

From: [Maria Maitino](#)
To: [Standards of Conduct](#)
Subject: Recommendations on finance reform
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To the Hawai'i Commission To Improve Standards Of Conduct,

Hawaii has a huge problem regarding finance reform. We have elected officials and large money campaign donors under indictment. We have two state legislators who have pleaded guilty to accepting bribes. We have obscenely high campaign account balances, approaching \$ 1 million held by some legislators. And we have as a regular occurrence legislators fundraising directly from special interests poised to benefit from the votes of those same legislators.

I am writing to encourage the commission to recommend to the 2023 legislature and new governor the following 5 finance reforms:

***The full public funding for all State and County elections in Hawaii.**

***Banning the solicitation or acceptance of campaign donations during the legislative session.**

***Reducing the cap on campaign donations** from from \$6,000, \$4,000 and \$2,000 to \$100, \$100, and \$100. Montana caps their maximum donation for state legislative races at \$180 per election.

***Banning contributions from corporations and unions** as 21 other states now do.

***Limit candidate campaign war chests.** This is done in Alaska where candidates can only carry forward a small portion of their campaign account from one election to the next. This law was upheld by the Alaska Supreme Court which noted that when a candidate who is unopposed raises money and squirrels it away for a future election, they are effectively circumventing donation limits for that future election.

All 5 are important, but the reform that makes all other reforms possible is the public funding of elections. Ban and limit big-money special interests and replace it with public funds to be used to elect public servants beholden only to the public.

The State of Maine has such a program and it has proven to be a huge success.

Hawaii can no longer tolerate the disastrous conduct of our elected officials and the laws that support them. We need to have legislators who are accountable to the public, not to special interest groups.

Thank you,
Maria Maitino
Kilauea, Kauai