

KRISTIN IZUMI-NITAO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION
235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, SUITE 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 1, 2012

TO: The Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on H.B. No. 2700, Relating to Campaign Spending**

Thursday, February 2, 2012
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission ("Commission") opposes this bill mainly because the bill will increase the cost of the unfunded comprehensive public funding program, the Commission has already begun implementing the program for the 2012 elections, and there is no showing of the need to replace the equalizing funds provision, or to otherwise amend Act 244 when the program terminates after the 2014 elections. Our objections to this bill mirror our objections to H.B. No. 1575 considered last year by this committee which was ultimately deferred.

Section 1 of the bill amends Act 244 by requiring the public funding of "matching payments for qualified small dollar contributions" in a four to one ratio for every \$20 received from a qualified individual between sixty days prior to the primary election and one day before the general election. The maximum amount of matching payments to a candidate is twice the base amount for the applicable election and payment must be made within five business days after the Commission receives the report showing that the candidate is eligible for matching payments. This payment is in addition to the base amount given to a qualified candidate and is likely an attempt to address Arizona Free Enterprise Club v. Bennett, 131 S.Ct. 2806 (2011), where the Supreme Court ruled that Arizona's matching funds provision in its comprehensive public funding program was unconstitutional.

The Commission's concern is that this alternative funding mechanism provides no method or trigger which would allow a certified candidate to demonstrate a need for additional funding beyond their base funding. If this bill is passed, the Commission is concerned that a certified candidate will be prone to stockpiling public funds when there is no demonstrated need for the funding in the first place. As drafted, a candidate would only have to wait until sixty days prior to a primary election to start collecting qualifying small dollar contributions and applying for additional funding. The Commission strongly believes that this provision needs a trigger in place to ensure the integrity and the non-abuse or inappropriate use of public funds. Also, Act 244 requires candidates to deposit all qualifying contributions into the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund ("HECF") so the participating candidates can only use public funds to run for office. This bill does not require the same for small dollar contributions collected by participating candidates that are matched with public funds.

The Commission suggests changing "participating candidate" in section 1 to "certified candidate." A "participating candidate" as defined in section 2 of Act 244 has a different meaning from "certified candidate" also defined in section 2 of Act 244. The change would make it clear that a candidate has to be a certified comprehensive publicly funded candidate before seeking additional funding under this alternative funding mechanism. This change would also align with the language on page 2, line 14, that a qualified small dollar contribution means any contribution to a "comprehensive publicly funded candidate" who is a "certified candidate" and not a "participating candidate" who is defined as a "candidate who is seeking certification for comprehensive public funding." See, Act 244, section 2.

The Commission has concerns regarding the Commission payment of not later than five business days after the receipt of a report as suggested in Section 1 of this bill on page 1, lines 16-18. As proposed, this language conflicts with Act 244, section 12, subsection (f), as stated and noted in this bill on page 6, lines 18-21, which references Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") §11-222 which was recodified in 2010 to HRS §11-431. HRS §11-431 provides that the Commission has twenty days to direct payment which is a more realistic and appropriate time frame for compliance. As drafted, five business days is insufficient time to permit the Commission to: (1) verify with the Hawaii County Clerk's office the names of the "individuals who are registered voters who reside in the district in which the participating candidate is seeking nomination or election at the time the contribution is given," and (2) work with the Comptroller's office to procure the funds to make payments to the certified candidate. Although we can appreciate why a certified candidate would prefer receiving matching payments not later than five business days after reporting to the Commission, this is not possible or practicable when it comes to coordination of activities among separate agencies given current resources.

As for the reporting schedules stated on page 2, lines 4-9, which requires reports of qualified small dollar contributions to be filed: (1) "Once every week after the date that is sixty days prior to the primary election until the date that is twenty one days before

the primary election” and (2) “Once every other day after the date that is twenty one days before the primary election until one day before the general election,” the Commission is concerned that this schedule would create a backlog of applications and not permit the Commission to process payments in an orderly and timely manner. Accordingly, we suggest what is presently allowed under the partial public funding program. Hawaii Administrative Rules (“HAR”) section 3-160-62(c) provides that “[a]pplications for funding shall not be submitted more frequently than every fourteen calendar days after the last filed application.”

Section 2 of the bill adds a new definition of “qualified small dollar contribution” to Act 244, amends the definition of “qualifying period,” and repeals the definition of “equalizing funds.” The Commission would like to make two points: (1) the objective of comprehensive public funding can only be accomplished if these qualified small dollar contributions are deposited into the HECF, and therefore, there should be a requirement similar to “qualifying contributions” as stated in Act 244, section 2, that qualified small dollar contributions be “made in the form of a check or a money order payable to the [HECF]”; and (2) the difficulty it will be for the Commission to track multiple contributions from a single contributor that cannot exceed an aggregate amount of \$20.

