
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PARTIAL PUBLIC FINANCING OF ELECTIONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The amounts of funds available to candidates in
2 Hawaii's partial public financing program were last amended in
3 1995. The legislature finds that since 1995-1996, the value of
4 the dollar has risen to approximately \$1.92. The purpose of
5 this Act is to:

6 (1) Increase the amount of funds available to candidates
7 who qualify to participate in the partial public
8 financing program;

9 (2) Increase the amount of funds available to candidates
10 for the board of trustees of the office of Hawaiian
11 affairs, who run statewide;

12 (3) Increase matching fund payments from \$1 for each \$1 of
13 qualifying contributions in excess of the minimum
14 qualifying contribution amounts to \$2 for each \$1 of
15 excess qualifying contributions; and

16 (4) Appropriate funds from the general revenues of the
17 State to increase the amount of funds available in the



1 partial public financing program and to permit the
2 campaign spending commission to hire more staff to
3 address the anticipated increase in participation in
4 the financing program.

5 SECTION 2. Section 11-425, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 **"§11-425 Maximum amount of public funds available to**
8 **candidate.** (a) The maximum amount of public funds available in
9 each election to a candidate for the office of governor,
10 lieutenant governor, or mayor of the city and county of Honolulu
11 and county of Hawaii, shall not exceed [~~ten~~] fifteen per cent of
12 the expenditure limit established in section 11-423(d) for each
13 election.

14 (b) The maximum amount of public funds available in each
15 election to a candidate for the office of state senator, state
16 representative, mayor of the county of Kauai and county of Maui,
17 county council member, and prosecuting attorney shall not exceed
18 [~~fifteen~~] 22.5 per cent of the expenditure limit established in
19 section 11-423(d) for each election.

20 (c) For the office of Hawaiian affairs, the maximum amount
21 of public funds available to a candidate shall not exceed



1 ~~[\$1,500 in any election year.]~~ ten per cent of the expenditure
2 limit established in section 11-423(d) for each election.

3 ~~[(d) For all other offices, the maximum amount of public~~
4 ~~funds available to a candidate shall not exceed \$100 in any~~
5 ~~election year.~~

6 ~~(e)]~~ (d) Each candidate who qualified for the maximum
7 amount of public funding in any primary election and who is a
8 candidate for a subsequent general election shall apply with the
9 commission to be qualified to receive the maximum amount of
10 public funds as provided in this section for the respective
11 general election. For purposes of this section, "qualified"
12 means meeting the qualifying campaign contribution requirements
13 of section 11-429."

14 SECTION 3. Section 11-429, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

16 "(a) As a condition of receiving public funds for a
17 primary or general election, a candidate shall not be unopposed
18 in any election for which public funds are sought, shall have
19 filed an affidavit with the commission pursuant to section
20 11-423 to voluntarily limit the candidate's campaign



1 expenditures, and shall be in receipt of the following sum of
2 qualifying contributions from individual residents of Hawaii:

3 (1) For the office of governor--qualifying contributions
4 that in the aggregate exceed \$100,000;

5 (2) For the office of lieutenant governor--qualifying
6 contributions that in the aggregate exceed \$50,000;

7 (3) For the office of mayor for each respective county:

8 (A) County of Honolulu--qualifying contributions that
9 in the aggregate exceed \$50,000;

10 (B) County of Hawaii--qualifying contributions that
11 in the aggregate exceed \$15,000;

12 (C) County of Maui--qualifying contributions that in
13 the aggregate exceed \$10,000; and

14 (D) County of Kauai--qualifying contributions that in
15 the aggregate exceed \$5,000;

16 (4) For the office of prosecuting attorney for each
17 respective county:

18 (A) County of Honolulu--qualifying contributions that
19 in the aggregate exceed [~~\$30,000~~] \$25,000;

20 (B) County of Hawaii--qualifying contributions that
21 in the aggregate exceed [~~\$10,000~~] \$5,000; and



1 (C) County of Kauai--qualifying contributions that in
2 the aggregate exceed [~~\$5,000~~] \$3,000;

3 (5) For the office of county council--for each respective
4 county:

5 (A) County of Honolulu--qualifying contributions that
6 in the aggregate exceed \$5,000;

7 (B) County of Hawaii--qualifying contributions that
8 in the aggregate exceed \$1,500;

9 (C) County of Maui--qualifying contributions that in
10 the aggregate exceed [~~\$5,000~~] \$4,000; and

11 (D) County of Kauai--qualifying contributions that in
12 the aggregate exceed \$3,000;

13 (6) For the office of state senator--qualifying
14 contributions that, in the aggregate exceed \$2,500;

15 (7) For the office of state representative--qualifying
16 contributions that, in the aggregate, exceed \$1,500;

17 (8) For the office of Hawaiian affairs--qualifying
18 contributions that, in the aggregate, exceed [~~\$1,500~~]
19 \$5,000; and

20 (9) For all other offices, qualifying contributions that,
21 in the aggregate, exceed \$500.



1 (b) A candidate shall obtain the minimum qualifying
2 contribution amount set forth in subsection (a) once for the
3 election period.

4 (1) If the candidate obtains the minimum qualifying
5 contribution amount, the candidate is eligible to
6 receive:

7 (A) The minimum payment in an amount equal to the
8 minimum qualifying contribution amounts; and

9 (B) Payments of [~~\$1~~] \$2 for each \$1 of qualifying
10 contributions in excess of the minimum qualifying
11 contribution amounts; and

12 (2) A candidate shall have at least one other qualified
13 candidate as an opponent for the primary or general
14 election to receive public funds for that election."

15 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
18 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
19 year 2024-2025 to be deposited into the Hawaii election campaign
20 fund.



1 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the Hawaii
2 election campaign fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof
3 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the same sum
4 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025
5 for the purposes of this Act.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the campaign
7 spending commission for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the
11 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
12 2024-2025 for two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) permanent
13 positions to be placed within the campaign spending commission.

14 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the campaign
15 spending commission for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 7. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
17 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
18 begun before its effective date.

19 SECTION 8. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

21 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.



Report Title:

Hawaii Campaign Spending Commission Package; Partial Public Financing; Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Maximum Amount of Public Funds Available; Minimum Qualifying Contribution Amounts; Appropriations

Description:

Increases the maximum amount of public funds available for all offices by fifty per cent. Increases the maximum amount of public funds available for a candidate for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs from \$1,500 to ten per cent of the expenditure limit for each election. Increases the amounts of qualifying contributions for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs from more than \$1,500 to more than \$5,000 in the aggregate. Provides a downward adjustment of the amounts of qualifying contributions for the Office of Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu, County of Hawaii, and County of Kauai and for the Office of County Council for the County of Maui. Appropriates unspecified sums for the increase in the Partial Public Financing Program. Appropriates \$200,000 for the Campaign Spending Commission to hire two additional staff members. (SD1)

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