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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IV, SECTIONS 7 AND 8, OF THE  
CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII, TO STAGGER SENATE TERMS  
AFTER REAPPORTIONMENT.

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

1           SECTION 1. Article IV, sections 7 and 8, of the Constitution of  
2 the State of Hawaii, are amended to read as follows:

3                                   **"ELECTION OF SENATORS**

4                                   **AFTER REAPPORTIONMENT**

5           SECTION 7.       Regardless of whether or not a senator is serving a  
6 term [which] that would have extended past the general election at  
7 which an apportionment plan becomes effective, the term of office of  
8 all senators shall end at that general election. The staggered terms  
9 of senators in each district shall be recomputed as established by the  
10 next section in this article, and the number of senators in a  
11 senatorial district under the reapportionment plan of the commission.

12                                   **STAGGERED TERMS FOR THE SENATE**

13           SECTION 8.   [Any re-elected senator whose prior term was  
14 shortened to two years by the occurrence of the reapportionment year  
15 shall, after reapportionment, be assigned to serve a four-year term.  
16 Any new senator and re-elected senator whose prior term was not

1 shortened by the occurrence of the reapportionment year shall, after  
2 reapportionment, be assigned to serve a two-year term.

3       If the number of senators assigned to serve a two-year term under  
4 the previous paragraph exceeds twelve, the number of such senators  
5 shall be reduced to twelve by random selection as provided by law.]  
6 The reapportionment commission shall, as part of the reapportionment  
7 plan, assign two-year terms for twelve senate seats for the election  
8 immediately following the adoption of the reapportionment plan. The  
9 remaining seats shall be assigned four-year terms. Insofar as  
10 practicable, the commission shall assign the two-year terms to senate  
11 seats so that the resident population of each senate district shall  
12 have no more than two regular senate elections for a particular senate  
13 seat within the six-year period beginning in the even-numbered year  
14 prior to the reapportionment year; provided that in the event of a  
15 multi-member senate district, the senators elected with the highest  
16 number of votes in that district in the election immediately following  
17 the adoption of the reapportionment plan shall fill the senate seats  
18 in that district which were assigned the four-year terms by the  
19 commission."

20       SECTION 2. The question to be printed on the ballot shall be as  
21 follows:

22       "Shall the reapportionment commission be assigned the duty to  
23 maintain the staggering of senate terms in a manner that is equitable  
24 for all candidates in an election?"

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

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

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INTRODUCED BY: Calvin K. I. Au

**REPORT TITLE:**

Staggered terms

**DESCRIPTION:**

Proposes a constitutional amendment to assign the reapportionment commission the duty to maintain the staggering of senate terms in a manner that is equitable for all candidates in an election.