With respect to extending the beginning date of the “qualifying period” to “November 15 of the year prior to the general election year” to permit candidates with additional time to collect qualifying contributions for certification as a comprehensively publicly funded candidate, the Commission prefers that the date be moved further back to September 5 of the year prior to the general election year. This is because under Act 244, section 3, the Commission must make an announcement by September 5 of each odd numbered year before the general election that the comprehensive public funding program will be operative for the upcoming election year. The Commission suggests that candidates be allowed to collect qualifying contributions from the date that this announcement is made. Of course, the announcement would not be required if section 6 of this bill is passed which we strongly oppose to protect the sustainability of the Hawaii election campaign fund.

Section 3 amends Act 244 by advancing the date the declaration of intent to seek public funding needs to be filed from January 1st of an election year to November 15th of the year before an election year. For the reasons mentioned above, the Commission suggests that this be changed to September 5 of the year prior to the election year. A qualifying contribution cannot be collected until this form is filed so the change is necessary to allow a candidate to begin collecting qualifying contributions from September 5 of the year prior to the election year.

Section 4 of the bill increases the time period during which a candidate can collect qualifying contributions. However, it conflicts with the language in the definition of “qualifying period” on page 3, lines 3-5, of this bill. The proposed change provides that qualifying contributions cannot be collected “later than sixty days prior to the primary election,” but the current deadline as provided in Act 244, section 2, is the “deadline for

filing candidate nomination papers.” These are two different dates. The Commission suggests that the proposed change in section 4 be deleted from the bill and the current deadline be used.

Section 5 of the bill increases the amount public funding for all candidates, in the aggregate, from \$300,000 to \$350,000. Section 6 repeals from Act 244 the requirement that in order to run the pilot program, the HECF has to have a minimum balance of \$3,500,000. The Commission has concerns for both of these sections as it impacts HECF and current operations.

As you know, the HECF is a public trust fund which was created to enable taxpayers to designate \$3 (previously, \$2) from a portion of their income tax liability to the fund. See, HRS §11-421. It is from the HECF that public funds are provided to candidates that qualify for not only the comprehensive public funding for the Hawaii County Council but also partial public funding for all candidates. It is also from the HECF that all Commission operations are paid for. It therefore represents the primary revenue source for Commission business and programming.¹

Consequently, it is essential to discuss the impact to the HECF if this bill were enacted. With a beginning balance of \$5 million on June 30, 2009, the closing balance of the HECF as of June 30, 2010 was \$4.6 million and \$4.1 million as of June 30, 2011. The HECF balance has steadily been decreasing each fiscal year. HECF’s revenue is generated by taxpayers designating \$3 from their state income tax to the fund. In the past five years, an average of \$203,000 has been designated to HECF as a result of this check-off. Interest earned on the principal yields about \$200,000. If the principal is reduced, the interest income is reduced. For 2010 elections, a total of \$188,286 was disbursed from the HECF to pay for twenty-two (22) qualifying candidates in the partial public funding program and a total of \$147,716 was disbursed from the HECF to pay for eight (8) qualifying candidates in the comprehensive public funding program for the Hawaii County Council pilot program. Accordingly, \$336,000 was expended to pay for the two public financing programs.² To increase the cap for the pilot program from \$300,000 to \$350,000 as well as to repeal a determination of sufficient funding (i.e., a minimum of \$3.5 million) in the HECF and to adopt another funding mechanism to the Hawaii County Council pilot program of “qualified small dollar contributions,” would strain the Commission’s programs and operations.

If HECF funds are near depletion, HRS §11-422 provides:

(a) The commission shall be under no obligation to provide moneys to candidates if, in the partial public funding program or comprehensive public

¹ Pursuant to Act 244, SLH 2008, the legislature reallocated the Commission’s other revenue source of fines and penalties to the general fund.

² An average of \$201,000 per election year over the last five elections was disbursed from the HECF to pay for qualifying candidates in the partial public funding program. 2010 was the first year for the comprehensive public funding program so an average cannot be computed.

funding for elections to the county of Hawaii council, moneys in the Hawaii election campaign fund are near depletion.

(b) For the purpose of the partial funding program, if the Hawaii election campaign fund is close to depletion as determined by the commission, the commission shall determine the amounts available to eligible candidates based on their order of eligibility in qualifying for partial public funds, as determined by the date of filing of an application for public funds with the commission pursuant to section 11-428; provided that the application has been accepted by the commission.

(c) For the purpose of the comprehensive public funding for elections to the county councils, if the Hawaii elections campaign fund is close to depletion, the commission shall determine whether the program shall be operative in accordance with this part.

This bill in effect disregards the import of this statutory section and eliminates any safety mechanism when it comes to cost thereby jeopardizing the HECF.

Further, the amendments are not needed. As discussed before, in the 2010 elections, eight candidates for Hawaii County Council seats qualified for public funding under Act 244. The eight candidates received, in the aggregate, \$147,716.43. There is no need to increase the cap on the aggregate amount of public funding from \$300,000 to \$350,000. Also, none of the eight qualified candidates in 2010 applied or qualified for equalizing funds in addition to the base amounts that were given to the candidates. Thus there is also no demonstrated need to replace the equalizing provision with the "matching payments for qualified small dollar contributions."

The Commission understands that you may receive strong support for this bill. We would submit that the Hawaii County Council comprehensive public funding is a pilot project which is in its second year of implementation. We maintain that the reasons advocating and supporting this program such as, but not limited to, increasing the candidate pool and competitiveness as well as voter turnout, grass root initiatives, and citizen participation have yet to be evaluated and assessed to determine whether the program should be expanded as suggested by this bill. As a point of reference, twenty-two (22) candidates filed nomination papers to run for Hawaii county council in 2010 compared to twenty-eight (28) candidates who filed in 1998. The financial and human resources associated with this bill which funded only eight (8) Hawaii county council candidates when the Commission oversaw and administered the campaign spending law for three hundred and forty-six (346) additional candidates is expensive and costly.

Fore the foregoing reasons, the Commission strongly suggests that the prudent course is to review this program as it unfolds to permit lawmakers and taxpayers to make an informed decision as to the program's effectiveness and thus the bill should be held. Alternatively, if this bill passes, the Commission recommends that funding be

The Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran
February 1, 2012
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appropriated pursuant to HRS §11-421(b)(2) to properly fund and staff the additional program requirements, or the bill should be passed by deleting all substantive sections of the bill except for subparagraph 3 of section 2 (repealing the definition of equalizing funds) and section 7 (repealing equalizing funds).



Voter Owned Hawaii
3442 Waiālae Ave, Ste #8
Honolulu, HI 96816
(808)-457-8622

TO: The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Kory Payne, Executive Director
Voter Owned Hawaii
1142 Waiālae Ave, Suite 8
Honolulu, HI 96816

SUBJECT: Testimony on H.B. 2700, Relating to Campaign Spending

Thursday, February 2nd, 2012
2:00 p.m. Conference Room 325

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

I'm writing in strong support for an amended version of HB 2700.

Between 2002 and 2010, 137 candidates utilized the partial public funding program, and 30 of those candidates won. To elect 30 candidates, taxpayers spent approximately \$3,756,000. Spending that much money for a batting average of under 22% is a waste of resources.

In the 2010 election cycle, eight candidates utilized the Big Island pilot program, and four of those candidates won. We spent \$147,000 plus administrative costs for a batting average of 50% on the Big Island. Now, four out of nine County Councilors are publicly funded and accepted no money from large special interests (outside of the \$5 qualifying contributions candidates collected from 200 registered voters who all lived in the district for which the candidates were running).

The bottom line is that when it comes to the partial public funding program, taxpayers are losing out. We need to upgrade and modernize the program to catch up with the times.

Money in politics is the defining issue of our democracy and will continue to be so. All over the country, citizens and lawmakers are waking up to this reality. Between 2003-2005, oil companies spent over \$600,000 in lobbying and expenditures in Hawaii (this does not even count the lobbying money that is not required to be disclosed). It's not a wonder why we burn oil to get nearly 90% of our energy.

House bill 2700 provides upkeep and maintenance for Act 244, the Big Island Fair Elections pilot program.

Section one is adjusting the law because of last July's U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Arizona Free Enterprise Club Freedom PAC v. Bennett* in which the SCOTUS ruled against the matching funds provision in Arizona's Clean Elections law.

The purpose of the matching funds provision was to make sure publicly funded candidates would be given a competitive amount of money with which to compete against privately funded competitors. While a majority of election law experts disagree with this decision -- including the Brennan Center for Justice -- it has been made. This decision was made on the heels of the *Citizens United v FEC* decision, which has had corrupting effects as well.

When a candidate has spent their base allotment and has less than \$2,000 in either the primary or general elections, this bill allows the candidate to go into the community and raise small contributions, the maximum of which is \$20. The Hawaii Election Campaign Fund would then be required to match those contributions 4-1. For every \$20 contribution collected by a qualified candidate, the HECF would match \$80. The maximum amount a candidate receive from the HECF would be double the amount of the base allotment. This will make sure the publicly funded candidate can remain competitive without the candidate unnecessarily pulling more money from the election fund.

Another important substantive change we are proposing would adjust the program for districts in which there is no precedent of a general election. Because county elections are non-partisan, many times the race is decided in the primary. This leaves no precedent for an appropriate amount of money to be given to qualified candidates in the event that a race is not decided by fifty percent plus one.

To adjust for this, we're proposing a base allotment for general elections that takes the average of all county districts in which there was a general election in the previous election cycle.

