

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1237

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

June 24, 2026

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 24, 2026, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. NO. 2050, H.D. 1, S.D. 1,
C.D. 1

RELATING TO PARTIAL PUBLIC FINANCING OF
ELECTIONS.
ACT 136

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D." in a cursive style.

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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



APPROVED this 24th day of June , 2026



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

HB No. 2050, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026.



Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker
House of Representatives





Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2026.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate