



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION**

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 15, 2023

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

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 1189, Relating to Campaign Finance.**

Friday, February 17, 2023  
9:35 a.m., Conference Room 16 & Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) provides the following comments on this bill.

This bill adds a new section to Chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”), that would require candidates, who are incumbent office holders seeking election to the Senate or House of Representatives, to file a report within ten days of receiving a contribution aggregating more than \$500 from any person during a legislative session. If the measure is adopted, the large contribution report will be the only disclosure report that applies only to incumbent candidates. Also, HRS §11-338 already requires all candidates on the ballot (and noncandidate committees) to report all contributions that aggregate more than \$500 that are received between fourteen calendar days and four calendar days before an election in a late contributions report due three days before an election.

Finally, the Commission asks this committee to make this measure effective after the 2024 general election so the Commission has sufficient time to modify its electronic filing system to implement the new report.

**SB-1189**

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 9:31:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/17/2023 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dawn Poiani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1189

Legislative finance transparency is important.

**SB-1189**

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 11:23:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/17/2023 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This will allow the public to see who, be it person or entity, is influencing campaigns. Very important piece of legislation.

**SB-1189**

Submitted on: 2/16/2023 9:06:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/17/2023 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hunter Heavilin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a concerned citizen and active participant in the democratic process, I wholeheartedly support SB1189, the proposed legislation that would require incumbent state legislators, or their candidate committee treasurer, to file large contribution reports with the Campaign Spending Commission within ten days of receiving a contribution of an amount aggregating more than \$500 during a legislative session. This is an important step towards ensuring that our campaign finance laws are transparent and accountable, and that the influence of big money in politics is kept in check.

The proposed legislation is an essential safeguard to prevent the undue influence of special interests in our legislative process. By requiring timely disclosure of large campaign contributions, voters are better equipped to make informed decisions about who they choose to elect to public office. This transparency promotes the integrity of the political process and helps to maintain public trust in our democratic institutions. We need to ensure that our campaign finance laws are robust enough to prevent the wealthy and powerful from dominating our political system and drowning out the voices of everyday people.

In conclusion, I strongly urge lawmakers to pass SB1189 to help bring much-needed transparency to our political system. We must work towards creating a level playing field for all candidates, and ensuring that the voices of everyday people are heard and amplified, rather than being drowned out by special interests. This bill represents a crucial step in the right direction, and I commend the legislators for taking this initiative to strengthen our democracy and promote a government that truly serves the interests of the people.

**SB-1189**

Submitted on: 2/16/2023 9:53:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/17/2023 9:35:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor