
A BILL FOR AN ACT

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

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, according to a 2023
2 Pew Research study, a vast majority of Americans support term
3 limits for legislators. Concern regarding career politicians
4 and the recent issues of public corruption have many residents
5 worried about the status of legislative term limits. While the
6 residents have often called for legislative reform, one measure
7 that has consistently not been adopted is term limits for
8 legislators.

9 The legislature also finds that at least fifteen states
10 have limits on the number of years a person may serve as a
11 member of the legislature during the person's lifetime, which
12 range from eight to twelve years. Given the legislature's part-
13 time nature and the differences between the house of
14 representatives and the senate, the twelve-year term limit
15 between the two chambers would be most equitable.



1 The purpose of this Act is to propose an amendment to
2 article III, section 4, of the Constitution of the State of
3 Hawaii to limit the terms of members of the legislature to a
4 maximum of twelve years in the house of representatives or
5 senate, or both, for terms beginning on or after the general
6 election of 2024, and to include a grandfather clause as to not
7 disqualify those legislators who have already exceeded the
8 proposed twelve-year limit.

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

11 **"ELECTION OF MEMBERS; TERM**

12 **Section 4.** Each member of the legislature shall be elected
13 at an election. If more than one candidate has been nominated
14 for election to a seat in the legislature, the member occupying
15 that seat shall be elected at a general election. If a
16 candidate nominated for a seat at a primary election is
17 unopposed for that seat at the general election, the candidate
18 shall be deemed elected at the primary election. The term of
19 office of a member of the house of representatives shall be two
20 years and the term of office of a member of the senate shall be
21 four years [-]; provided that for terms beginning on or after



1 the general election of 2024, no member of the legislature shall
2 serve for more than twelve years total between the house of
3 representatives or senate, or both. The accumulation of time
4 served in the legislature shall begin on or after the general
5 election of 2024. The term of a member of the legislature shall
6 begin on the day of the general election at which elected or if
7 elected at a primary election, on the day of the general
8 election immediately following the primary election at which
9 elected. For a member of the house of representatives, the term
10 shall end on the day of the general election immediately
11 following the day the member's term commences. For a member of
12 the senate, the term shall end on the day of the second general
13 election immediately following the day the member's term
14 commences."

15 SECTION 3. The question to be printed on the ballot shall
16 be as follows:

17 "Shall a member of the Hawaii state legislature be limited
18 to serving no more than twelve years in the Hawaii state
19 house of representatives or senate, or both, for terms
20 beginning on or after the general election of 2024?"



H.B. NO. 1703

1 SECTION 4. Constitutional material to be repealed is
2 bracketed and stricken. New constitutional material is
3 underscored.

4 SECTION 5. This amendment shall take effect upon
5 compliance with article XVII, section 3, of the Constitution of
6 the State of Hawaii.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 18 2024



H.B. NO. 1703

Report Title:

Minority Caucus Package; Term Limits; Constitutional Amendment

Description:

Proposes a constitutional amendment to limit the terms of members of the legislature to a maximum of twelve years in the house of representatives or senate, or both, for terms beginning on or after the general election of 2024, with a grandfather clause for those already in office.

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