

JAN 22 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 12, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
2 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
3 read as follows:

4 "S12- Result of a primary or special primary election.
5 A primary or special primary election shall be conducted to
6 select the candidates for all elective offices in the State.
7 All voters may vote in a primary or special primary election for
8 any candidate without regard to the political party preference
9 disclosed by the candidate or the voter; provided that the voter
10 is otherwise qualified to vote for candidates for the office in
11 question. The candidates who are the top two vote-getters in a
12 primary or special primary election, regardless of party
13 preference, shall compete in the ensuing general or special
14 general election."

15 SECTION 2. Section 12-41, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 repealed.



1 ["S12-41 ~~Result of election.~~ (a) The person or persons
2 receiving the greatest number of votes at the primary or special
3 primary as a candidate of a party for an office shall be the
4 candidate of the party at the following general or special
5 general election but not more candidates for a party than there
6 are offices to be elected; provided that any candidate for any
7 county office who is the sole candidate for that office at the
8 primary or special primary election, or who would not be opposed
9 in the general or special general election by any candidate
10 running on any other ticket, nonpartisan or otherwise, and who
11 is nominated at the primary or special primary election shall,
12 after the primary or special primary election, be declared to be
13 duly and legally elected to the office for which the person was
14 a candidate regardless of the number of votes received by that
15 candidate.

16 (b) Any nonpartisan candidate receiving at least ten per
17 cent of the total votes cast for the office for which the person
18 is a candidate at the primary or special primary, or a vote
19 equal to the lowest vote received by the partisan candidate who
20 was nominated in the primary or special primary, shall also be a
21 candidate at the following election; provided that when more



1 ~~nonpartisan candidates qualify for nomination than there are~~
2 ~~offices to be voted for at the general or special general~~
3 ~~election, there shall be certified as candidates for the~~
4 ~~following election those receiving the highest number of votes,~~
5 ~~but not more candidates than are to be elected."~~]

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

9 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
10 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

12

INTRODUCED BY: Mike Hubbard



S.B. NO. 2480

Report Title:

Primary Elections; Top-two Candidates

Description:

Allows voters in a primary or special primary election to vote for any candidate for any office without regard to the voter or candidate's political party preference. Advances the top two candidates in a primary or special primary election, regardless of political party, to the general election.

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