Further, to give the pilot program a fair chance for voters to evaluate how they're money is being spent, we are proposing to remove the provision requiring the HECF to contain \$3.5 million in order for Act 244 to go forward.

When it comes to timelines for candidates' reports and monetary disbursements, we defer to the Campaign Spending Commission, and have tried to address their concerns based upon last year's testimony on HB 1575.

The bottom line for our economy is that we need to hold special interests accountable. Over time, the U.S. Supreme Court has mistakenly declared corporations as individuals, declared money as free speech, allowed unlimited independent expenditures in our elections, and now has changed on of the most promising programs in U.S. history -- one that is proving itself to reduce the influence of private money on the economy.

In the 1978 Constitutional Convention, delegate Naomi Campbell saw the writing on the wall and stated:

“ . . . if we think these tremendous sums being spent [on elections], these tremendous sums being contributed, are not sums for which we are going to ultimately pay because of poor government . . . and because of undue influence . . . we are fooling ourselves.”

It's time to upgrade and modernized the outdated partial public funding program and start honoring this important program, while at the same time using taxpayer dollars more wisely.



Voter Owned Hawaii
3442 Waialae Ave, Ste #8
Honolulu, HI 96816
(808)-457-8622

TO: The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Kory Payne, Executive Director
Voter Owned Hawaii
1142 Waialae Ave, Suite 8
Honolulu, HI 96816

SUBJECT: Testimony on H.B. 2700, Relating to Campaign Spending

Thursday, February 2nd, 2012
2:00 p.m. Conference Room 325

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bil.

This late testimony is submitted in order to clarify changes needed to the current version of H.B. 2700.

We are proposing the following amendments to HB 2700.

First, we propose amending the language in Section 1 of HB 2700, which changes language in Section 7a of Act 244. We'd like to address the Campaign Spending Commission's concern that qualified publicly funded candidates would collect matching funds (four to one matching funds) without showing a need for those funds. This amendment would insert language stating a candidate must show they have less than \$2,000 in their account before they can go out and begin collecting matching fund small donor contributions as described in Section 1 of HB 2700.

Second, to address our concern that redistricting could significantly change the amounts of funds that are allotted to varying districts, we propose adding the following language to Section 6 of HB 2700, which would amend the language of Section 12 of Act 244. This language would be inserted as subpart "i". The intent of this language is to grant the Campaign Spending Commission authority to adjust the levels of the base allotments after redistricting.

“(i) The commission shall have the authority, as it deems necessary, to adjust the primary election and general election base amount for each county council district based on a proportional methodology the commission may adopt after redistricting.”

Third, we propose implementing the suggestion by the Campaign Spending Commission to change the word “participating candidate” on page 1, line 5, and on page 2, line 1, to “certified candidate.” A “participating candidate” as defined in section 2 of Act 244 has a different meaning from “certified candidate” also defined in section 2 of Act 244. The change would make it clear that a candidate has to be a certified comprehensive publicly funded candidate before seeking additional funding under this alternative funding mechanism. This change would also align with the language on page 2, line 14, that a qualified small dollar contribution means any contribution to a “comprehensive publicly funded candidate” who is a “certified candidate” and not a “participating candidate” who is defined as a “candidate who is seeking certification for comprehensive public funding.” See, Act 244, section 2.

Fourth, we propose addressing the concerns of the Campaign Spending Commission regarding the Commission payment of not later than two business days after the receipt of a report as suggested in Section 1 of this bill on page 1, lines 15-17. As proposed, this language conflicts with Act 244, section 12, subsection (t), as stated and noted in this bill on page 6, lines 18-21, which references Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) § 11-222 which was recodified in 2010 to HRS §11-431. HRS §11-431 provides that the Commission has twenty days to direct payment which is a more realistic and appropriate time frame for compliance. As drafted, two days is insufficient time to permit the Commission to: (1) verify with the Hawaii County Clerk’s office the names of the “individuals who are registered voters who reside in the district in which the participating candidate is seeking nomination or election at the time the contribution is given” (see page 1, lines 8-10, of the bill); and (2) work with the Comptroller’s office to procure the funds to make payments to the certified candidate. Although we can appreciate a certified candidate receiving matching payments not later than two business days, this is not possible or practicable when it comes to coordination of activities among separate agencies as well as current resources and a trust fund.

Fifth, we propose amending HB 2700 to adjust the reporting schedules stated on page 2, lines 4-9, which requires reports of qualified small dollar contributions to be filed: (1) “Once every week after the date that is sixty days prior to the primary election until the date that is twenty one days before the primary election” and (2) “Once every other day after the date that is twenty one days before the primary election until one day before the general election,” the Commission is concerned that this schedule would create a backlog of applications and not permit the Commission to process payments in an orderly and timely manner. Accordingly, we suggest what is presently allowed under the partial public funding program. Hawaii Administrative Rules (“HAR”) section 3-160-62(c) provides that “[a]pplications for funding shall not be submitted more frequently than every fourteen calendar days after the last filed application.”

