
A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 4, OF THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO ESTABLISH TERM
LIMITS FOR LEGISLATORS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, according to a 2018
2 Civil Beat poll, seventy per cent of likely voters statewide
3 support term limits for state legislators. While residents have
4 often called for term limits for legislators, this is one reform
5 that has been consistently introduced proposing different
6 variations of term limits but has not been adopted because of
7 the inability for legislators to reach consensus for the best
8 way to craft and apply term limits to state legislators. Until
9 there is a constitutional directive from voters to enact
10 legislation applying a set number of term limits to legislators,
11 it is unlikely that term limits for state legislators will be
12 enacted.

13 The purpose of this Act is to propose an amendment to
14 article III, section 4, of the Constitution of the State of
15 Hawaii to limit the terms of members of the legislature, as
16 provided by law, for the terms beginning after the general



1 election of 2028 to enable the state legislature in the 2027 and
2 2028 legislative sessions to enact a law establishing term
3 limits for legislators.

4 SECTION 2. Article 3, section 4, of the Constitution of
5 the State of Hawaii is amended to read as follows:

6 "ELECTION OF MEMBERS; TERM

7 Section 4. Each member of the legislature shall be elected
8 at an election. If more than one candidate has been nominated
9 for election to a seat in the legislature, the member occupying
10 that seat shall be elected at a general election. If a
11 candidate nominated for a seat at a primary election is
12 unopposed for that seat at the general election, the candidate
13 shall be deemed elected at the primary election. The term of
14 office of a member of the house of representatives shall be two
15 years and the term of office of a member of the senate shall be
16 four years[-]; provided that for terms beginning after the
17 general election of 2028, members of the house of
18 representatives and the senate shall only be authorized to serve
19 for a set number of terms, as provided by law. The term of a
20 member of the legislature shall begin on the day of the general
21 election at which elected or if elected at a primary election,



1 on the day of the general election immediately following the
2 primary election at which elected. For a member of the house of
3 representatives, the term shall end on the day of the general
4 election immediately following the day the member's term
5 commences. For a member of the senate, the term shall end on
6 the day of the second general election immediately following the
7 day the member's term commences."

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

10 "Shall the Hawaii State Constitution be amended to limit
11 members of the Hawaii state legislature to serving a set
12 number of terms, as provided by law, for terms beginning
13 after the general election of 2028?"

14 SECTION 4. Constitutional material to be repealed is
15 bracketed and stricken. New constitutional material is
16 underscored.

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



H.B. NO. 764

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INTRODUCED BY:

Aella A. Delatti

JAN 17 2025



H.B. NO. 764

Report Title:

Constitutional Amendment; Legislative Term Limits

Description:

Proposes a constitutional amendment to limit the terms of members of the Legislature, as provided by law, for terms beginning after the general election of 2028.

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

