
A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF
HAWAII TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR REFERENDUM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to propose an
2 amendment to article III of the Constitution of the State of
3 Hawaii to approve or reject laws enacted by the legislature.
4 This measure advances the principle of direct democracy by
5 enabling voter participation in the legislative process.

6 SECTION 2. Article III of the Constitution of the State of
7 Hawaii is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately
8 designated and to read as follows:

9 **"LEGISLATIVE REFERENDUM"**

10 Section . (a) The legislature may refer any act or
11 proposed act to the voters for approval or rejection, by
12 adopting the same, in the manner required for legislation, by a
13 two-thirds vote of each house on final reading at any session,
14 after either or both houses shall have given the governor at
15 least ten days' written notice of the final form of the proposed
16 referendum, or, with or without such notice, by a majority vote



1 of each house on final reading at each of two successive
2 sessions. The referral shall specify the act or proposed act to
3 be submitted and the election at which it shall appear on the
4 ballot.

5 (b) A legislative referendum on a proposed act shall be
6 submitted to the voters before the proposed act takes effect. A
7 legislative referendum on an act enacted may be submitted to the
8 voters at any time; provided that the act shall remain in effect
9 until the referendum is held and the results are certified,
10 unless otherwise specified by the legislature.

11 (c) A legislative referendum shall be submitted to the
12 voters at a general election or at a special election called for
13 that purpose. The legislature shall determine the election at
14 which the referendum shall appear.

15 (d) If a majority of the votes cast on a referendum
16 measure are in favor of the act, the act shall take effect as
17 provided by law. If a majority of the votes cast on a
18 referendum measure are against the act, the act shall be void
19 and of no effect.

20 (e) The legislature shall enact laws to facilitate the
21 operation of this section, including but not limited to



procedures for signature verification, ballot preparation, and
voter information. Such laws shall not impose conditions that
make the exercise of the referendum power unduly burdensome.

(f) The provisions of this section are self-executing."

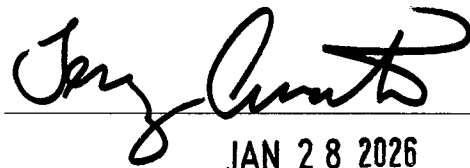
SECTION 3. The question to be printed on the ballot shall
be as follows:

"Shall the Constitution of the State of Hawaii be amended
to establish a legislative referendum process that allows
the legislature to refer acts to voters for approval or
rejection?"

SECTION 4. New constitutional material is underscored.

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

INTRODUCED BY:


JAN 28 2026



H.B. NO. 2620

Report Title:

Constitutional Amendment; Legislative Referendum

Description:

Proposes a constitutional amendment for the establishment of a legislative referendum process that allows the Legislature to refer acts to voters for approval or rejection.

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

