
A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION RELATING
TO JUDGES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to propose an
2 amendment to article VI, section 3, of the Constitution of the
3 State of Hawaii to raise the mandatory retirement age of judges
4 from seventy to eighty years.

5 SECTION 2. Article VI, section 3, of the Constitution of
6 the State of Hawaii is amended to read as follows:

7 **"APPOINTMENT OF JUSTICES AND JUDGES**

8 **Section 3.** The governor, with the consent of the senate,
9 shall fill a vacancy in the office of the chief justice, supreme
10 court, intermediate appellate court and circuit courts, by
11 appointing a person from a list of not less than four, and not
12 more than six, nominees for the vacancy, presented to the
13 governor by the judicial selection commission.

14 If the governor fails to make any appointment within thirty
15 days of presentation, or within ten days of the senate's
16 rejection of any previous appointment, the appointment shall be
17 made by the judicial selection commission from the list with the



1 consent of the senate. If the senate fails to reject any
2 appointment within thirty days thereof, it shall be deemed to
3 have given its consent to such appointment. If the senate shall
4 reject any appointment, the governor shall make another
5 appointment from the list within ten days thereof. The same
6 appointment and consent procedure shall be followed until a
7 valid appointment has been made, or failing this, the commission
8 shall make the appointment from the list, without senate
9 consent.

10 The chief justice, with the consent of the senate, shall
11 fill a vacancy in the district courts by appointing a person
12 from a list of not less than six nominees for the vacancy
13 presented by the judicial commission. If the chief justice
14 fails to make the appointment within thirty days of
15 presentation, or within ten days of the senate's rejection of
16 any previous appointment, the appointment shall be made by the
17 judicial selection commission from the list with the consent of
18 the senate. The senate must hold a public hearing and vote on
19 each appointment within thirty days of any appointment. If the
20 senate fails to do so, the nomination shall be returned to the
21 commission and the commission shall make the appointment from



1 the list without senate consent. The chief justice shall
2 appoint per diem district court judges as provided by law.

3 **QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT**

4 Justices and judges shall be residents and citizens of the
5 State and of the United States, and licensed to practice law by
6 the supreme court. A justice of the supreme court, a judge of
7 the intermediate appellate court and a judge of the circuit
8 court shall have been so licensed for a period of not less than
9 ten years preceding nomination. A judge of the district court
10 shall have been so licensed for a period of not less than five
11 years preceding nomination.

12 No justice or judge [~~shall~~], during the term of office,
13 shall engage in the practice of law, or run for or hold any
14 other office or position of profit under the United States, the
15 State or its political subdivisions.

16 **TENURE; COMPENSATION; RETIREMENT**

17 The term of office of justices and judges of the supreme
18 court, intermediate appellate court and circuit courts shall be
19 ten years. Judges of district courts shall hold office for the
20 periods as provided by law. At least six months prior to the
21 expiration of a justice's or judge's term of office, every
22 justice and judge shall petition the judicial selection



1 commission to be retained in office or shall inform the
2 commission of an intention to retire. If the judicial selection
3 commission determines that the justice or judge should be
4 retained in office, the commission shall renew the term of
5 office of such justice or judge for the period provided by this
6 section or by law.

7 There shall be a salary commission to review and recommend
8 salaries for justices and judges of all state courts. Justices
9 and judges shall have salaries as provided by law. Their
10 compensation shall not be decreased during their respective
11 terms of office, unless by general law applying to all salaried
12 officers of the State. They shall be retired upon attaining the
13 age of [~~seventy~~] eighty years. They shall be included in any
14 retirement law of the State."

15 SECTION 3. The question to be printed on the ballot shall
16 be as follows:

17 "Shall the mandatory retirement age for justices and judges
18 be raised from seventy years to eighty years?"

19 SECTION 4. Constitutional material to be repealed is
20 bracketed and stricken. New constitutional material is
21 underscored.



1 SECTION 5. This amendment shall take effect upon
2 compliance with article XVII, section 3, of the Constitution of
3 the State of Hawaii.



SB2797, SD1

Report Title:

Judges; Mandatory Retirement Age

Description:

Proposes an amendment to the state constitution raising the mandatory retirement age for judges from 70 to 80. (SD1)

