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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING.

**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 Hawaii'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 11-425, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9           "**§11-425 Maximum amount of public funds available to**  
10 **candidate.** (a) The maximum amount of public funds available in  
11 each election to a candidate for ~~[the]~~:

12           (1) The office of governor, lieutenant governor, or mayor  
13           of the city and county of Honolulu or the county of  
14           Hawaii shall not exceed ~~[ten]~~ \_\_\_\_\_ per cent ~~[of the~~  
15           expenditure limit established in section 11-423(d) for  
16           each election.

17           ~~(b) The maximum amount of public funds available in each~~  
18 ~~election to a candidate for the];~~

19           (2) The office of state senator, state representative,  
20           mayor of the county of Kauai or the county of Maui,  
21           county council member, and prosecuting attorney shall



1 not exceed [~~fifteen~~] \_\_\_\_ per cent [~~of the expenditure~~  
2 ~~limit established in section 11-423(d) for each~~  
3 ~~election.~~

4 ~~(e) For the]; or~~

5 (3) The office of Hawaiian affairs [~~, the maximum amount of~~  
6 ~~public funds available to a candidate]~~ shall not  
7 exceed [~~[\$1,500 in any election year.]~~] \_\_\_\_ per cent,  
8 of the expenditure limit established in section 11-423(d) for  
9 each election.

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

13 ~~(e)]~~ (b) Each candidate who qualified for the maximum  
14 amount of public funding in any primary election and who is a  
15 candidate for a subsequent general election shall apply with the  
16 commission to be qualified to receive the maximum amount of  
17 public funds as provided in this section for the respective  
18 general election.

19 (c) For purposes of this section, "qualified" means  
20 meeting the qualifying campaign contribution requirements of  
21 section 11-429."



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

3 "(a) As a condition of receiving public funds for a  
4 primary or general election, a candidate shall not be unopposed  
5 in any election for which public funds are sought, shall have  
6 filed an affidavit with the commission pursuant to  
7 section 11-423 to voluntarily limit the candidate's campaign  
8 expenditures, and shall be in receipt of the following sum of  
9 qualifying contributions from individual residents of Hawaii:

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

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

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

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

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

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



- 1 (D) County of Kauai--qualifying contributions that in  
2 the aggregate exceed \$5,000;
- 3 (4) For the office of prosecuting attorney for each  
4 respective county:
- 5 (A) County of Honolulu--qualifying contributions that  
6 in the aggregate exceed [~~\$30,000~~] \$25,000;
- 7 (B) County of Hawaii--qualifying contributions that  
8 in the aggregate exceed [~~\$10,000~~] \$5,000; and
- 9 (C) County of Kauai--qualifying contributions that in  
10 the aggregate exceed [~~\$5,000~~] \$3,000;
- 11 (5) For the office of county council--for each respective  
12 county:
- 13 (A) County of Honolulu--qualifying contributions that  
14 in the aggregate exceed \$5,000;
- 15 (B) County of Hawaii--qualifying contributions that  
16 in the aggregate exceed \$1,500;
- 17 (C) County of Maui--qualifying contributions that in  
18 the aggregate exceed [~~\$5,000~~] \$4,000; and
- 19 (D) County of Kauai--qualifying contributions that in  
20 the aggregate exceed \$3,000;



1 (6) For the office of state senator--qualifying  
2 contributions that[~~τ~~] in the aggregate exceed \$2,500;

3 (7) For the office of state representative--qualifying  
4 contributions that[~~τ~~] in the aggregate[~~τ~~] exceed  
5 \$1,500;

6 (8) For the office of Hawaiian affairs--qualifying  
7 contributions that[~~τ~~] in the aggregate[~~τ~~] exceed  
8 [~~\$1,500;~~] \$5,500; and

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

11 (b) A candidate shall obtain the minimum qualifying  
12 contribution amount set forth in subsection (a) once for the  
13 election period.

14 [~~(1)~~] If the candidate obtains the minimum qualifying  
15 contribution amount, the candidate [~~is~~] shall be eligible to  
16 receive:

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

19 [~~(B)~~] (2) Payments of [~~\$1~~] \$2 for each \$1 of qualifying  
20 contributions in excess of the minimum qualifying  
21 contribution amounts[~~;~~and].



1           [~~2~~] A candidate shall have at least one other qualified  
2 candidate as an opponent for the primary or general election to  
3 receive public funds for that election."

4           SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 to be  
7 deposited into the Hawaii election campaign fund.

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

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

14           SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026  
17 for           full-time equivalent (           FTE) permanent positions to  
18 be placed within the campaign spending commission.

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



1 SECTION 7. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
2 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
3 begun before its effective date.

4 SECTION 8. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Campaign Spending Commission; 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. (HD1)

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

