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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PARTIAL PUBLIC FINANCING OF ELECTIONS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that it has been two  
2 decades since the amount of funds available to candidates in  
3 Hawaii's partial public financing program were last amended.

4           The purpose of this Act is to:

- 5           (1) Increase the amount of funds available to candidates  
6                 who qualify to participate in the partial public  
7                 financing program, including candidates for the board  
8                 of trustees of the office of Hawaiian affairs, who run  
9                 state-wide;
- 10          (2) Adjust the minimum amount of qualifying contributions  
11                 certain candidates must receive to participate in the  
12                 program;
- 13          (3) Increase matching fund payments from \$1 for each \$1 of  
14                 qualifying contributions in excess of the minimum  
15                 qualifying contribution amounts to \$2 for each \$1 of  
16                 excess qualifying contributions; and



1 (4) Appropriate funds from the general revenues of the  
 2 State to increase the amount of funds available in the  
 3 partial public financing program and to permit the  
 4 campaign spending commission to hire more staff to  
 5 address the anticipated increase in participation in  
 6 the financing program.

7 SECTION 2. Section 11-425, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
 8 amended to read as follows:

9 "§11-425 **Maximum amount of public funds available to**  
 10 **candidate.** (a) The maximum amount of public funds available in  
 11 each election to a candidate for ~~[the]~~:

12 (1) The office of governor, lieutenant governor, or mayor  
 13 of the city and county of Honolulu or the county of  
 14 Hawaii shall not exceed ~~[ten]~~ fifteen per cent ~~[of the~~  
 15 expenditure limit established in section 11-423(d) for  
 16 each election.

17 ~~(b) The maximum amount of public funds available in each~~  
 18 ~~election to a candidate for the];~~

19 (2) The office of state senator, state representative,  
 20 mayor of the county of Kauai or the county of Maui,  
 21 county council member, and prosecuting attorney shall



1 not exceed [~~fifteen~~] 22.5 per cent [~~of the expenditure~~  
2 ~~limit established in section 11-423(d) for each~~  
3 ~~election.~~

4 ~~(e) For the]; or~~

5 (3) The office of Hawaiian affairs[~~, the maximum amount of~~  
6 ~~public funds available to a candidate]~~ shall not  
7 exceed [~~\$1,500 in any election year.~~] ten per cent,  
8 of the expenditure limit established in section 11-423(d) for  
9 each election.

10 [~~(d) For all other offices, the maximum amount of public~~  
11 ~~funds available to a candidate shall not exceed \$100 in any~~  
12 ~~election year.~~

13 ~~(e)]~~ (b) Each candidate who qualified for the maximum  
14 amount of public funding in any primary election and who is a  
15 candidate for a subsequent general election shall apply with the  
16 commission to be qualified to receive the maximum amount of  
17 public funds as provided in this section for the respective  
18 general election.

19 (c) For purposes of this section, "qualified" means  
20 meeting the qualifying campaign contribution requirements of  
21 section 11-429."



1 SECTION 3. Section 11-429, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

3 "(a) As a condition of receiving public funds for a  
4 primary or general election, a candidate shall not be unopposed  
5 in any election for which public funds are sought, shall have  
6 filed an affidavit with the commission pursuant to  
7 section 11-423 to voluntarily limit the candidate's campaign  
8 expenditures, and shall be in receipt of the following sum of  
9 qualifying contributions from individual residents of Hawaii:

- 10 (1) For the office of governor--qualifying contributions  
11 that in the aggregate exceed \$100,000;
- 12 (2) For the office of lieutenant governor--qualifying  
13 contributions that in the aggregate exceed \$50,000;
- 14 (3) For the office of mayor for each respective county:
  - 15 (A) County of Honolulu--qualifying contributions that  
16 in the aggregate exceed \$50,000;
  - 17 (B) County of Hawaii--qualifying contributions that  
18 in the aggregate exceed \$15,000;
  - 19 (C) County of Maui--qualifying contributions that in  
20 the aggregate exceed \$10,000; and



- 1 (D) County of Kauai--qualifying contributions that in
- 2 the aggregate exceed \$5,000;
- 3 (4) For the office of prosecuting attorney for each
- 4 respective county:
- 5 (A) County of Honolulu--qualifying contributions that
- 6 in the aggregate exceed [~~\$30,000~~] \$25,000;
- 7 (B) County of Hawaii--qualifying contributions that
- 8 in the aggregate exceed [~~\$10,000~~] \$5,000; and
- 9 (C) County of Kauai--qualifying contributions that in
- 10 the aggregate exceed [~~\$5,000~~] \$3,000;
- 11 (5) For the office of county council--for each respective
- 12 county:
- 13 (A) County of Honolulu--qualifying contributions that
- 14 in the aggregate exceed \$5,000;
- 15 (B) County of Hawaii--qualifying contributions that
- 16 in the aggregate exceed \$1,500;
- 17 (C) County of Maui--qualifying contributions that in
- 18 the aggregate exceed [~~\$5,000~~] \$4,000; and
- 19 (D) County of Kauai--qualifying contributions that in
- 20 the aggregate exceed \$3,000;



- 1 (6) For the office of state senator--qualifying  
2 contributions that~~[7]~~ in the aggregate exceed \$2,500;
- 3 (7) For the office of state representative--qualifying  
4 contributions that~~[7]~~ in the aggregate~~[7]~~ exceed  
5 \$1,500;
- 6 (8) For the office of Hawaiian affairs--qualifying  
7 contributions that~~[7]~~ in the aggregate~~[7]~~ exceed  
8 ~~[\$1,5007]~~ \$5,000; and
- 9 (9) For all other offices, qualifying contributions  
10 that~~[7]~~ in the aggregate~~[7]~~ exceed \$500.
- 11 (b) A candidate shall obtain the minimum qualifying  
12 contribution amount set forth in subsection (a) once for the  
13 election period.
- 14 ~~[(1)]~~ If the candidate obtains the minimum qualifying  
15 contribution amount, the candidate ~~[is]~~ shall be eligible to  
16 receive:
- 17 ~~[(A)]~~ (1) The minimum payment in an amount equal to the  
18 minimum qualifying contribution amounts; and
- 19 ~~[(B)]~~ (2) Payments of ~~[\$1]~~ \$2 for each \$1 of qualifying  
20 contributions in excess of the minimum qualifying  
21 contribution amounts~~[7 and]~~.



1           [~~(2)~~] A candidate shall have at least one other qualified  
2 candidate as an opponent for the primary or general election to  
3 receive public funds for that election."

4           SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII, of  
5 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and  
6 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined  
7 that the appropriations contained in this Act will cause the  
8 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025  
9 to be exceeded by \$                   , or           per cent. The reasons  
10 for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the  
11 appropriations made in this Act are necessary to serve the  
12 public interest and to meet the needs provided for by this Act.

13           SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                   or so  
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be  
16 deposited into the Hawaii election campaign fund.

17           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the campaign  
18 spending commission for the purposes of this Act.

19           SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                   or so  
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for



1 two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) permanent positions to be  
2 placed within the campaign spending commission.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the campaign  
4 spending commission for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 7. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
6 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
7 begun before its effective date.

8 SECTION 8. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
9 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.





**Report Title:**

Campaign Spending Commission Package; Partial Public Financing;  
OHA; Maximum Amount of Public Funds Available; Minimum  
Qualifying Contribution Amounts; Expenditure Ceiling

**Description:**

Increases the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all elective offices. Adjusts the minimum amount of qualifying contributions certain candidates must receive to participate in the program. Increases the matching fund payments for excess qualifying contributions. Appropriates funds for the program and staff. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

