
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 the State'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) Provide for the adjustment of the amount of minimum
13 qualifying contributions required for certain offices;
- 14 (3) Increase matching fund payments from \$1 to \$4 for each
15 \$1 of qualifying contributions in excess of the
16 minimum qualifying contribution amounts; and



1 (4) Appropriate funds to increase the amount of funds
2 available in the partial public financing program.

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

5 "**§11-423 Voluntary expenditure limits; filing affidavit.**

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

11 (b) The affidavit shall state that the candidate knows the
12 voluntary campaign expenditure limitations as set out in this
13 part and that the candidate is voluntarily agreeing to limit the
14 candidate's expenditures and those made on the candidate's
15 behalf by the amount set by law. The affidavit shall be
16 subscribed to by the candidate and notarized and filed no later
17 than the time of filing nomination papers with the chief
18 election officer or county clerk.

19 (c) The affidavit shall remain effective until the
20 termination of the candidate committee or the opening of filing
21 of nomination papers for the next succeeding election, whichever



1 occurs first. An affidavit filed under this section [~~may~~] shall
2 not be rescinded.

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

- 12 (1) For the office of governor--~~[\$2.50;]~~ \$3.00;
13 (2) For the office of lieutenant governor--~~[\$1.40;]~~ \$1.68;
14 (3) For the office of mayor--~~[\$2.00;]~~ \$2.40;
15 (4) For the offices of state senator, state
16 representative, county council member, and prosecuting
17 attorney--~~[\$1.40;]~~ \$1.68; and
18 (5) For all other offices--~~[20]~~ 24 cents.

19 (e) Notwithstanding subsection (d), a candidate who
20 voluntarily agrees to limit campaign expenditures may elect to
21 allocate up to seventy-five per cent of the candidate's combined



1 aggregate expenditure limit applicable to the primary and
2 general elections to either election; provided that the
3 candidate shall not exceed the combined aggregate expenditure
4 limit applicable to both elections."

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 twenty per cent of the
7 expenditure limit established in section 11-423(d) for
8 each election; or

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

15 ~~(e)]~~ (b) Each candidate who qualified for the maximum
16 amount of public funding in any primary election and who is a
17 candidate for a subsequent general election shall apply with the
18 commission to be qualified to receive the maximum amount of
19 public funds as provided in this section for the respective
20 general election.



1 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a
 2 candidate may elect to allocate up to seventy-five per cent of
 3 the total maximum amount of public funds available to the
 4 candidate for the primary and general elections to either
 5 election; provided that the candidate shall not receive public
 6 funds in excess of the combined maximum amount otherwise
 7 available for both elections.

8 (d) For the purposes of this section, "qualified" means
 9 meeting the qualifying campaign contribution requirements of
 10 section 11-429."

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

13 "(a) As a condition of receiving public funds for a
 14 primary or general election, a candidate shall not be unopposed
 15 in any election for which public funds are sought, shall have
 16 filed an affidavit with the commission pursuant to section
 17 11-423 to voluntarily limit the candidate's campaign
 18 expenditures, and shall be in receipt of the following sum of
 19 qualifying contributions from individual residents of Hawaii:

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



- 1 (2) For the office of lieutenant governor--qualifying
2 contributions that in the aggregate exceed \$50,000;
- 3 (3) For the office of mayor for each respective county:
- 4 (A) [~~County~~] City and county of Honolulu--qualifying
5 contributions that in the aggregate exceed
6 \$50,000;
- 7 (B) County of Hawaii--qualifying contributions that
8 in the aggregate exceed \$15,000;
- 9 (C) County of Maui--qualifying contributions that in
10 the aggregate exceed \$10,000; and
- 11 (D) County of Kauai--qualifying contributions that in
12 the aggregate exceed \$5,000;
- 13 (4) For the office of prosecuting attorney for each
14 respective county:
- 15 (A) [~~County~~] City and county of Honolulu--qualifying
16 contributions that in the aggregate exceed
17 [~~\$30,000~~] \$25,000;
- 18 (B) County of Hawaii--qualifying contributions that
19 in the aggregate exceed [~~\$10,000~~] \$5,000; and
- 20 (C) County of Kauai--qualifying contributions that in
21 the aggregate exceed [~~\$5,000~~] \$3,000;



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



1 (9) For all other offices~~[7]~~ qualifying contributions
2 that~~[7]~~ in the aggregate~~[7]~~ exceed \$500~~[7]~~ for one
3 office.

4 (b) A candidate shall obtain the minimum qualifying
5 contribution amount set forth in subsection (a) once for the
6 election period.

7 ~~[(1)]~~ If the candidate obtains the minimum qualifying
8 contribution amount, the candidate ~~[is]~~ shall be eligible to
9 receive:

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

12 ~~[(B)]~~ (2) Payments of ~~[\$1]~~ \$4 for each \$1 of qualifying
13 contributions in excess of the minimum qualifying
14 contribution amounts~~[7 and]~~.

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

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



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

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

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

8 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000;
9 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)

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

