S.B. NO. 311

A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 4, OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH LEGISLATIVE TERM LIMITS.

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

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to propose an amendment to article III, section 4, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to limit the terms of members of the legislature to a maximum of six consecutive full terms in the house of representatives and three consecutive full terms in the senate.

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

"ELECTION OF MEMBERS; TERM

Section 4. Each member of the legislature shall be elected at an election. If more than one candidate has been nominated for election to a seat in the legislature, the member occupying that seat shall be elected at a general election. If a candidate nominated for a seat at a primary election is unopposed for that seat at the general election, the candidate shall be deemed elected at the primary election. The term of office of a member of the house of representatives shall be two
years and the term of office of a member of the senate shall be
four years[—]; provided that for terms beginning on the general
election of 2024, no member of the house of representatives
shall serve more than six consecutive full terms in the house of
representatives, and no member of the senate shall serve more
than three consecutive full terms in the senate. If a member
reaches the term limit for the house of representatives, that
member may serve additional terms in the house of
representatives, subject to the term limit for the house of
representatives, after a hiatus of at least two years. If a
member reaches the term limit for the senate, that member may
serve additional terms in the senate, subject to the term limit
for the senate, after a hiatus of at least four years. Nothing
in this section shall require a member of either house of the
legislature who reaches the term limit for that house to serve a
hiatus before serving any term of office in the other house.
The term of a member of the legislature shall begin on the day
of the general election at which elected or if elected at a
primary election, on the day of the general election immediately
following the primary election at which elected. For a member
of the house of representatives, the term shall end on the day
of the general election immediately following the day the
member's term commences. For a member of the senate, the term
shall end on the day of the second general election immediately
following the day the member's term commences."

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

"Shall the Constitution of the State of Hawaii be amended to
limit members of the legislature, for terms beginning on the
general election of 2024, to serving a maximum of six
consecutive full terms in the house of representatives and
three consecutive full terms in the senate, subject to a
two-year hiatus before serving any subsequent terms in the
house of representatives and a four-year hiatus before
serving any subsequent terms in the senate?"

SECTION 4. Constitutional material to be repealed is
bracketed and stricken. New constitutional material is
underscored.
SECTION 5. This amendment shall take effect upon compliance with article XVII, section 3, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

INTRODUCED BY:
Report Title:
Legislative Term Limits; Constitutional Amendment

Description:
Proposes a constitutional amendment to limit the terms of members of the legislature to a maximum of six consecutive full terms in the house of representatives and three consecutive full terms in the senate, for terms beginning on the day of the general election of 2024, subject to a hiatus prior to serving any subsequent terms in the same house.

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