Hawaii.

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INTRODUCED BY: 



# S.B. NO. 551

**Report Title:**

Voting; Age Qualification; Constitutional Amendment

**Description:**

Proposes a constitutional amendment to allow individuals who are seventeen years of age but will be eighteen years of age on or before the next state or local general election to vote at the state or local primary election immediately preceding the state or local general election by which the citizen will attain the age of eighteen.

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