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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 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 youths and better educate youths 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 not less  
11 than thirty days immediately preceding the next primary election  
12 and is a voter registered as provided by law, shall be qualified  
13 to vote beginning with the primary election immediately  
14 preceding the general election by which the citizen will attain  
15 the age of eighteen years and any intervening or co-occurring  
16 special 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 not



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 amendment shall take effect upon  
11 compliance with article XVII, section 3, of the Constitution of  
12 the State of Hawaii.



# S.B. NO. 551 S.D. 1

**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 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. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

