
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 primary elections, which determine the ballot for
7 the general election in which they will later be eligible to
8 vote. Granting voting rights to these individuals to
9 participate in the voting process for elections may improve
10 voter turnout among youth and better educate youth about the
11 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 primary elections to
15 include individuals who are seventeen years of age but will be
16 eighteen years of age on or before the next general election.



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

3 "Section 1. Every citizen of the United States who shall
4 have attained the age of eighteen years, have been a resident of
5 this State not less than one year next preceding the election
6 and be a voter registered as provided by law, shall be qualified
7 to vote in any state or local election[-]; provided that every
8 citizen of the United States who is seventeen years of age but
9 will attain the age of eighteen years by the date of the next
10 general election, has been a resident of this State no less than
11 thirty days immediately preceding the next primary election, and
12 is a voter registered as provided by law, shall be qualified to
13 vote beginning with the primary election immediately preceding
14 the general election by which the citizen will attain the age of
15 eighteen years and any intervening or co-occurring special
16 election."

17 SECTION 3. The question to be printed on the ballot shall
18 be as follows:

19 "Shall a United States citizen who is seventeen years of age
20 but will attain the age of eighteen years by the date of the
21 next general election, has been a resident of this State no



1 less than thirty days immediately preceding the next primary
2 election, and is a voter registered as provided by law, be
3 qualified to vote beginning with the primary election
4 immediately preceding the general election by which the
5 citizen will attain the age of eighteen years and any
6 intervening or co-occurring special election?"

7 SECTION 4. Constitutional material to be repealed is
8 bracketed and stricken. New constitutional material is
9 underscored.

10 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2112, and
11 this amendment shall take effect upon compliance with
12 article XVII, section 3, of the Constitution of the State of
13 Hawaii.



S.B. NO. 551
S.D. 1
H.D. 1

Report Title:

Voting; Age Qualification; Constitutional Amendment

Description:

Proposes a constitutional amendment to allow citizens who are seventeen years of age but will be eighteen years of age on or before the next general election to vote at the primary election immediately preceding the general election by which the citizen will attain the age of eighteen and any intervening or co-occurring special election. Effective 7/1/2112. (HD1)

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