
A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE III OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
STATE OF HAWAII TO ESTABLISH LEGISLATIVE TERM LIMITS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the house of
2 representatives adopted House Resolution No. 9 (2022) to
3 establish the commission to improve standards of conduct. The
4 resolution requests the commission ensure state laws and rules
5 relating to standards of conduct of public officers and
6 employees contain clear standards, enforcement, and penalties
7 and provide recommendations to increase awareness of, compliance
8 with, and deterrent effects of the code of ethics, lobbying
9 laws, campaign finance laws, and other relevant laws and rules.

10 Pursuant to House Resolution No. 9, the commission to
11 improve standards of conduct convened regularly throughout 2022
12 to diligently review, discuss, and consider the issues
13 presented, submitted an interim report to the house of
14 representatives outlining areas of immediate and long-term
15 focus, then continued its work with input from the public and



1 invited individuals and agencies to issue a final report with
2 various recommendations and accompanying proposed legislation.

3 The legislature also finds that the strength and stability
4 of our democratic government rely upon the public's trust in
5 government institutions, including the expectation that officers
6 act ethically with prudence, integrity, and sound judgement.
7 Therefore, an essential goal of the commission was to provide
8 recommendations that would help restore public trust in state
9 government and increase the level of transparency in its
10 operations and accountability of individuals.

11 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to implement
12 recommendations of the commission to improve standards of
13 conduct relating to setting limits on the number of years any
14 person may serve as a member of the legislature during the
15 person's lifetime.

16 SECTION 2. Article III of the Constitution of the State of
17 Hawaii is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately
18 designated and to read as follows:

19 **"MAXIMUM LENGTH OF SERVICE"**

20 **Section** . No person shall serve as a member of the
21 legislature, whether as a member of the house of



1 representatives, a member of the senate, or any combination
2 thereof, for more than sixteen years during the person's
3 lifetime.

4 This section shall not apply to the legislative terms for
5 those legislators who were elected or appointed to serve in
6 either house of the legislature on or prior to the effective
7 date of this Act."

8 SECTION 3. The question to be printed on the ballot shall
9 be as follows:

10 "Shall a person subsequently appointed or elected to the
11 legislature be limited to serving no more than sixteen years
12 as a member of the legislature, whether as a member of the
13 house of representatives, a member of the senate, or any
14 combination thereof, during the person's lifetime?"

15 SECTION 4. New constitutional material is underscored.

16 SECTION 5. This amendment shall take effect upon
17 compliance with article XVII, section 3, of the Constitution of
18 the State of Hawaii.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Benjamin*

JAN 23 2023



H.B. NO. 796

Report Title:

Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct; Constitutional Amendment; Legislators; Term Limits

Description:

Proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit a person from serving as a member of the legislature for more than sixteen years during the person's lifetime.

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

