



STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION


235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 1, 2021

TO: The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
House Committee on Government Reform

The Honorable Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair
House Committee on Government Reform

Members of the House Committee on Government Reform

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

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

Wednesday, March 3, 2021
11:00 a.m., Via Videoconference

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

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 reports mandated by the Legislature in 2019. The Commission urges this Committee to pass this measure without amendments.

¹ The companion bill is H.B. No. 140.

Hawaii
*Holding Power Accountable*Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

11:00 AM

Via Videoconference, Conference 309

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

Chair McKELVEY, Vice Chair WILDBERGER, and Members of the House Government Reform Committee

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

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 400, SD1, and Common Cause Hawaii respectfully urges the Committee members to pass SB 400, SD1 out of your Committee.

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

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii



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COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
WEDNESDAY, 3/3/21, 11 AM Room No. 309

SB400 SD1 RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS
TESTIMONY

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

Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Wildberger 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-400-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 7:56:17 AM

Testimony for GVR on 3/3/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Committee on Government Reform,

Please support SB 400 SD 1 to improve the overall fairness of our elections.

I support SB 400 SD1 because it clarifies that increased fines applies to candidate and noncandidate committees alike if they fail to file preliminary primary, general, or special reports, which are due 10 days before any such election. Timely filing of reports is necessary for transparency and accountability.

I respectfully urges the Committee members to pass SB 400 SD1 out of your Committee.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

SB-400-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 4:29:29 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/3/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB400 promotes transparency by those who run for office here in Hawaii. Concur with Common Cause Hawaii comments in support of this bill

SB-400-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:13:16 AM

Testimony for GVR on 3/3/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michele Mitsumori	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Judiciary Committee,

I support SB 400, SD1 because it clarifies that increased fines apply to candidate and noncandidate committees alike if they fail to file preliminary primary, general, or special reports, which are due 10 calendar days before any such election. The timely filing of reports is necessary for transparency and accountability.

If this legislation is worth having -- and it is -- then it should have the teeth necessary to enforce it.

Mahalo,

Michele Mitsumori

SB-400-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 10:52:56 AM

Testimony for GVR on 3/3/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

- Timely filing of reports is necessary for transparency and accountability.

SB-400-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 12:04:44 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/3/2021 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support sb400 or the simple reason that campaign finance needs reform by providing more transparency and accountability to our politics

SB-400-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 4:24:18 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/3/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please support SB400.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn

SB-400-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 4:51:45 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/3/2021 11:00:00 AM

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, which clarifies that increased fines apply to candidate and noncandidate committees alike if they fail to file preliminary primary, general, or special reports, which 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. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.