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April 2, 2008

TO: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro
Members of the House Finance Committee

FROM: Barbara U. Wong, Executive Director *B. Wong*
Campaign Spending Commission

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 2202, H.D. 1, Relating to Partial Public Financing of Elections**

Wednesday, April 2, 2008
2:30 p.m. in Conference Room 308

Chair Oshiro and Members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

This bill does not require an appropriation from the general fund.

S.B. No. 2202, H.D. 1¹ allows candidates for the office of prosecuting attorney to qualify for partial public financing. This bill reinstates language in Hawaii Revised Statutes §11-209(a), that was deleted by Act 203, SLH 2005 (Act 203).

As introduced, the bill would take effect retroactive to January 1, 2008. This would allow candidates to receive contributions beginning January 1, 2008 that would qualify them for partial public financing. The current HD 1 version of the bill has a defective effective date of January 1, 2012.

The bill was passed unamended by the Senate with only Senator Whalen voting no.

The House Judiciary Committee amended the bill by adding the defective effective date. There were no members voting no.

We respectfully request that the bill be amended so that it is effective retroactive to January 1, 2008.

¹ The companion bill, H.B. No. 2723, was referred to JUD, but a hearing on the bill was not scheduled.