
A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE XVII OF THE CONSTITUTION OF
THE STATE OF HAWAII FOR REFERENDUM.

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 XVII of the Constitution of the State of
3 Hawaii to provide for referendum. The legislature finds that no
4 method exists for referendum in Hawaii and that this political
5 mechanism would be in the best interests of Hawaii. Referendum
6 is a powerful tool the public can utilize to defend liberty and
7 justice. Often, a majority consensus is reached by the people
8 before legislative changes are set forth by elected
9 representatives. Therefore, referendum empowers voters to drive
10 legislation instead of relying on the inefficient and often
11 ineffective representative democracy. This Act is self-
12 executing, but the legislature may enact legislation to enable
13 its operation, including the timing and manner of a referendum;
14 provided that the legislation may not restrict or limit the
15 provisions of this section or the powers reserved in this
16 section.



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1 SECTION 2. Article XVII of the Hawaii Constitution is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 Section . Referendum. Referendum power shall be reserved
5 to the people, except for laws providing for making, amending or
6 repealing laws for appropriation of public funds and collective
7 bargaining agreements.

8 SECTION 3. The question to be printed on the ballot shall
9 be as follows:

10 "Shall the State Constitution be amended to specify that
11 referendum power shall be reserved to the people, except for
12 laws providing for making, amending or repealing laws for
13 appropriation of public funds and collective bargaining
14 agreements?"

15 SECTION 4. New constitutional material is underscored.

16 SECTION 5. This amendment shall take effect upon
17 compliance with article XVII, section 3, of the Hawaii
18 Constitution.

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INTRODUCED BY:



H.B. NO. 1976

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JAN 22 2016



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Report Title:
Referendum

Description:
Amends article XVII of the State Constitution to provide for
Referendum.

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