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STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

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January 30, 2019

TO: The Honorable Chris Lee, 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 *KI*
Campaign Spending Commission

SUBJECT: **Testimony on H.B. No. 163, Relating to Reports of Candidate Committees**

Thursday, January 31, 2019
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.¹ The Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) supports this bill.

This bill seeks to amend Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) §11-334 to require candidates and candidate committees to file a report on October 1 of the year of a general election. Presently, noncandidate committees are already required to file this preliminary general report. HRS §11-336(a)(3). During recent elections, the number of absentee ballots mailed in has steadily increased over ballots cast at precincts on the day of the election. Absentee ballots are mailed out to voter approximately twenty-one days before an election. Presently, after the Final Primary Report, which is due twenty days after the primary election, a voter will not be able to access more current information about a candidate’s spending until the filing of the Preliminary General Report, which is due ten days before the general election. This bill will give voters in the general election², who choose to vote by mail, the ability to access the most current campaign finance information before the voters receive their absentee ballots in the mail.

¹ The companion bill is S.B. 138.

² For the primary election, the Commission believes that the 1st Preliminary Primary Report, which is due thirty days before the primary election, already provides timely information about candidates for mail-in voters.