Sixth, as stated by the Campaign Spending Commission, Section 4 of this bill proposes to add a deadline for when qualifying contributions can be collected, but it conflicts with the language in the definition of “qualifying period” on page 3, lines 3-4, of this bill. The proposed change provides that qualifying contributions cannot be collected “later than sixty days prior to the primary election,” but the current deadline as provided in Act 244, section 2, is the “deadline for filing candidate nomination papers.” These are two different dates. The Commission suggests that the proposed change in section 4 be deleted from the bill and the current deadline be used.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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February 1, 2012

TO: Chair Gilber Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Karl Rhoads
Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Americans for Democratic Action/Hawaii
Barbara Polk, Legislative Chair

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR HB 2700

Americans for Democratic Action/Hawaii is pleased to support the amendments to the pilot public funding program for the Big Island County Council contained in HB 2700. The first round of public funding was a success; it has two more rounds to run as a pilot. However, changes are needed due to court decisions that would likely reject the matching funds section of our current law. The proposed new provision should avoid that problem. In addition, there are other changes necessary to clarify the intent of the law.

ADA/H strongly supports these changes and urges your committee to pass HB 2700.



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS

League of Women Voters of Hawaii

49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813

www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7488 | voters@lwvhawaii.com

Testimony

Committee on Judiciary

Hearing: *Thursday Feb. 2, 2012*

Time: *2:00 p.m.*

Place: *325*

SUBJECT: HB2700 Relating to campaign spending

POSITION: *SUPPORT*

Testimony:

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads, Members of the Committee:

I am testifying for the League of Women Voters of Hawaii. Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of our members throughout Hawaii.

The Hawaii County pilot of comprehensive public campaign financing seems to be proving successful on the basis of its first year. We applaud the Legislature for establishing this program even before recent increased attention to campaign financing. Now, however, decisions by federal courts, including the Supreme Court, probably mean the mechanism for matching funds initially written into the program, will no longer be considered constitutional.

HB2700 revises Act 244 to change the mechanism for providing funds to publicly funded candidates, to overcome this problem. It also addresses several other improvements which are needed.

The League advocated actively for the Hawaii County Pilot, and we now strongly support these changes to it. Please act in the interest of Hawaii County candidates for County Council, and of all citizens who want to see a level playing field where individual wealth and special interest funding do not influence candidates or voters – please join us in support of HB2700.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Beppie Shapiro, President

League of Women Voters of Hawaii



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

Thursday 2/2/12 at 2:00PM in Room 325
HB 2700 – Campaign Spending / Publicly Funded Elections

TESTIMONY

Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

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

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB 2700, which would improve the Hawaii County publicly funded elections pilot program.

In 2008, the legislature enacted this important pilot program for comprehensive public funding for Hawaii County Council candidates. In the 2010 election, eight candidates participated and four councilmembers were elected using this program. This bill now aims to make improvements as the pilot continues.

One of the most important elements in this bill is the matching funds provision. Currently, the law is set up to provide participating candidates with *equalizing funds* in the scenario that they are outspent by a nonparticipating opponent. However, following recent court decisions, experts and advocates around the nation are pursuing a new *matching funds* system instead. Matching funds would allow participating candidates to raise small donations and receive a 4-to-1 match in public funding. This is a sound way to address the issues of equalizing funds and maintain the integrity of the program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Testimony for HB2700 on 2/2/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for HB2700 on 2/2/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:58 AM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: sgd8@hawaiiantel.net

Testimony for JUD 2/2/2012 2:00:00 PM HB2700

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Susan Dursin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sgd8@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

Thank you very much for reviewing my testimony.

As a Big Island resident, I have been gratified to see the pilot project for comprehensive public campaign funding work so well in the 2010 election. It enabled more candidates to run without the burden and obligations of raising money. We saw campaigns in which candidates had time to listen to voters, to discuss the issues.

HB2700 will adjust some of the features of the pilot program based on what was learned in 2010. Please support this bill.

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Russell Ruderman [russell@islandnaturals.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:00 AM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Russell Ruderman
President
1221 Kilauea Ave.
Hilo, HI, 96720

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Being politically active on the Big Island, I can say that the Clean Elections trial is a huge success from every point of view that values a fair election process.

Therefore, I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700.

House bill 2700 provides upkeep and maintenance for Act 244, the Big Island Fair Elections pilot program.

Please pass this legislation.Â Mahalo

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Randy Ching [oahurandy@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:14 PM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Randy Ching

1560 Kanunu St, #818
Honolulu, HI, 96814

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700.

Money in politics is the defining issue of our democracy and will continue to be so. All over the country, citizens and lawmakers are waking up to this reality.

