
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 11-381, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

3 "(a) Campaign funds may be used by a candidate, treasurer,
4 or candidate committee:

5 (1) For any purpose directly related:

6 (A) In the case of the candidate, to the candidate's
7 own campaign; or

8 (B) In the case of a candidate committee or treasurer
9 of a candidate committee, to the campaign of the
10 candidate, question, or issue with which they are
11 directly associated;

12 (2) To purchase or lease consumer goods, vehicles,
13 equipment, and services that provide a mixed benefit
14 to the candidate. The candidate, however, shall
15 reimburse the candidate's candidate committee for the
16 candidate's personal use of these items unless the
17 personal use is de minimis;



1 (3) To make donations to any community service,
2 educational, youth, recreational, charitable,
3 scientific, or literary organization; provided that in
4 any election period, the total amount of all donations
5 shall be no more than twice the maximum amount that
6 one person may contribute to that candidate pursuant
7 to section 11-357; provided further that no donations
8 shall be made from the date the candidate files
9 nomination papers to the date of the general election
10 unless the candidate is:
11 (A) Declared to be duly and legally elected to the
12 office for which the person is a candidate
13 pursuant to section 12-41;
14 (B) Deemed and declared to be duly and legally
15 elected to the office for which the person is a
16 candidate pursuant to section 12-42; or
17 (C) Unsuccessful in the primary or special primary
18 election;
19 (4) To make donations to any public school or public
20 library; provided that in any election period, the
21 total amount of all contributions shall be no more



1 than twice the maximum amount that one person may
2 contribute to that candidate pursuant to section
3 11-357; provided further that any donation under this
4 paragraph shall not be aggregated with or imputed
5 toward any limitation on donations pursuant to
6 paragraph (3);

- 7 (5) To award scholarships to full-time students attending
8 an institution of higher education or a vocational
9 education school in a program leading to a degree,
10 certificate, or other recognized educational
11 credential; provided that in any election period, the
12 total amount of all scholarships awarded shall be no
13 more than twice the maximum amount that one person may
14 contribute to that candidate pursuant to section
15 11-357; provided further that no awards shall be made
16 from the filing deadline for nomination papers to the
17 date of the general election unless the candidate is:
- 18 (A) Declared to be duly and legally elected to the
19 office for which the person is a candidate
20 pursuant to section 12-41;



- 1 (B) Deemed and declared to be duly and legally
- 2 elected to the office for which the person is a
- 3 candidate pursuant to section 12-42; or
- 4 (C) Unsuccessful in the primary or special primary
- 5 election;
- 6 (6) To purchase not more than two tickets for each event
- 7 held by another candidate or committee, regardless of
- 8 whether the event constitutes a fundraiser as defined
- 9 in section 11-342;
- 10 (7) To make contributions to the candidate's party so long
- 11 as the contributions are not earmarked for another
- 12 candidate; [~~or~~]
- 13 (8) To pay for ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in
- 14 connection with the candidate's duties as a holder of
- 15 an office, including expenses incurred for memberships
- 16 in civic or community groups[-];
- 17 (9) To pay for the candidate's child or vital household
- 18 dependent care costs; provided that:
- 19 (A) The child or vital household dependent care or
- 20 costs would not have been incurred but for the



1 candidate's participation in the candidate's own
2 campaign activity;

3 (B) Qualifying child or vital household dependent
4 care costs shall be limited to costs for child or
5 vital household dependent care services incurred
6 from January 1 of the election year to the day
7 after the date of the primary or general election
8 in which the candidate appears on the ballot;

9 (C) The child or vital household dependent care
10 services shall not be provided by immediate
11 family; and

12 (D) As used in this paragraph:

13 "Child" means a person under twelve years of
14 age who is a biological, adopted, or foster
15 child; a stepchild; or a legal ward of the
16 candidate.

17 "Child care" means a situation where a
18 person or organization has agreed to assume and
19 has been entrusted with responsibility for the
20 supervision, development, safety, and protection
21 of the candidate's child.



1 "Vital household dependent" means a person,
2 such as a family member, living in the
3 candidate's household who is physically or
4 mentally incapable of self-care."

5 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on May 1, 2029.



S.B. NO. ⁵⁹⁷ S.D. 2

Report Title:

Elections; Campaign Finance; Use of Campaign Funds; Child Care

Description:

Allows candidates seeking election to use campaign funds for child and vital household dependent care costs under certain conditions. Effective 5/1/2029. (SD2)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

