

ACT 287

S.B. NO. 1064

A Bill for an Act Relating to Ballot Access for Political Parties.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Section 11-61, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) Any party which does not meet the following requirements or the requirements set forth in sections 11-62 to [11-63,] 11-64, shall be subject to disqualification:

- (1) A party must have had candidates running for election at the last general election for any of the offices listed in [paragraphs] paragraph (2) [to (5)] whose terms had expired. This does not include those offices which were vacant because the incumbent had died or resigned before the end of the incumbent's term; and
- (2) The party received at least ten per cent of all votes cast [for];
 (A) For any of the offices voted upon by all the voters in the State;
- [(3) The party received at least ten per cent of all the votes cast in]
 (B) In at least fifty per cent of the congressional districts;
- [(4) The party received at least ten per cent of all the votes cast in]
 (C) In at least the six senatorial districts with the lowest votes cast for the office of state senator; or
- [(5) The party received at least ten per cent of all the votes cast in]
 (D) In at least fifty per cent of the representative districts for the office of state representative."

SECTION 2. Section 11-62, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended as follows:

1. By amending subsection (a) to read:

“(a) Any group of persons hereafter desiring to qualify as a political party for election ballot purposes in the State shall file with the chief election officer a petition as [hereinafter] provided[.] in the section. The petition for qualification as a political party shall:

- (1) Be filed not later than 4:30 p.m. on the one hundred [fiftieth] seventieth day prior to the next primary;
- (2) Declare as concisely as may be the intention of signers thereof to qualify as a statewide political party in the State and state the name of the new party;
- (3) Contain the [signatures] name, signature, residence address, date of birth, and other information as determined by the chief election officer of currently registered voters comprising not less than one per cent of the total registered voters of the State as of the last preceding general election;
- (4) Be accompanied by the names and addresses of the officers of the central committee and of the respective county committees of the political party and by the party rules; and
- (5) Be upon the form prescribed and provided by the chief election officer."

2. By amending subsection (d) to read:

“(d) Each group of persons desiring to qualify as a political party [shall qualify under this section for], having first qualified as a political party by petition under this section, and having been qualified as a political party for three consecutive general elections[, after which the group] by petition or pursuant to section 11-61(b), shall be deemed a political party for the following ten-year period[.] The ten-year period shall begin with the next regularly scheduled general election; provided that each party qualified under this section shall continue to field candidates for public office during the ten-year period following qualification. After each ten-year period, the party qualified under this section shall either remain qualified under the standards set forth in section 11-61, or requalify under this section 11-62."

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 21, 1997.)