

MAR 14 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY
OF THE BENEFITS AND DRAWBACKS OF IMPLEMENTING TERM LIMITS
FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

1 WHEREAS, when the United States Supreme Court decided in
2 *Buckley v. Valeo*, 424 U.S. 1 (1976), that certain campaign
3 spending limits would not have to be observed, the ability of
4 nonincumbents to challenge elected officials was substantially
5 impaired; and
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7 WHEREAS, in 1974, the year of the only state election which
8 observed spending limits, twenty-two new members were elected to
9 the House of Representatives and eight new members were elected
10 to the Senate; in other words, forty-three percent of the
11 representatives and thirty-two percent of the senators elected
12 in 1974 were new to the Legislature; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the expenses for nonincumbents seeking election to
15 the Legislature and the small chance of winning leads to a
16 reduction in the number of seriously contested races, which
17 results in voter apathy and the undermining of the entire
18 foundation and process of representative democracy; now,
19 therefore,
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012,
23 that the Legislative Reference Bureau conduct a study of the
24 benefits and drawbacks of implementing term limits for members
25 of the Legislature; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
28 Bureau report its findings to the Legislature no later than
29 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
30 2013; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Legislative
3 Reference Bureau, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
4 Senate President.

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OFFERED BY: Michelle Stani (br)