House bill 2700 provides upkeep and maintenance for Act 244, the Big Island Fair Elections pilot program.

Please pass this legislation. Mahalo

Testimony for HB2700 on 2/2/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for HB2700 on 2/2/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 1:17 PM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: shaglund@hotmail.com

Testimony for JUD 2/2/2012 2:00:00 PM HB2700

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sue Haglund
Organization: Individual
E-mail: shaglund@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

House bill 2700 provides upkeep and maintenance for Act 244, the Big Island Fair Elections pilot program. Please pass this bill to provide continuance for fair elections and help alleviate the influence of money in politics.

Testimony for HB2700 on 2/2/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for HB2700 on 2/2/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 12:15 PM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: blockard@iname.com

Testimony for JUD 2/2/2012 2:00:00 PM HB2700

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Brodie Lockard

Organization: Individual

E-mail: blockard@iname.com

Submitted on: 2/1/2012

Comments:

The Big Island's Clean Elections law needs updating due to the hideous Citizens United v. FEC decision.

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Mary Spadaro [mlspadaro@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:45 PM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Mary Spadaro

980 Prospect St.
Honolulu, HI, 96822

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700.

You will no doubt receive plenty of emails with the pre-written testimony by advocates of this bill so I will write my own.

Money in politics.Â It has become the enemy of democracy.Â It is time to fix our broken system by taking special interests out of campaigns by making it possible for candidates to win without corporate and PAC donations.

I'm very proud that at least the Big Island now has an effective public funding option and hope that the rest of our state, especially Oahu, will follow soon.

House bill 2700 provides upkeep and maintenance for Act 244, the Big Island Fair Elections pilot program.

Please pass this legislation.Â Mahalo

Testimony for HB2700 on 2/2/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for HB2700 on 2/2/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 8:03 AM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: i.pestana@yahoo.com

Testimony for JUD 2/2/2012 2:00:00 PM HB2700

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ikaika Pestana
Organization: Individual
E-mail: i.pestana@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

A pilot program for publicly-funded "clean elections" was successfully launched in Hawaii County Council in 2010. Since that time, court decisions elsewhere have affected some aspects of similar programs, so we need an upgrade. HB2700 will replace the equalizing funds with a 4-to-1 public funding match for small donations, and make other improvements to the program.

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Chelsey Bilka [chelseybilka@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:58 PM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Chelsey Bilka

120 Kapuahi Road
Makawao, HI, 96768

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700.

In the 2010 election cycle, eight candidates utilized the Big Island pilot program, and four of those candidates won. We spent \$147,000 plus administrative costs for a batting average of 50% on the Big Island. Now, four out of nine County Councilors are publicly funded and accepted no money from large special interests (outside of the \$5 qualifying contributions candidates collected from 200 registered voters who all lived in the district for which the candidates were running).

Between 2002 and 2010, 137 candidates utilized the partial public funding program, and 30 of those candidates won. To elect 30 candidates, taxpayers spent approximately \$3,756,000. Spending that much money for a batting average of under 22% is a waste of resources.

The bottom line is that when it comes to the partial public funding program, taxpayers are losing out. We need to upgrade and modernize the program to catch up with the times.

Money in politics is the defining issue of our democracy and will continue to be so. All over the country, citizens and lawmakers are waking up to this reality. Between 2003-2005, oil companies spent over \$600,000 in lobbying and expenditures in Hawaii (this does not even count the lobbying money that is not required to be disclosed). It's not a wonder why we burn oil to get nearly 90% of our energy.

House bill 2700 provides upkeep and maintenance for Act 244, the Big Island Fair Elections pilot program.

Please pass this legislation. Mahalo

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Diana Bethel [diana4578@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:31 PM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Diana Bethel

1441 Victoria St.
Honolulu, HI, 96822

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700. People in Hawaii and all over the world are beginning to realize that elections are bought by the highest bidder and that democracy is slowly disappearing from our political life. Now is the time to get money out of politics so that democracy and government for the people, not the corporations, can survive and thrive.

In the 2010 election cycle, eight candidates utilized the Big Island pilot program, and four of those candidates won. We spent \$147,000 plus administrative costs for a batting average of 50% on the Big Island. Now, four out of nine County Councilors are publicly funded and accepted no money from large special interests (outside of the \$5 qualifying contributions candidates collected from 200 registered voters who all lived in the district for which the candidates were running).

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House bill 2700 provides upkeep and maintenance for Act 244, the Big Island Fair Elections pilot program.

Please help save our democracy by passing this legislation. Mahalo

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Justin Avery [justinavery@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:11 PM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Justin Avery

1314 Kumukoa St
Hilo, HI, 96720

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700.

