

JAN 18 2008

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.



Report Title:

Constitutional Convention; Public Funding; Appropriation

Description:

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

