
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 amounts available to candidates in the
2 State's partial public financing program was last amended in
3 1995. The legislature finds that since 1995-1996, the value of
4 the dollar has risen to approximately \$2.12.

5 The purpose of this Act is to increase the expenditure
6 limit and the amount of funds available to candidates qualified
7 to participate in the partial public financing program by:

- 8 (1) Increasing the amount of funds available to all
9 candidates running for state or county office
10 including for the board of trustees for the office of
11 Hawaiian affairs, who run state-wide;
- 12 (2) Increasing matching fund payments from \$1 for each \$1
13 of qualifying contributions in excess of the minimum
14 qualifying contribution amounts to \$4 for each \$1 of
15 excess qualifying contributions;



1 (3) Providing for the downward adjustment of the amount of
2 minimum qualifying contributions required for certain
3 offices; and

4 (4) Appropriating funds to increase the amount of funds
5 available in the partial public financing program.

6 SECTION 2. Section 11-423, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

8 "(d) From January 1 of the year of any primary, special,
9 or general election, the aggregate expenditures for each
10 election 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 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 of the city and county of Honolulu
11 or the county of Hawaii shall not exceed ~~[ten]~~ twenty per cent
12 of the expenditure limit established in section 11-423(d) for
13 each election.

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



1 (c) For the office of Hawaiian affairs, the maximum amount
2 of public funds available to a candidate shall not exceed
3 ~~[\$1,500 in any election year.~~

4 ~~(d) For all other offices, the maximum amount of public~~
5 ~~funds available to a candidate shall not exceed \$100 in any~~
6 ~~election year.] 7.5 per cent of the expenditure limit~~
7 ~~established in section 11-423(d) for each election.~~

8 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) Each candidate who qualified for the maximum
9 amount of public funding in any primary election and who is a
10 candidate for a subsequent general election shall apply with the
11 commission to be qualified to receive the maximum amount of
12 public funds as provided in this section for the respective
13 general election.

14 (e) For the purposes of this section, "qualified" means
15 meeting the qualifying campaign contribution requirements of
16 section 11-429."

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

19 "(a) As a condition of receiving public funds for a
20 primary or general election, a candidate shall not be unopposed
21 in any election for which public funds are sought, shall have



1 filed an affidavit with the commission pursuant to section
2 11-423 to voluntarily limit the candidate's campaign
3 expenditures, and shall be in receipt of the following sum of
4 qualifying contributions from individual residents of Hawaii:

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

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

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

10 (A) [~~County~~] City and county of Honolulu--qualifying
11 contributions that in the aggregate exceed
12 \$50,000;

13 (B) County of Hawaii--qualifying contributions that
14 in the aggregate exceed \$15,000;

15 (C) County of Maui--qualifying contributions that in
16 the aggregate exceed \$10,000; and

17 (D) County of Kauai--qualifying contributions that in
18 the aggregate exceed \$5,000;

19 (4) For the office of prosecuting attorney for each
20 respective county:



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



- 1 (7) For the office of state representative--qualifying
2 contributions that~~[7]~~ in the aggregate, exceed \$1,500;
- 3 (8) For the office of Hawaiian affairs--qualifying
4 contributions that~~[7]~~ in the aggregate, exceed
5 ~~[\$1,500,]~~ \$5,500; and
- 6 (9) For all other offices, qualifying contributions that,
7 in the aggregate~~[7]~~ exceed \$500~~[7]~~ for one office.
- 8 (b) A candidate shall obtain the minimum qualifying
9 contribution amount set forth in subsection (a) once for the
10 election period.
- 11 (1) If the candidate obtains the minimum qualifying
12 contribution amount, the candidate ~~[is]~~ shall be
13 eligible to receive:
- 14 (A) The minimum payment in an amount equal to the
15 minimum qualifying contribution amounts; and
- 16 (B) Payments of ~~[\$1]~~ \$4 for each \$1 of qualifying
17 contributions in excess of the minimum qualifying
18 contribution amounts; and
- 19 (2) A candidate shall have at least one other qualified
20 candidate as an opponent for the primary or general
21 election to receive public funds for that election."



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

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

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

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

12 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on March 22, 2075;
13 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 3/22/2075. (SD1)

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