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**STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION**

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 17, 2015

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Kristin Izumi-Nitao, Executive Director *kei*
Campaign Spending Commission

SUBJECT: **Testimony on H.B. No. 327, Relating to Campaign Spending**

Thursday, February 19, 2015
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission ("Commission") offers the following comments.

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") §11-342 to prohibit fundraisers during the legislative session and repeals the \$25 contribution threshold for the notice of fundraiser requirement. The Commission notes that the practice of legislators holding fundraisers during the session has been criticized by some in the public.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Hawaii Women's Coalition	Support	No

Comments: The Hawaii Women's Coalition is in support of this measure. A victim's bill of rights is long overdue in our state. Hawaii is one of 18 states that has no constitutional protection for crime victims, many of whom are women who have suffered, rape and/or domestic violence. Ironically, perpetrators of crime have more protection under the law than victims. Please help to rectify this gross injustice. Mahalo for allowing me to testify. Ann S. Freed Co-Chair, Hawaii Women's Coalition



House Judiciary Committee
Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Joy San Buenaventura

Thursday 02/19/2015 at 2:00 PM in Room 325
HB 327 Relating to Campaign Contributions

TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT
Carmille Lim, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB327, which would ban political fundraisers during regular and special legislative sessions. This bill would also repeal the \$25 per person contribution threshold for the applicability of fundraiser requirements and restrictions.

Fundraisers held during legislative session create an impression of pay-to-play amongst our legislators and those who advocate on issues before the Legislature. To increase public participation in the political process and encourage voter engagement, we must take strides to further improve public confidence in government and reduce appearances of conflicts-of-interest and pay-to-play.

We believe that repealing the \$25 per person threshold would provide clarity on what a political fundraiser is. From the general public's perspective, there is little difference with the cost of a fundraising ticket – a fundraiser is a fundraiser.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB327.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Polk	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB 327 that would prohibit fund raisers during legislative sessions. Such fund raisers have the appearance of legislators seeking bribes for passing legislation favorable to the donors' interests, whether that is true or not. Trust in government is essential for a strong democracy. Passing HB327 will help increase that trust.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
wynnie hee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: YES please PASS this bill! It is shocking that this is NOT ALREADY a LAW! We all can imagine -- and you legislators probably KNOW -- that lobbyists and those with interests\$\$\$ affected by current bills will be smiling as they attend and donate at the fundraisers of KEY legislators. Thank you for trying to make this a LAW.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Will Best	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Larry Meacham	Individual	Support	No

Comments: February 18, 2015 Testimony to the House Judiciary Committee
SUPPORTING HB 327 Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony. This has been a long-standing problem. When legislators hold fundraisers during the legislative session, it gives a strong impression to the public of pay-for-play, that legislators are asking for contributions in order to move or stop bills. It certainly creates the appearance of a conflict of interest even if legislators insist there is no connection. In this era of low trust of government and particularly of legislatures, it would be an excellent idea to ban fundraisers during the session and allow legislators to concentrate on legislation. Again, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony. Larry Meacham, 306B Lehua St, Wahiawa, HI 96786

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
R. Elton Johnson, III	Open Law Alliance	Support	No

Comments: In support. Mahalo, R. Elton Johnson, III Open Law Alliance

LATE

By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
christine trecker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Legislators soliciting and accepting campaign contributions during the legislative session is a reflection of the “pay to play” type of government that makes a mockery of democracy. I urge to pass HB327 which seeks to put a stop to this practice.

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB327. Fundraisers carry a great deal of influence and are entirely inappropriate during legislative sessions. I urge you to support HB327.