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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE V, SECTION 1, OF THE HAWAII CONSTITUTION, TO CHANGE THE AGE QUALIFICATION FOR THE OFFICES OF GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR FROM THE AGE OF THIRTY YEARS TO THE AGE OF TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that amending the  
2 Constitution of the State of Hawaii to allow Hawaii residents,  
3 twenty-five years and older, to be a candidate for and hold the  
4 office of governor or lieutenant governor will inspire Hawaii's  
5 young people to participate in the leadership process. There  
6 are many outstanding, qualified, and experienced candidates  
7 under thirty who are unable to run for the office of governor or  
8 lieutenant governor because of the current arbitrary age  
9 restriction of thirty years.

10           While there are many successful entrepreneurs, military  
11 leaders, and elected officials who are under the age of thirty,  
12 young people are generally more disillusioned with government,  
13 and feel they are excluded and are not a part of the process.  
14 Lowering the age to twenty-five for Hawaii's top elected  
15 officials will inspire young people, who will realize the door



1 is open and the opportunity is there for them to represent our  
2 state as governor or lieutenant governor.

3 The legislature further finds that a twenty-five year old,  
4 according to the United States Constitution, is qualified to run  
5 for and be elected to Congress, and therefore has the power to  
6 declare war, sending hundreds of thousands of American sons and  
7 daughters into combat, risking their lives. Thousands of Hawaii  
8 soldiers of all ages recently returned from Iraq, and many of  
9 these returning veterans are young people who feel inspired from  
10 the experience to serve Hawaii in a leadership position.

11 The purpose of this Act is to propose an amendment to  
12 article V, section 1, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii  
13 to reduce the age qualification for the office of governor from  
14 thirty years to twenty-five years. This amendment will also  
15 reduce the age for the lieutenant governor, as the  
16 qualifications are the same for both offices, as stated in  
17 article V, section 2.

18 SECTION 2. Article V, section 1, of the Constitution of  
19 the State of Hawaii is amended to read as follows:

20 **"THE EXECUTIVE**

21 **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE**



1       **Section 1.** The executive power of the State shall be  
2 vested in a governor. The governor shall be elected by the  
3 qualified voters of this State at a general election. The  
4 person receiving the highest number of votes shall be the  
5 governor. In case of a tie vote, the selection of the governor  
6 shall be determined as provided by law.

7       The term of office of the governor shall begin at noon on  
8 the first Monday in December next following the governor's  
9 election and end at noon on the first Monday in December, four  
10 years thereafter.

11       No person shall be elected to the office of governor for  
12 more than two consecutive full terms.

13       No person shall be eligible for the office of governor  
14 unless the person shall be a qualified voter, have attained the  
15 age of [~~thirty~~] twenty-five years and have been a resident of  
16 this State for five years immediately preceding the person's  
17 election.

18       The governor shall not hold any other office or employment  
19 of profit under the State or the United States during the  
20 governor's term of office."

21       SECTION 3. The question to be printed on the ballot shall  
22 be as follows:



1 "Shall the age qualification for the office of governor and  
2 office of lieutenant governor be reduced from thirty years  
3 of age to twenty-five years of age?"

4 SECTION 4. Constitutional material to be repealed is  
5 bracketed and stricken. New constitutional material is  
6 underscored.

7 SECTION 5. This amendment shall take effect upon  
8 compliance with article XVII, section 3, of the Constitution of  
9 the State of Hawaii.

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INTRODUCED BY: David Y. Ige (BR)



**Report Title:**

Constitutional Amendment; Age Qualifications

**Description:**

Amends the constitution to change the age qualification for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor from the age of thirty years to the age of twenty-five years.

