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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is  
2 considerable interest throughout the community regarding the  
3 notion of a future constitutional convention. Many anticipate  
4 strong grassroots interest in a constitutional convention and  
5 possibly a large influx of new people getting involved and  
6 running to be delegates.

7           The legislature also finds that elections for  
8 constitutional convention delegates are surprisingly absent from  
9 the existing campaign spending law. The last constitutional  
10 convention was held thirty years ago, and the cost of  
11 campaigning has swelled enormously over the past few decades.

12           Meanwhile, there has been growing interest in establishing  
13 a comprehensive public funding program for election campaigns in  
14 Hawaii. A comprehensive public funding program would reduce the  
15 influence of private money in elections and open up the  
16 electoral process to new participants.



1           Given these trends, there is an exceptional opportunity for  
2 establishing a new campaign finance system for candidates  
3 running for constitutional convention delegates.

4           The purpose of this Act is to establish a comprehensive  
5 public funding option for candidates for constitutional  
6 conventions, to provide an alternative to private funding  
7 sources and encourage ordinary citizens to run for  
8 constitutional convention seats.

9           SECTION 2. Chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
10 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
11 read as follows:

12           **"§11-           Comprehensive public funding for constitutional**  
13 **convention delegates.** (a) The campaign spending commission  
14 shall establish a comprehensive public funding program for  
15 candidates running for the office of constitutional convention  
16 delegate.

17           (b) To qualify for comprehensive public funding, a  
18 candidate shall not be unopposed and shall be in receipt of \$500  
19 in qualifying campaign contributions from citizens residing in  
20 the candidate's constitutional convention delegate district;  
21 provided that the aggregate of contributions received from any  
22 citizen shall not exceed \$25.



1        (c) Upon qualifying for comprehensive public funding, the  
 2 candidate shall receive public funding equal to \$2.50 per  
 3 registered voter in the candidate's constitutional convention  
 4 delegate district and shall be prohibited from soliciting,  
 5 receiving, or spending any funds from any other source.

6        (d) Candidates receiving comprehensive public funding  
 7 shall file reports as required under sections 11-212 and 11-213,  
 8 and at other times as determined by the campaign spending  
 9 commission."

10        SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
 12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for  
 13 the comprehensive public funding program for candidates running  
 14 for the office of constitutional convention delegate.

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

17        SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

18        SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
 19 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

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INTRODUCED BY: Della C. Blatty

Barbara Marmuti  
Ahijuan

[Signature]  
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JAN 23 2008



**Report Title:**

Constitutional Convention; Public Funding; Appropriation

**Description:**

Provides for full public funding for delegate candidates for the constitutional convention. Appropriates funds.

