

ACT 19

S.B. NO. 1202

A Bill for an Act Relating to Campaign Finance.

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

SECTION 1. Section 11-381, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) Campaign funds may be used by a candidate, treasurer, or candidate committee:

(1) For any purpose directly related:

- (A) In the case of the candidate, to the candidate's own campaign; or
- (B) In the case of a candidate committee or treasurer of a candidate committee, to the campaign of the candidate, question, or issue with which they are directly associated;
- (2) To purchase or lease consumer goods, vehicles, equipment, and services that provide a mixed benefit to the candidate~~[-The];~~ provided that the candidate[-,however,] shall reimburse the candidate's candidate committee for the candidate's personal use of these items unless the personal use is de minimis;
- (3) To make donations to any community service, educational, youth, recreational, charitable, scientific, or literary organization; provided that in any election period, the total amount of all donations shall be ~~[nø]~~ not more than twice the maximum amount that one person may contribute to that candidate pursuant to section 11-357; provided further that no donations shall be made from the date the candidate files nomination papers to the date of the general election unless the candidate is:
 - (A) Declared to be duly and legally elected to the office for which the person is a candidate pursuant to section 12-41;
 - (B) Deemed and declared to be duly and legally elected to the office for which the person is a candidate pursuant to section 12-42; or
 - (C) Unsuccessful in the primary or special primary election;
- (4) To make donations to any public school or public library; provided that in any election period, the total amount of all contributions shall be ~~[nø]~~ not more than twice the maximum amount that one person may contribute to that candidate pursuant to section 11-357; provided further that any donation under this paragraph shall not be aggregated with or imputed toward any limitation on donations pursuant to paragraph (3);
- (5) To award scholarships to full-time students attending an institution of higher education or a vocational education school in a program leading to a degree, certificate, or other recognized educational credential; provided that in any election period, the total amount of all scholarships awarded shall be ~~[nø]~~ not more than twice the maximum amount that one person may contribute to that candidate pursuant to section 11-357; provided further that no awards shall be made from the filing deadline for nomination papers to the date of the general election unless the candidate is:
 - (A) Declared to be duly and legally elected to the office for which the person is a candidate pursuant to section 12-41;
 - (B) Deemed and declared to be duly and legally elected to the office for which the person is a candidate pursuant to section 12-42; or
 - (C) Unsuccessful in the primary or special primary election;
- (6) To purchase not more than two tickets for each event held by another candidate or committee, regardless of whether the event constitutes a fundraiser as defined in section 11-342;
- (7) To make contributions to the candidate's party so long as the contributions are not earmarked for another candidate; ~~[øf]~~
- (8) To pay for ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in connection with the candidate's duties as a holder of an office, including expenses incurred for memberships in civic or community groups~~[-];~~ or

- (9) To pay for the candidate's child care or vital household dependent care costs; provided that:
- (A) The child care or vital household dependent care costs would not have been incurred but for the candidate's participation in the candidate's own campaign activity;
- (B) Qualifying child care or vital household dependent care costs shall be limited to costs for child care or vital household dependent care services from the date the candidate files nomination papers to the day after the date of the primary or general election in which the candidate appears on the ballot; and
- (C) The child care or vital household dependent care services shall not be provided by immediate family.

As used in this paragraph:

"Child" means a person under twelve years of age who is a biological, adopted, or foster child; a stepchild; or a legal ward of the candidate.

"Child care" means a situation where a person or organization has agreed to assume and has been entrusted with responsibility for the supervision, development, safety, and protection of the candidate's child.

"Vital household dependent" means a person, such as a family member, living in the candidate's household who is physically or mentally incapable of self-care.

"Vital household dependent care" means a situation where a person or organization has agreed to assume and has been entrusted with responsibility for the supervision, development, safety, and protection of the candidate's vital household dependent."

SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved April 22, 2025.)