

HAWAII

Senators Kill Bills To Elect

Judges, Create Legislative

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Term Limits

But a measure to make the state attorney general an elective position is still moving forward.

MARCH 2, 2016 • By Nathan Eagle   

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Bills to elect judges and limit the number of terms that state lawmakers can serve are likely dead this legislative session. But a measure that would let voters elect the state attorney general is still alive.

The Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee, chaired by Sen. Gil Keith-Agaran, indefinitely deferred [Senate Bill 2753](#) and [Senate Bill 2239](#) on Wednesday.

There was [strong opposition](#) to SB 2239, introduced by Keith-Agaran and seven other senators. The bill proposed a constitutional amendment requiring judges to be elected to six-year terms instead of being appointed.

Cory Lum/Civil Beat



Sen. Gil Keith-Agaran, seen here during a hearing last session, gave a hearing to a bill to establish legislative term limits but ultimately deferred it.

Introduced by Sens. Laura Thielen, Russell Ruderman and Lorraine Inouye, SB 2753 proposed a constitutional amendment to limit the terms of state lawmakers to a maximum of 12 consecutive years, starting with the 2020 elections.

Legislative term limits have been discussed for years, but bills have struggled to gain traction. Some observers were surprised Keith-Agaran even gave the bill a hearing.

There were more than three dozen pages of [written testimony](#) in support, and no opposition. Many highlighted the negative side of “career politicians.” Nonetheless, the committee indefinitely deferred the bill.

[Senate Bill 2418](#), also introduced by Keith-Agaran, proposes a constitutional amendment to elect the state attorney general. It cleared the Senate last week despite [strong opposition](#) from Doug Chin, the current AG, and numerous lawyers.

Sens. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Josh Green, Gil Riviere, Sam Slom and Brian Taniguchi

voted against it. The bill will now be considered by the House.

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**Ed Wagner**

"Introduced by Sens. Laura Thielen, Russell Ruderman and Lorraine Inouye, SB 2753 proposed a constitutional amendment to limit the terms of state lawmakers to a maximum of 12 consecutive years, starting with the 2020 elections."

What do you expect from a Democrat monopoly government that wants to remain in power for another 50 to 100 years so it has time to completely destroy the aina and the middle class.

Having term limits would help with balance of power that Democrats don't want. Hawaii government is just as dysfunctional as Washington because of more than 50 years of monopoly control.

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**Charles Henning**

This is why Hawaii doesn't have a ballot initiative system. We, the people, would have resoundingly said "YES" to term limits for the bottomfeeding lampreys that are career politicians.

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**Sujatha Raman** · Works at Yogasuji

Sen Bill27453 seems to introduce very needed term limits. Is there any other way to implement term limits?

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**Charles Henning**

Voter activism? Kicking out useless wastes of space that regularly vote "Yes, with reservations"?

Like · Reply · 1 · Mar 3, 2016 10:09am

**Jim Loomis** · Haiku, Hawaii

Let me just say first that there are many people in the Legislature and in county and state government--both elected and appointed--who are there for the right reasons. Government service can be very fulfilling and rewarding in the best sense of the term.

For those willing to give the matter some rational thought, there are some good arguments against the idea of term limits. For example, because government is complex and it takes at least a full term in the Legislature or on the Council for those newly elected people to really know what they're doing, with term limits professional staff peo... [See More](#)

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