In the 2010 election cycle, eight candidates utilized the Big Island pilot program, and four of those candidates won. We spent \$147,000 plus administrative costs for a batting average of 50% on the Big Island. Now, four out of nine County Councilors are publicly funded and accepted no money from large special interests (outside of the \$5 qualifying contributions candidates collected from 200 registered voters who all lived in the district for which the candidates were running).

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Please pass this legislation. Mahalo

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Jennifer Ruggles [jenniferjangles@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:23 PM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Jennifer Ruggles

Miss

P.O. Box 794

Mt. View, HI, 96771

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700.

Between 2002 and 2010, 137 candidates utilized the partial public funding program, and 30 of those candidates won. To elect 30 candidates, taxpayers spent approximately \$3,756,000. Spending that much money for a batting average of under 22% is a waste of resources.

In the 2010 election cycle, eight candidates utilized the Big Island pilot program, and four of those candidates won. We spent \$147,000 plus administrative costs for a batting average of 50% on the Big Island. Now, four out of nine County Councilors are publicly funded and accepted no money from large special interests (outside of the \$5 qualifying contributions candidates collected from 200 registered voters who all lived in the district for which the candidates were running).

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Please pass this legislation. Mahalo

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Vicki Vierra [vickiv@hawaii.rr.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:41 AM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Vicki Vierra

HC 1 Box 5077
Keaau, HI, 96749

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700.

In the 2010 election cycle, eight candidates utilized the Big Island pilot program, and four of those candidates won. We spent \$147,000 plus administrative costs for a batting average of 50% on the Big Island. Now, four out of nine County Councilors are publicly funded and accepted no money from large special interests (outside of the \$5 qualifying contributions candidates collected from 200 registered voters who all lived in the district for which the candidates were running).

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Please pass this legislation. Mahalo

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Judith Flanders [jfpuna@earthlink.net]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:44 AM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Judith Flanders
Founder
3003 Kalakaua Ave.
Honolulu, HI, 96815

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700.

In the 2010 election cycle, eight candidates utilized the Big Island pilot program, and four of those candidates won. We spent \$147,000 plus administrative costs for a batting average of 50% on the Big Island. Now, four out of nine County Councilors are publicly funded and accepted no money from large special interests (outside of the \$5 qualifying contributions candidates collected from 200 registered voters who all lived in the district for which the candidates were running).

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Please pass this legislation. Mahalo

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Shane Daniel [shane@luminopolis.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 10:33 AM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Shane Daniel
Lead Programmer
208 W 19th Street
Kansas City, MO, 64068

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700.

In the 2010 election cycle, eight candidates utilized the Big Island pilot program, and four of those candidates won. We spent \$147,000 plus administrative costs for a batting average of 50% on the Big Island. Now, four out of nine County Councilors are publicly funded and accepted no money from large special interests (outside of the \$5 qualifying contributions candidates collected from 200 registered voters who all lived in the district for which the candidates were running).

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Please pass this legislation. Mahalo

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

John Bickel [jbickel15@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 10:37 AM

To: JUDtestimony

From: John Bickel
Citizen
2415 Ala Wai Blvd. 901
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96815

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700.

In the 2010 election cycle, eight candidates utilized the Big Island pilot program, and four of those candidates won. We spent \$147,000 plus administrative costs for a batting average of 50% on the Big Island. Now, four out of nine County Councilors are publicly funded and accepted no money from large special interests (outside of the \$5 qualifying contributions candidates collected from 200 registered voters who all lived in the district for which the candidates were running).

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Please pass this legislation. Mahalo

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Lisa Galloway [lisa.m.galloway@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 10:51 AM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Lisa Galloway
Teacher
PO Box 631754
Lana'i City, Hi, 96763

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700.

In the 2010 election cycle, eight candidates utilized the Big Island pilot program, and four of those candidates won. We spent \$147,000 plus administrative costs for a batting average of 50% on the Big Island. Now, four out of nine County Councilors are publicly funded and accepted no money from large special interests (outside of the \$5 qualifying contributions candidates collected from 200 registered voters who all lived in the district for which the candidates were running).

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House bill 2700 provides upkeep and maintenance for Act 244, the Big Island Fair Elections pilot program.

Please pass this legislation. Mahalo

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Matt McNall [welcomeman@hotmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 7:51 AM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Matt McNall

Mr.

62 Kukuau St.

Hilo, HI, 96720

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700.

In the 2010 election cycle, eight candidates utilized the Big Island pilot program, and four of those candidates won. We spent \$147,000 plus administrative costs for a batting average of 50% on the Big Island. Now, four out of nine County Councilors are publicly funded and accepted no money from large special interests (outside of the \$5 qualifying contributions candidates collected from 200 registered voters who all lived in the district for which the candidates were running).

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Please pass this legislation. Mahalo

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Shawna Gordon [sgordon808@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:12 PM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Shawna Gordon

PO Box 4665
Hilo, HI, 96720

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700.

