

FEB 12 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY
OF THE BENEFITS AND DRAWBACKS OF IMPLEMENTING TERM LIMITS
FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

1 WHEREAS, when the United States Supreme Court decided in
2 *Buckley v. Valeo*, 424 U.S. 1 (1976), that certain campaign
3 spending limits would not have to be observed, the ability of
4 nonincumbents to challenge elected officials was substantially
5 impaired; and
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7 WHEREAS, in 1974, the year of the only state election which
8 observed spending limits, twenty-two new members were elected to
9 the House of Representatives and eight new members were elected
10 to the Senate; and
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12 WHEREAS, forty-three percent of the representatives and
13 thirty-two percent of the senators elected in Hawaii in 1974
14 were new to the Legislature; and
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16 WHEREAS, thirty-five states have imposed term limits on
17 their governor, state legislators, or both; and
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19 WHEREAS, thirty-three states have imposed term limits on
20 the members of their delegations to the United States House of
21 Representatives and Senate; and
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23 WHEREAS, the expenses for nonincumbents seeking election to
24 the Legislature and the small chance of winning leads to a
25 reduction in the number of seriously contested races, which
26 results in voter apathy and the undermining of the entire
27 foundation and process of representative democracy; now,
28 therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
32 that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to conduct a
33 study of the benefits and drawbacks of implementing term limits
34 for members of the Legislature; and
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