

JAN 15 2025

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 amounts available to candidates in Hawaii's
2 partial public financing program was last amended in 1995. The
3 legislature finds that since 1995-1996, the value of the dollar
4 has risen to approximately \$2.06.

5 The purpose of this Act is to increase the amount of funds
6 available to candidates qualified to participate in the partial
7 public financing program. This Act increases the amount of
8 funds available to candidates for the board of trustees for the
9 office of Hawaiian affairs, who run statewide. This Act
10 increases matching fund payments from \$1 for each \$1 of
11 qualifying contributions in excess of the minimum qualifying
12 contribution amounts to \$2 for each \$1 of excess qualifying
13 contributions. To encourage participation in the partial public
14 financing program, this Act provides for the downward adjustment
15 of the amount of minimum qualifying contributions required for
16 certain offices. Finally, this Act appropriates funds from the
17 general revenues of the State to increase the amount of funds



1 available in the partial public financing program and to permit
2 the campaign spending commission to hire more staff to address
3 the anticipated increase in participation in the financing
4 program.

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

7 **"§11-425 Maximum amount of public funds available to**
8 **candidate.** (a) The maximum amount of public funds available in
9 each election to a candidate for the office of governor,
10 lieutenant governor, or mayor of the city and county of Honolulu
11 or the county of Hawaii shall not exceed [~~ten~~] fifteen per cent
12 of the expenditure limit established in section 11-423(d) for
13 each election.

14 (b) The maximum amount of public funds available in each
15 election to a candidate for the office of state senator, state
16 representative, mayor of the county of Kauai or the county of
17 Maui, county council member, and prosecuting attorney shall not
18 exceed [~~fifteen~~] 22.5 per cent of the expenditure limit
19 established in section 11-423(d) for each election.



1 (c) For the office of Hawaiian affairs, the maximum amount
2 of public funds available to a candidate shall not exceed
3 [~~\$1,500 in any election year.~~

4 ~~(d) For all other offices, the maximum amount of public~~
5 ~~funds available to a candidate shall not exceed \$100 in any~~
6 ~~election year.] ten per cent of the expenditure limit
7 established in section 11-423(d) for each election.~~

8 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) Each candidate who qualified for the maximum
9 amount of public funding in any primary election and who is a
10 candidate for a subsequent general election shall apply with the
11 commission to be qualified to receive the maximum amount of
12 public funds as provided in this section for the respective
13 general election. For purposes of this section, "qualified"
14 means meeting the qualifying campaign contribution requirements
15 of section 11-429."

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

18 "(a) As a condition of receiving public funds for a
19 primary or general election, a candidate shall not be unopposed
20 in any election for which public funds are sought, shall have
21 filed an affidavit with the commission pursuant to



1 section 11-423 to voluntarily limit the candidate's campaign
2 expenditures, and shall be in receipt of the following sum of
3 qualifying contributions from individual residents of Hawaii:

4 (1) For the office of governor--qualifying contributions
5 that in the aggregate exceed \$100,000;

6 (2) For the office of lieutenant governor--qualifying
7 contributions that in the aggregate exceed \$50,000;

8 (3) For the office of mayor for each respective county:

9 (A) County of Honolulu--qualifying contributions that
10 in the aggregate exceed \$50,000;

11 (B) County of Hawaii--qualifying contributions that
12 in the aggregate exceed \$15,000;

13 (C) County of Maui--qualifying contributions that in
14 the aggregate exceed \$10,000; and

15 (D) County of Kauai--qualifying contributions that in
16 the aggregate exceed \$5,000;

17 (4) For the office of prosecuting attorney for each
18 respective county:

19 (A) County of Honolulu--qualifying contributions that
20 in the aggregate exceed [~~\$30,000;~~] \$25,000;



- 1 (B) County of Hawaii--qualifying contributions that
- 2 in the aggregate exceed [~~\$10,000;~~] \$5,000; and
- 3 (C) County of Kauai--qualifying contributions that in
- 4 the aggregate exceed [~~\$5,000;~~] \$3,000;
- 5 (5) For the office of county council--for each respective
- 6 county:
- 7 (A) County of Honolulu--qualifying contributions that
- 8 in the aggregate exceed \$5,000;
- 9 (B) County of Hawaii--qualifying contributions that
- 10 in the aggregate exceed \$1,500;
- 11 (C) County of Maui--qualifying contributions that in
- 12 the aggregate exceed [~~\$5,000;~~] \$4,000; and
- 13 (D) County of Kauai--qualifying contributions that in
- 14 the aggregate exceed \$3,000;
- 15 (6) For the office of state senator--qualifying
- 16 contributions that, in the aggregate exceed \$2,500;
- 17 (7) For the office of state representative--qualifying
- 18 contributions that, in the aggregate, exceed \$1,500;
- 19 (8) For the office of Hawaiian affairs--qualifying
- 20 contributions that, in the aggregate, exceed [~~\$1,500;~~]
- 21 \$5,500; and



1 (9) For all other offices, qualifying contributions that,
2 in the aggregate, exceed \$500.

3 (b) A candidate shall obtain the minimum qualifying
4 contribution amount set forth in subsection (a) once for the
5 election period.

6 (1) If the candidate obtains the minimum qualifying
7 contribution amount, the candidate is eligible to
8 receive:

9 (A) The minimum payment in an amount equal to the
10 minimum qualifying contribution amounts; and

11 (B) Payments of [~~\$1~~] \$2 for each \$1 of qualifying
12 contributions in excess of the minimum qualifying
13 contribution amounts; and

14 (2) A candidate shall have at least one other qualified
15 candidate as an opponent for the primary or general
16 election to receive public funds for that election."

17 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 to be
20 deposited into the Hawaii election campaign fund.



1 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the Hawaii
2 election campaign fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof
3 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 for the purposes
4 of this Act.

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

7 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 for two
10 full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) permanent positions to be placed
11 within the campaign spending commission.

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

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

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



1 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

2

INTRODUCED BY: *Mrs. A.*

By Request



Report Title:

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

Description:

Increases the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all state and county elective offices. Amends section 11-425, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), by increasing the maximum amount of public funds available for each election for candidates (1) for Mayor of the County of Kauai and the County of Maui by 125%; (2) for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs from \$1,500 to 10% of the expenditure limit established in section 11-423(d), HRS; and (3) for candidates for all other offices by 50%. Amends section 11-429(a), HRS, by increasing the amounts of qualifying contributions for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs from more than \$1,500 in the aggregate to more than \$5,000 in the aggregate. Provides a downward adjustment of the amounts of qualifying contributions for the Office of Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu, County of Hawaii, and County of Kauai and for the Office of County Council for the County of Maui. Provides for an unspecified appropriation to pay for the increase in the partial public financing program. Provides for an appropriation in the amount of \$200,000 for the Commission to hire 2 additional staff members.

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