



STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 31, 2021

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

The Honorable Ty J. K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Members of the House Committee on Finance

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 400, SD 1, HD 1, Relating to Campaign Finance Reports**

Thursday, April 1, 2021
1:30 p.m., Via Videoconference

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

As originally introduced, this measure amends HRS §11-340(c) to make clear that the increased fine (not to exceed \$300 per day) for the late-filing of preliminary reports only applies to the reports due ten days before a primary, general, or special election. This measure is necessary due to the additional preliminary report for candidate committees mandated by the Legislature in 2019. For reasons unknown to the Commission, GVR blanked out the ten days at lines 5, 7, 10, and 12 of the measure. The Commission urges this Committee to restore the language of the bill as originally introduced in the Senate and reinsert the ten days in the lines mentioned, with an effective date upon its approval.

¹ The companion bill is H.B. No. 140.



49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813
www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7448 | voters@lwv-hawaii.com

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
THURSDAY, 4/1/21, 1:30 PM, Room No. 308

SB400 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS
TESTIMONY

Bepie Shapiro, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports this bill, which specifies that increased fines may apply if a candidate or noncandidate committee fails to timely file the preliminary primary or preliminary general report due 10 days before the primary, general, or special election.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, grassroots activist organization. We believe that the methods of financing political campaigns should: Protect representative democracy from being distorted by big spending in election campaigns; Provide voters sufficient information about candidates and campaign issues to make informed choices; Ensure transparency and the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections; and Enable candidates to compete equitably for public office.

Timely filing of reports, by either candidate or non-candidate committees, ensures transparency and accountability. Please support HB400 SD1 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Thursday, April 1, 2021
1:30 PM
Via Video Conference, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
SB 400, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS.

Chair LUKE, Vice Chair CULLEN, and Members of the House Finance Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 400, SD1, HD1 with suggested amendments, which clarifies that increased fines may apply if a candidate committee or noncandidate committee fails to timely file the preliminary primary or preliminary general report due in an unspecified number of calendar days before a primary or general election.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening democracy through improving our campaign finance system with laws that amplify the voices of everyday Americans by requiring strong disclosures and making sure everyone plays by the same commonsense rules.

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 400, SD1, HD1 because it clarifies that increased fines apply to candidate and noncandidate committees alike if they fail to file preliminary primary, general, or special reports. Common Cause Hawaii respectfully requests that this Committee restore the original language of bill which required that the preliminary primary, general, or special reports are due 10 calendar days before any such election. Timely filing of reports is necessary for transparency and accountability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 400, SD1, HD1, with suggested amendments. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

SB-400-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 1:18:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John D. Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this to be passed through legislature.

SB-400-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 7:47:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

I support SB 400 SD 1 HD 1.

Mahalo,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

SB-400-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:05:28 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 400, SD1, HD1 because it clarifies that increased fines apply to candidate and noncandidate committees alike if they fail to file preliminary primary, general, or special reports.

I request that this Committee restore the original language of bill which required that the preliminary primary, general, or special reports are due 10 calendar days before any such election.

Timely filing of reports is necessary for transparency and accountability.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill.

SB-400-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 9:59:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Kathryn Afable	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB400, SD1, and HD1 with the provision that preliminary primary, general, or special reports are filed 10 calendar days before all elections.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Afable

Hilo, Hawaii

SB-400-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 10:39:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward B Hanel Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Concur with Common Cause Hawaii comments supporting passage but recommending an amendment to restore the original language of the bill requiring that preliminary primary, general, or special reports are due 10 calendar days an election.

SB-400-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 12:16:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear FIN Comittee Members,

I support SB400SD1HD1 with the amendments below.

- We support SB 400, SD1, HD1 because it clarifies that increased fines apply to candidate and noncandidate committees alike if they fail to file preliminary primary, general, or special reports.
- We request that this Committee restore the original language of bill which required that the preliminary primary, general, or special reports are due 10 calendar days before any such election.
- Timely filing of reports is necessary for transparency and accountability.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

SB-400-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 12:16:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sam kippen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a member of Common Cause Hawaii and I support SB 400, SD1, HD1, which clarifies that increased fines apply to candidate and noncandidate committees alike if they fail to file preliminary primary, general, or special reports. We request that this Committee restore the original language of the bill, which required that the preliminary primary, general, or special reports are due 10 calendar days before any such election. Timely filing of reports is necessary for transparency and accountability. We respectfully urge the committee to pass SB 400, SD1, HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-400-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 1:12:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee on Finance,

Please support SB400 SD1 HD1 with Amendments.

Timely filing of reports is necessary for transparency and accountability. Increased fines for failing to file timely campaign finance reports are a fair consequence.

I support SB 400, SD1, HD1 because it clarifies that increased fines apply to candidate and noncandidate committees alike if they fail to file preliminary primary, general, or special reports.

I request that this Committee restore the original language of bill which required that the preliminary primary, general, or special reports are due 10 calendar days before any such election.

Thank you for taking the time to review this bill. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

SB-400-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 1:24:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Dursin	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I am asking for Finance Committee consideration of several aspects of SB400, which would increase fines for failure to file timely reports, both by candidates and noncandidate committees.

Filing in a timely manner increases transparency, allowing the public to make judgments about candidates and their supporters. Requiring such filing for both the person running for office and from their donors is good practice. I support it.

However, filing needs to take place at least ten days before any election in order for voters to review the reports. The elimination of that requirement is not good practice. Please restore the original language of a ten-day pre-election filing.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Susan Dursin, Capain Cook, HI

LATE

SB-400-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 9:09:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laurie boyle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I fully support sb400 for the simple reason that it provides a financial disincentive to file campaign finance repoert late, thereby improving campaign finance transparency.

Mahalo for your attention.