



STATE OF HAWAII  
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 8, 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 *Kei*  
Campaign Spending Commission

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 138, Relating to Reports of Candidate Committees**

Monday, March 11, 2019  
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.<sup>1</sup> 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 election<sup>2</sup>, 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.

The Commission requests that this Committee pass this measure.

---

<sup>1</sup> The companion bill is H.B. 163.

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



## O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, March 11, 2019

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 325 State Capitol

RE: SB 138 Relating to Reports of Candidate Committees

To the Honorable Chris Lee, Chair; the Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Melodie Aduja and I serve as Chair of the O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i ("DPH"). Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony on SB 138. The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities ("OCCLP") hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 138, Relating to Reports of Candidate Committees.**

SB 138 adds a campaign spending report filing deadline of 10/1 during a general election year for candidates and candidate committees.

The Democratic Party of Hawai`i supports limitations on political, campaign or issue related donations by organizations, corporations, and individuals. In addition, we promote the practice of public financing of all elections, to ensure that the power to bring positive change to our county and state lies in the hands of individual voters. We do not believe that money equals speech or that corporations are people for purposes of First Amendment protections. We support and encourage legislation that would limit the impact of the Citizens United decision. We also support fully funded elections office.

We believe that a government based on the will of the people but respecting the rights of all is a potential solution to its citizens' needs and should not be denigrated as an option to a completely laissez-faire society. Thus, fair and equitable taxation is essential for good government, as providing services to society is worthy of financial support. We believe that this will adequately, efficiently, courteously, openly and fairly administer to the needs of the people.

We support the incorporation of *ho'oponopono*, ethics in government, and a fair, voter-verifiable, fully transparent and auditable voting system. We also support enforcement of all sunshine laws and transparency in sessions and meetings that discuss and make policy.

This includes the protection of funding for the televising of public hearings at the State and County levels, as well as the funding of the Public Access Room at the Legislature.

We support limitations on political, campaign or issue related donations by organizations, corporations, and individuals. In addition, we promote the practice of public financing of all elections, to ensure that the power to bring positive change to our county and State lies in the hands of individual voters. We do not believe that money equals "free speech." *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 19, ln. 33-54.*

For the foregoing reasons, to wit, to support the incorporation of *ho'oponopono*, ethics in government, and a fair, voter-verifiable, fully transparent and auditable voting system, OCCLP supports SB 138, and urges that it passes out of the Committee on Judiciary.

Mahalo nui loa  
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Ph. (808) 258-8889

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com