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## LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary  
Tuesday, February 21, 2012

### Testimony in Support of HB 2175 HD1, Relating to Ethics

To: The Honorable Gil Keith-Agaran, Chair  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

My name is Stefanie Sakamoto, and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Credit Union League, the local trade association for 81 Hawaii credit unions, representing approximately 811,000 credit union members across the state.

We are in support of HB 2175 HD1, Relating to Ethics, which would provide an exemption for members of task forces or working groups established by the legislature from the conflict of interest law under the state ethics code, and excludes such members from the definition of "employee". As the legislature is aware, an ethics problem arose with respect to the Mortgage Foreclosure Task Force in 2011, of which HCUL was a member. We appreciate the efforts of the legislature to avoid similar problems in the future, so that we may continue to participate in such task forces and/or working groups if asked.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Hawaii  
**COMMON CAUSE**  
*Holding Power Accountable*

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**House JUD Committee**  
**Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Karl Rhoads**

**Tuesday 2/21/12 at 2:00PM in Room 325**  
**HB2175 HD1 – Ethics / Task Force Members**

**TESTIMONY**

**Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii**

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Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Committee Members:

**Common Cause Hawaii opposes HB2175 HD1, regarding the ethics code and task forces.**

Task forces and working groups play a very important role in provide recommendations to the legislature. Especially given the limited time and staffing of the legislative process, the input of the task forces is valuable. Task forces provide a great opportunity for more in-depth discussion and deliberation among experts and stakeholders.

For that very reason, the ethics and credibility of these task forces are so important. As an important step in the policymaking process, these tasks forces must be held to a high standard of ethics.

We recognize the recent concerns regarding whether or not paid lobbyists may serve on task forces. If the legislature wishes to address that point specifically, there must be other ways to do so, instead of opening the door to an entire exemption of the state ethics code.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.