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STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

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February 11, 2019

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

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 943 Relating to Elections**

Thursday, February 14, 2019
9:30 a.m., Conference Room 016

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") §11-334 to require candidate committees to file reports sixty and thirty days before a primary election (preliminary primary reports are currently due thirty and ten days before the primary election) and thirty days before a general election (preliminary general report is currently due ten days before the general election). The bill amends HRS §11-336 to require noncandidate committees to file the same preliminary reports. The bill also repeals the October 1 report noncandidate committees currently must file in an election year.

The Commission prefers passage of its own bill, S.B. No. 138¹, which amends HRS §11-334 to require candidate committees to file a preliminary report on October 1 prior to the general election, the same report that noncandidate committees must currently file. This takes into account that absentee ballots are mailed out about twenty-one days prior to an election. The Commission believes that the due date of the preliminary reports before a primary election (thirty and ten days before the election) are already sufficient to address the fact that more voters are

¹ The companion bill is H.B. No.163.

voting prior to the day of the primary election via mail-in absentee ballots while also providing voters who choose to vote at precincts on the day of the election with more current campaign finance data. This bill reduces the amount of campaign finance information available for voters who choose to vote at precincts on the day of the election.