
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CANDIDATES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 12-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended follows:

3 1. By amending subsections (b) through (d) to read:

4 "(b) If an objection is made by a registered voter, the
5 candidate objected [~~thereto~~] to shall be notified of the
6 objection by the chief election officer or the clerk in the case
7 of county offices by registered or certified mail.

8 (c) If an objection is filed by an officer of a political
9 party with the [~~circuit court,~~] office of elections, the
10 candidate objected [~~thereto~~] to shall be notified of the
11 objection by an officer of the political party by registered or
12 certified mail.

13 (d) [~~Except for objections by an officer of a political~~
14 ~~party filed directly with the circuit court, the]~~ The chief
15 election officer or the clerk in the case of county offices
16 shall have the necessary powers and authority to reach a
17 preliminary decision on the merits of the objection; provided



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1 that nothing in this subsection shall be construed to extend to
2 the candidate a right to an administrative contested case
3 hearing as defined in section 91-1(5). The chief election
4 officer or the clerk in the case of county offices shall render
5 a preliminary decision not later than five working days after
6 the objection is filed."

7 2. By amending subsections (f) and (g) to read:

8 "(f) If a political party objects to the nomination paper
9 filed by a candidate because the candidate is not a member of
10 the party pursuant to the party's rules filed in conformance
11 with section 11-63, an officer of the party whose name appears
12 on file with the chief election officer shall file a complaint
13 in the [~~circuit court~~] office of elections for a prompt
14 determination of the objection; provided that the complaint
15 shall be filed with the [~~clerk of the circuit court not~~] office
16 of elections no later than 4:30 p.m. on the sixtieth day or the
17 next earliest working day prior to that election day.

18 (g) If [~~an officer of a political party whose name appears~~
19 ~~on file with the chief election officer,~~] the chief election
20 officer[~~7~~] or clerk in the case of county offices files a
21 complaint in the circuit court, the circuit court clerk shall



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1 issue to the defendants named in the complaint a summons to
2 appear before the court not later than 4:30 p.m. on the fifth
3 day after service thereof."

4 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

7

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 13 2025



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Report Title:

Candidates; Office of Elections; Nomination Papers; Challenges; Hearings

Description:

Requires objections made by an officer of a political party to candidate nomination papers to be filed with and determined by the Office of Elections.

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