

JAN 21 2011

S.B. NO. 273

A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 4, OF THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO IMPOSE TERM LIMITS
UPON STATE REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to propose an
2 amendment to article III, section 4, of the Constitution of the
3 State of Hawaii to limit state representatives to six
4 consecutive two-year terms and state senators to three
5 consecutive four-year terms.

6 SECTION 2. Article III, section 4, of the Constitution of
7 the State of Hawaii is amended to read as follows:

8 **"ELECTION OF MEMBERS; TERM**

9 **Section 4.** Each member of the legislature shall be elected
10 at an election. If more than one candidate has been nominated
11 for election to a seat in the legislature, the member occupying
12 that seat shall be elected at a general election. If a
13 candidate nominated for a seat at a primary election is
14 unopposed for that seat at the general election, the candidate
15 shall be deemed elected at the primary election. The term of
16 office of a member of the house of representatives shall be two
17 years [~~and the term of office of a member of the senate shall be~~



1 ~~four years-]~~; provided that: (1) beginning with terms
2 commencing on the day of the general election of 2012, no member
3 shall serve for more than six consecutive two-year terms; and
4 (2) if there is a break in service between terms of at least
5 four years, the service prior to the break shall not be counted
6 and the tallying of the term limitation shall commence from the
7 date of the new term. The term of office of a member of the
8 senate shall be four years; provided that: (1) beginning with
9 terms commencing on the day of the general election of 2012, no
10 member shall serve for more than three consecutive four-year
11 terms; and (2) if there is a break in service between terms of
12 at least four years, the service prior to the break shall not be
13 counted and the tallying of the term limitation shall commence
14 from the date of the new term. For purposes of computing the
15 term limits in this section, the following shall be considered
16 to have served a full term of office: (1) any member of the
17 senate whose term does not expire at the 2012 general election
18 but who has two years remaining in the current term of office;
19 and (2) any person appointed or elected to fill a vacancy in the
20 legislature and who serves at least one-half of a term of
21 office. The term of a member of the legislature shall begin on
22 the day of the general election at which elected or if elected



1 at a primary election, on the day of the general election
2 immediately following the primary election at which elected.
3 For a member of the house of representatives, the term shall end
4 on the day of the general election immediately following the day
5 the member's term commences. For a member of the senate, the
6 term shall end on the day of the second general election
7 immediately following the day the member's term commences."

8 SECTION 3. The question to be printed on the ballot shall
9 be as follows:

10 "Shall state representatives be limited to serving six
11 consecutive two-year terms, and shall state senators be
12 limited to serving three consecutive four-year terms,
13 beginning with terms commencing on the day of the general
14 election of 2012; provided that a person may serve in the
15 same position again if the person has been out of that
16 office for at least four years?"

17 SECTION 4. Constitutional material to be repealed is
18 bracketed and stricken. New constitutional material is
19 underscored.

20 SECTION 5. This amendment shall take effect upon
21 compliance with article XVII, section 3, of the Constitution of
22 the State of Hawaii.



S.B. NO. 273

INTRODUCED BY:

Samuel A. Jones



Report Title:

Term Limits

Description:

Limits state representatives to six consecutive two-year terms, and state senators to three consecutive four-year terms, beginning with terms commencing on the day of the general election of 2012; provided that a person becomes eligible to serve in the same position again if the person has been out of that office for four years.

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