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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 Hawaii's partial public financing  
3 program were last significantly amended in 1995. The  
4 legislature further finds that since 1995-1996, the value of the  
5 dollar has risen to approximately \$2.12.

6           The purpose of this Act is to:

7           (1) Increase the expenditure limit and the amount of funds  
8 available to candidates qualified to participate in  
9 the partial public financing program, including  
10 candidates for the board of trustees for the office of  
11 Hawaiian affairs, who run 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;



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

4 (4) Appropriate funds from the general revenues of the  
5 State to increase the amount of funds available in the  
6 partial public financing program.

7 SECTION 2. Section 11-423, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 **"§11-423 Voluntary expenditure limits; filing affidavit.**

10 (a) Any candidate may voluntarily agree to limit the  
11 candidate's expenditures and those of the candidate's candidate  
12 committee or committees and the candidate's party on the  
13 candidate's behalf by filing an affidavit with the campaign  
14 spending commission.

15 (b) The affidavit shall state that the candidate knows the  
16 voluntary campaign expenditure limitations as set out in this  
17 part and that the candidate is voluntarily agreeing to limit the  
18 candidate's expenditures and those made on the candidate's  
19 behalf by the amount set by law. The affidavit shall be  
20 subscribed to by the candidate and notarized and filed no later



1 than the time of filing nomination papers with the chief  
2 election officer or county clerk.

3 (c) The affidavit shall remain effective until the  
4 termination of the candidate committee or the opening of filing  
5 of nomination papers for the next succeeding election, whichever  
6 occurs first. An affidavit filed under this section [~~may~~] shall  
7 not be rescinded.

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

- 17 (1) For the office of governor--~~[\$2.50]~~ \$3.00;  
18 (2) For the office of lieutenant governor--~~[\$1.40]~~ \$1.68;  
19 (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 (e) Notwithstanding subsection (d), a candidate who  
6 voluntarily agrees to limit campaign expenditures may elect to  
7 allocate up to seventy-five per cent of the candidate's combined  
8 aggregate expenditure limit applicable to the primary and  
9 general elections to either election; provided that the  
10 candidate shall not exceed the combined aggregate expenditure  
11 limit applicable to both elections."

12 SECTION 3. Section 11-425, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended to read as follows:

14 **"§11-425 Maximum amount of public funds available to**  
15 **candidate.** (a) The maximum amount of public funds available in  
16 each election to a candidate for ~~[the office of governor,~~  
17 ~~lieutenant governor, or mayor shall not exceed ten per cent of~~  
18 ~~the expenditure limit established in section 11-423(d) for each~~  
19 ~~election.~~

20 ~~(b) The maximum amount of public funds available in each~~  
21 ~~election to a candidate for the office of state senator, state~~



1 ~~representative, county council member, and prosecuting attorney~~  
2 ~~shall not exceed fifteen per cent of the expenditure limit~~  
3 ~~established in section 11-423(d) for each election.~~

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

7 ~~(d) For all other offices, the maximum amount of public~~  
8 ~~funds available to a candidate shall not exceed \$100 in any~~  
9 ~~election year.];~~

10 (1) The office of governor, lieutenant governor, or mayor  
11 of the city and county of Honolulu or the county of  
12 Hawaii shall not exceed 12.5 per cent of the  
13 expenditure limit established in section 11-423(d) for  
14 each election;

15 (2) The office of state senator, state representative,  
16 mayor of the county of Kauai or the county of Maui,  
17 county council member, and prosecuting attorney shall  
18 not exceed 18.75 per cent of the expenditure limit  
19 established in section 11-423(d) for each election; or



1        (3) The office of Hawaiian affairs shall not exceed 7.5  
2                    per cent of the expenditure limit established in  
3                    section 11-423(d) for each election.

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

10        (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a  
11 candidate may elect to allocate up to seventy-five per cent of  
12 the total maximum amount of public funds available to the  
13 candidate for the primary and general elections to either  
14 election; provided that the candidate shall not receive public  
15 funds in excess of the combined maximum amount otherwise  
16 available for both elections.

17        (d) For purposes of this section, "qualified" means  
18 meeting the qualifying campaign contribution requirements of  
19 section 11-429."

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



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

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

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

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

13           (A) [~~County~~] City and county of Honolulu--qualifying  
14           contributions that in the aggregate exceed  
15           \$50,000;

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

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

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



1 (4) For the office of prosecuting attorney for each  
2 respective county:

3 (A) [~~County~~] City and county of Honolulu--qualifying  
4 contributions that in the aggregate exceed  
5 [~~\$30,000;~~] \$25,000;

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

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

10 (5) For the office of county council--for each respective  
11 county:

12 (A) [~~County~~] City and county of Honolulu--qualifying  
13 contributions that in the aggregate exceed  
14 \$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[7] in the aggregate exceed \$2,500;

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

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

9 (9) For all other offices[7]--qualifying contributions  
10 that[7] in the aggregate[7] exceed \$500[7] for one  
11 office.

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

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

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



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

4        [~~2~~] A candidate shall have at least one other qualified  
5 candidate as an opponent for the primary or general election to  
6 receive public funds for that election."

7        SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,267,021.06 or so  
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to be  
10 deposited into the Hawaii election campaign fund.

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

13        SECTION 6. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
14 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
15 begun before its effective date.

16        SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18        SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on November 4, 2026;  
19 provided that section 5 shall take effect on July 1, 2026.



**Report Title:**

Campaign Spending Commission Package; Partial Public Financing; Appropriation

**Description:**

Increases the expenditure limit and 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. Effective 11/4/2026. (CD1)

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

