

JAN 18 2019

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 4, OF THE HAWAII  
STATE CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH LEGISLATIVE TERM LIMITS.

**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 III, section 4, of the Constitution of the  
3 State of Hawaii to limit the terms of members of the legislature  
4 to a maximum of six consecutive full terms in the house of  
5 representatives and three consecutive full terms in the senate.

6           SECTION 2. Article III, section 4, of the Constitution of  
7 the State of Hawaii is amended to read as follows:

8                                   **"ELECTION OF MEMBERS; TERM**

9           **Section 4.** Each member of the legislature shall be elected  
10 at an election. If more than one candidate has been nominated  
11 for election to a seat in the legislature, the member occupying  
12 that seat shall be elected at a general election. If a  
13 candidate nominated for a seat at a primary election is  
14 unopposed for that seat at the general election, the candidate  
15 shall be deemed elected at the primary election. The term of  
16 office of a member of the house of representatives shall be two



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1 years and the term of office of a member of the senate shall be  
2 four years[-]; provided that for terms beginning on the general  
3 election of 2024, no member of the house of representatives  
4 shall serve more than six consecutive full terms in the house of  
5 representatives, and no member of the senate shall serve more  
6 than three consecutive full terms in the senate. If a member  
7 reaches the term limit for the house of representatives, that  
8 member may serve additional terms in the house of  
9 representatives, subject to the term limit for the house of  
10 representatives, after a hiatus of at least two years. If a  
11 member reaches the term limit for the senate, that member may  
12 serve additional terms in the senate, subject to the term limit  
13 for the senate, after a hiatus of at least four years. Nothing  
14 in this section shall require a member of either house of the  
15 legislature who reaches the term limit for that house to serve a  
16 hiatus before serving any term of office in the other house.  
17 The term of a member of the legislature shall begin on the day  
18 of the general election at which elected or if elected at a  
19 primary election, on the day of the general election immediately  
20 following the primary election at which elected. For a member  
21 of the house of representatives, the term shall end on the day



1 of the general election immediately following the day the  
2 member's term commences. For a member of the senate, the term  
3 shall end on the day of the second general election immediately  
4 following the day the member's term commences."

5 SECTION 3. The question to be printed on the ballot shall  
6 be as follows:

7 "Shall the Constitution of the State of Hawaii be amended to  
8 limit members of the legislature, for terms beginning on the  
9 general election of 2024, to serving a maximum of six  
10 consecutive full terms in the house of representatives and  
11 three consecutive full terms in the senate, subject to a  
12 two-year hiatus before serving any subsequent terms in the  
13 house of representatives and a four-year hiatus before  
14 serving any subsequent terms in the senate?"

15 SECTION 4. Constitutional material to be repealed is  
16 bracketed and stricken. New constitutional material is  
17 underscored.

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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.

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# S.B. NO. 311

**Report Title:**

Legislative Term Limits; Constitutional Amendment

**Description:**

Proposes a constitutional amendment to limit the terms of members of the legislature to a maximum of six consecutive full terms in the house of representatives and three consecutive full terms in the senate, for terms beginning on the day of the general election of 2024, subject to a hiatus prior to serving any subsequent terms in the same house.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

