

ACT 120

H.B. NO. 254

A Bill for an Act Relating to Elections.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii election campaign fund (HECF) has been accumulating a surplus since its inception. The legislature further finds that the HECF has been utilized infrequently by candidates running for the state house of representatives, the senate, and the councils of all counties.

In the 1988 races for the house of representatives, which are the smallest districts and represent the starting point for many political careers, only four candidates applied for HECF funding. They each received \$50. In the 1988 senate races, only one candidate received HECF funds. Similarly, only one candidate for the Honolulu city council received HECF funds. They also received \$50 each.

The intent of this Act is to increase utilization of HECF funds and compliance with the voluntary spending limits. This will be accomplished by increasing the amount of funds available from \$50 to \$250, for a trial period of one election. After reviewing the utilization during the 1990 elections, the legislature can better estimate the costs and benefits of extending the higher maximums to house, senate, and council races on a permanent basis.

SECTION 2. Section 11-218, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) For the office of state senator, state representative, city¹ council member, prosecuting attorney, board of education, and all other offices, the maximum amount of public funds available to a candidate shall not exceed [\$100] \$500 in any election year.”

SECTION 3. Section 11-221, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

“(c) The maximum amount of public funds available to candidates for the office of state senator, state representative, county council member, prosecuting attorney, board of education, and all other offices shall not exceed [\$50] \$250 for any primary, special primary, or general election.”

SECTION 4. Section 11-219, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“§11-219 Qualifying campaign contributions; amounts. As a condition of receiving public funds for a primary, special primary, or general election, a candidate shall have filed an affidavit with the commission pursuant to section 11-208 to voluntarily limit the candidate’s campaign expenditures and shall be in receipt of the following sum of qualifying campaign contributions for the candidate’s respective office:

- (1) For the office of governor—qualifying contributions which in the aggregate exceed \$25,000;
- (2) For the office of lieutenant governor—qualifying contributions which in the aggregate exceed \$20,000;
- (3) For the office of mayor in a county having more than 100,000 registered voters—qualifying contributions which in the aggregate exceed \$15,000;
- (4) For the office of mayor in a county having less than 100,000 registered voters—qualifying contributions which in the aggregate exceed \$5,000; and
- (5) For all other offices—qualifying contributions which in the aggregate exceed [\$500.] \$1,000.”

SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval and shall be repealed on December 31, 1990, and upon that occurrence, sections 11-221(c), 11-219, and 11-218(b) shall be reenacted in the form in which they existed on the day before the effective date of this Act.

(Approved June 7, 1989.)

Note

1. So in original.