
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that full financial
2 disclosure by candidates for President and Vice President of the
3 United States is essential to ensure transparency, avoid
4 conflicts of interest, and prevent unethical decision making
5 within a presidential administration. Without full public
6 disclosure of a candidates past income, business relations, and
7 indebtedness, both monetary and otherwise, a citizen cannot cast
8 an informed vote or be assured that decisions made by a
9 President will be in the interests of the people, and not in the
10 interest of the Presidents own financial gain.

11 The office of President of the United States carries the
12 highest responsibility, and its occupants must be held to the
13 highest standard of transparency and accountability. The
14 legislature finds that to ensure transparency a presidential
15 candidate once demanded that the State of Hawaii produce a birth
16 certificate. The State of Hawaii will now require presidential
17 candidates to produce their tax returns.



1 The purpose of this Act is to promote electoral
2 transparency and accountability by requiring that candidates for
3 President or Vice President of the United States disclose their
4 tax returns from the five most recent years.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
6 by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately designated
7 and to read as follows:

8 "§11- Tax returns disclosure; United States President
9 and Vice President. (a) No later than fifty days before a
10 general election, each candidate for the office of President or
11 Vice President of the United States, shall:

12 (1) Submit to the office of elections a copy of the
13 federal income tax return, as that term is defined in
14 section 6103(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of
15 1986, as amended, of the candidate for the five most
16 recent taxable years that a return has been filed with
17 the Internal Revenue Service; and

18 (2) Provide written consent to the office of elections for
19 the public disclosure of the federal income tax
20 returns.



1 (b) Income tax returns submitted to the office of
2 elections shall be made publicly available on the website of the
3 office of elections no later than seven days after submission.

4 (c) Prior to placing any income tax return on the website
5 of the office of elections, the chief election officer shall
6 redact information that the director of taxation deems
7 appropriate.

8 (d) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, if a
9 candidate for the office of President or Vice President fails to
10 comply with subsection (a), the name of the candidate shall not
11 be printed upon the official ballot for the general election."

12 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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H.B. NO. 1581

Report Title:

Elections; General Election; President; Vice President; Federal
Income Tax Return

Description:

Requires candidates for President and Vice President of the
United States to disclose their tax returns in order to have
their names appear on a Hawaii ballot.

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

