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# 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 legislature finds that the amounts  
2 available to candidates in the State's partial public financing  
3 program were last significantly amended in 1995. The  
4 legislature finds that since 1995-1996, the value of the dollar  
5 has risen to approximately \$2.07.

6           The purpose of this Act is to:

- 7           (1) Increase the amount of funds available to candidates  
8           who qualify to participate in the partial public  
9           financing program, including candidates for the board  
10           of trustees of the office of Hawaiian affairs, who run  
11           statewide;
- 12           (2) Encourage participation in the partial public  
13           financing program by providing for the adjustment of  
14           the amount of minimum qualifying contributions  
15           required for certain offices;
- 16           (3) Increase matching fund payments for excess qualifying  
17           contributions; and



1           (4) Appropriate funds from the general revenues of the  
2           State to increase the amount of funds available in the  
3           partial public financing program and to permit the  
4           campaign spending commission to hire more staff to  
5           address the anticipated increase in participation in  
6           the financing program.

7           SECTION 2. Section 11-423, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8           amended by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

9           "(d) From January 1 of the year of any primary, special,  
10          or general election, the aggregate expenditures for each  
11          election by a candidate who voluntarily agrees to limit campaign  
12          expenditures, inclusive of all expenditures made or authorized  
13          by the candidate alone, all treasurers, the candidate committee,  
14          and noncandidate committees on the candidate's behalf, shall not  
15          exceed the following amounts expressed, respectively multiplied  
16          by the number of voters in the last preceding general election  
17          registered to vote in each respective voting district:

- 18           (1) For the office of governor--~~[\$2.50;]~~ \$3.00;
- 19           (2) For the office of lieutenant governor--~~[\$1.40;]~~ \$1.68;
- 20           (3) For the office of mayor--~~[\$2.00;]~~ \$2.40;



1 (4) For the offices of state senator, state  
2 representative, county council member, and prosecuting  
3 attorney--~~[\$1.40]~~ \$1.68; and

4 (5) For all other offices--~~[20]~~ 24 cents."

5 SECTION 3. 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]~~ state senator, state representative,

11 mayor, county council member, prosecuting attorney, or Hawaiian

12 affairs shall not exceed ~~[ten]~~ sixty-seven per cent of the

13 expenditure limit established in section 11-423(d) for each

14 election~~[-]~~; provided that the candidate shall not receive any

15 public funds that, when combined with the candidate's qualifying

16 contributions, are in excess of the expenditure limit.

17 ~~[(b) The maximum amount of public funds available in each~~

18 ~~election to a candidate for the office of state senator, state~~

19 ~~representative, county council member, and prosecuting attorney~~

20 ~~shall not exceed fifteen per cent of the expenditure limit~~

21 ~~established in section 11-423(d) for each election.~~



1 ~~(c) For the office of Hawaiian affairs, the maximum amount~~  
2 ~~of public funds available to a candidate shall not exceed \$1,500~~  
3 ~~in any election year.~~

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

7 ~~(e)]~~ (b) Each candidate who qualified for the maximum  
8 amount of public funding in any primary election and who is a  
9 candidate for a subsequent general election shall apply with the  
10 commission to be qualified to receive the maximum amount of  
11 public funds as provided in this section for the respective  
12 general election.

13 (c) For purposes of this section, "qualified" means  
14 meeting the qualifying campaign contribution requirements of  
15 section 11-429."

16 SECTION 4. Section 11-429, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

18 "(a) As a condition of receiving public funds for a  
19 primary or general election, a candidate shall not be unopposed  
20 in any election for which public funds are sought, shall have  
21 filed an affidavit with the commission pursuant to



1 section 11-423 to voluntarily limit the candidate's campaign  
2 expenditures, and shall be in receipt of the following sum of  
3 qualifying contributions from individual residents of Hawaii:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



- 1 (B) County of Hawaii--qualifying contributions that  
2 in the aggregate exceed [~~\$10,000;~~] \$5,000; and  
3 (C) County of Kauai--qualifying contributions that in  
4 the aggregate exceed [~~\$5,000;~~] \$3,000;
- 5 (5) For the office of county council--for each respective  
6 county:
- 7 (A) County of Honolulu--qualifying contributions that  
8 in the aggregate exceed \$5,000;
- 9 (B) County of Hawaii--qualifying contributions that  
10 in the aggregate exceed \$1,500;
- 11 (C) County of Maui--qualifying contributions that in  
12 the aggregate exceed [~~\$5,000;~~] \$4,000; and
- 13 (D) County of Kauai--qualifying contributions that in  
14 the aggregate exceed \$3,000;
- 15 (6) For the office of state senator--qualifying  
16 contributions that[7] in the aggregate exceed \$2,500;
- 17 (7) For the office of state representative--qualifying  
18 contributions that[7] in the aggregate[7] exceed  
19 \$1,500;



1 (8) For the office of Hawaiian affairs--qualifying  
2 contributions that[~~τ~~] in the aggregate[~~τ~~] exceed  
3 \$1,500; and

4 (9) For all other offices[~~τ~~]--qualifying contributions  
5 that[~~τ~~] in the aggregate[~~τ~~] exceed \$500.

6 (b) A candidate shall obtain the minimum qualifying  
7 contribution amount set forth in subsection (a) once for the  
8 election period.

9 [~~(1)~~] If the candidate obtains the minimum qualifying  
10 contribution amount, the candidate [~~is~~] shall be  
11 eligible to receive:

12 [~~(A)~~] (1) The minimum payment in an amount equal to  
13 the minimum qualifying contribution amounts; and

14 [~~(B)~~] (2) Payments of [~~\$1~~] \$2 for each \$1 of  
15 qualifying contributions in excess of the minimum  
16 qualifying contribution amounts[~~τ~~and].

17 [~~(2)~~] A candidate shall have at least one other qualified  
18 candidate as an opponent for the primary or general  
19 election to receive public funds for that election."

20 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 to be  
2 deposited into the Hawaii election campaign fund.

3 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the Hawaii  
4 election campaign fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof  
5 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 for the purposes  
6 of this Act.

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

9 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026  
12 for full-time equivalent ( FTE) permanent positions  
13 to be placed within the campaign spending commission.

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

16 SECTION 8. 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 9. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.

2



**Report Title:**

Campaign Spending Commission Package; Partial Public Financing; OHA; Maximum Amount of Public Funds Available; Minimum Qualifying Contribution Amounts; Appropriations

**Description:**

Increases the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all elective offices. Adjusts the minimum amount of qualifying contributions certain candidates must receive to participate in the program. Increases the matching fund payments for excess qualifying contributions. Appropriates funds for the program and staff. Effective 7/1/3000. (SD1)

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

