
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 by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

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

18 (1) For the office of governor--~~[\$2.50]~~ \$3.00;

19 (2) For the office of lieutenant governor--~~[\$1.40]~~ \$1.68;

20 (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 SECTION 3. Section 11-425, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 "**§11-425 Maximum amount of public funds available to**
8 **candidate.** (a) The maximum amount of public funds available in
9 each election to a candidate for ~~[the office of governor,~~
10 ~~lieutenant governor, or mayor shall not exceed ten per cent of~~
11 ~~the expenditure limit established in section 11-423(d) for each~~
12 ~~election.~~

13 ~~(b) The maximum amount of public funds available in each~~
14 ~~election to a candidate for the office of state senator, state~~
15 ~~representative, county council member, and prosecuting attorney~~
16 ~~shall not exceed fifteen per cent of the expenditure limit~~
17 ~~established in section 11-423(d) for each election.~~

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



1 ~~(d) For all other offices, the maximum amount of public~~
2 ~~funds available to a candidate shall not exceed \$100 in any~~
3 ~~election year.]:~~

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

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

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

17 ~~[(e)]~~ (b) Each candidate who qualified for the maximum
18 amount of public funding in any primary election and who is a
19 candidate for a subsequent general election shall apply with the
20 commission to be qualified to receive the maximum amount of



1 public funds as provided in this section for the respective
2 general election.

3 (c) For purposes of this section, "qualified" means
4 meeting the qualifying campaign contribution requirements of
5 section 11-429."

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

8 "(a) As a condition of receiving public funds for a
9 primary or general election, a candidate shall not be unopposed
10 in any election for which public funds are sought, shall have
11 filed an affidavit with the commission pursuant to section
12 11-423 to voluntarily limit the candidate's campaign
13 expenditures, and shall be in receipt of the following sum of
14 qualifying contributions from individual residents of Hawaii:

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

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

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

20 (A) County of Honolulu--qualifying contributions that
21 in the aggregate exceed \$50,000;



- 1 (B) County of Hawaii--qualifying contributions that
2 in the aggregate exceed \$15,000;
- 3 (C) County of Maui--qualifying contributions that in
4 the aggregate exceed \$10,000; and
- 5 (D) County of Kauai--qualifying contributions that in
6 the aggregate exceed \$5,000;
- 7 (4) For the office of prosecuting attorney for each
8 respective county:
- 9 (A) County of Honolulu--qualifying contributions that
10 in the aggregate exceed [~~\$30,000~~] \$25,000;
- 11 (B) County of Hawaii--qualifying contributions that
12 in the aggregate exceed [~~\$10,000~~] \$5,000; and
- 13 (C) County of Kauai--qualifying contributions that in
14 the aggregate exceed [~~\$5,000~~] \$3,000;
- 15 (5) For the office of county council--for each respective
16 county:
- 17 (A) County of Honolulu--qualifying contributions that
18 in the aggregate exceed \$5,000;
- 19 (B) County of Hawaii--qualifying contributions that
20 in the aggregate exceed \$1,500;



1 (C) County of Maui--qualifying contributions that in
2 the aggregate exceed [~~\$5,000~~] \$4,000; and

3 (D) County of Kauai--qualifying contributions that in
4 the aggregate exceed \$3,000;

5 (6) For the office of state senator--qualifying
6 contributions that[~~]~~ in the aggregate exceed \$2,500;

7 (7) For the office of state representative--qualifying
8 contributions that[~~]~~ in the aggregate[~~]~~ exceed
9 \$1,500;

10 (8) For the office of Hawaiian affairs--qualifying
11 contributions that[~~]~~ in the aggregate[~~]~~ exceed
12 [~~\$1,500~~] \$5,500; and

13 (9) For all other offices[~~]~~--qualifying contributions
14 that[~~]~~ in the aggregate[~~]~~ exceed \$500[~~]~~ for one
15 office.

16 (b) A candidate shall obtain the minimum qualifying
17 contribution amount set forth in subsection (a) once for the
18 election period.

19 [~~(1)~~] If the candidate obtains the minimum qualifying
20 contribution amount, the candidate [~~is~~] shall be
21 eligible to receive:



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

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

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

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

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

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

18 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000;
2 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 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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