Between 2002 and 2010, 137 candidates utilized the partial public funding program, and 30 of those candidates won. To elect 30 candidates, taxpayers spent approximately \$3,756,000. Spending that much money for a batting average of under 22% is a waste of resources.

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Please pass this legislation. Mahalo

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Shellie Smith [sdsmith109@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:05 PM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Shellie Smith
k - 8 school art teacher
21 Ulana Street
Makawao, HI, 96768

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700.

Hawaii should not be run by special interest lobbyists and their dirty money in politics. It should be run by the people, democratically. Hawaii is importing 85% of our food and getting 90% of our energy from coal and oil. We are one hurricane away from complete disaster. One of the biggest reasons we are so dependent on these resources is because of special interest money in politics. Hawaii is a rare and beautiful place and we should be a self sufficient community and economy. We can and should be growing all of our own food and creating all of our own renewable energy.

In the 2010 election cycle, eight candidates utilized the Big Island pilot program, and four of those candidates won. We spent \$147,000 plus administrative costs for a batting average of 50% on the Big Island. Now, four out of nine County Councilors are publicly funded and accepted no money from large special interests (outside of the \$5 qualifying contributions candidates collected from 200 registered voters who all lived in the district for which the candidates were running).

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House bill 2700 provides upkeep and maintenance for Act 244, the Big Island Fair Elections pilot program.

Please pass this legislation. Keep special interest money out of our government!

Mahalo

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Shannon Rudolph [shannonkona@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 8:48 PM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Shannon Rudolph

Ms.

P. O. 243

Holualoa, Hi., 96725

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700.

In the 2010 election cycle, eight candidates utilized the Big Island pilot program, and four of those candidates won. We spent \$147,000 plus administrative costs for a batting average of 50% on the Big Island. Now, four out of nine County Councilors are publicly funded and accepted no money from large special interests (outside of the \$5 qualifying contributions candidates collected from 200 registered voters who all lived in the district for which the candidates were running).

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Please pass this legislation. Mahalo

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Lance Duncan [lance.duncan@live.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:17 PM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Lance Duncan

15-2713 Palani St
Pahoa, HI, 96778

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700.

In the 2010 election cycle, eight candidates utilized the Big Island pilot program, and four of those candidates won. We spent \$147,000 plus administrative costs for a batting average of 50% on the Big Island. Now, four out of nine County Councilors are publicly funded and accepted no money from large special interests (outside of the \$5 qualifying contributions candidates collected from 200 registered voters who all lived in the district for which the candidates were running).

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Please pass this legislation. Mahalo

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Kerri Marks [OccupyHiloMedia@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:14 PM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Kerri Marks

25-180 Pukana La St
Hilo, Hawaii, 96720

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700.

In the 2010 election cycle, eight candidates utilized the Big Island pilot program, and four of those candidates won. We spent \$147,000 plus administrative costs for a batting average of 50% on the Big Island. Now, four out of nine County Councilors are publicly funded and accepted no money from large special interests (outside of the \$5 qualifying contributions candidates collected from 200 registered voters who all lived in the district for which the candidates were running).

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Please pass this legislation. Mahalo

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Netra Halperin [netra@electnetra.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:54 PM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Netra Halperin

P.O. Box 532601
Kihei, HI, 96753

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700.

In the 2010 election cycle, eight candidates utilized the Big Island pilot program, and four of those candidates won. We spent \$147,000 plus administrative costs for a batting average of 50% on the Big Island. Now, four out of nine County Councilors are publicly funded and accepted no money from large special interests (outside of the \$5 qualifying contributions candidates collected from 200 registered voters who all lived in the district for which the candidates were running).

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Please pass this legislation. Mahalo

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Ron Whitmore [whitmo17@msu.edu]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 3:41 AM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Ron Whitmore

113 Alae St.
Hilo, HI, 96720

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700.

In the 2010 election cycle, eight candidates utilized the Big Island pilot program, and four of those candidates won. We spent \$147,000 plus administrative costs for a batting average of 50% on the Big Island. Now, four out of nine County Councilors are publicly funded and accepted no money from large special interests (outside of the \$5 qualifying contributions candidates collected from 200 registered voters who all lived in the district for which the candidates were running).

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Please pass this legislation. Mahalo.

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Noelie Rodriguez [noelie@hawaii.edu]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 11:44 AM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Noelie Rodriguez
college professor/ Ph. D. in sociology
200 W. Kawili St
Hilo, Hawaii, 96720

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!

I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700.

In the 2010 election cycle, eight candidates utilized the Big Island pilot program, and four of those candidates won. We spent \$147,000 plus administrative costs for a batting average of 50% on the Big Island. Now, four out of nine County Councilors are publicly funded and accepted no money from large special interests (outside of the \$5 qualifying contributions candidates collected from 200 registered voters who all lived in the district for which the candidates were running).

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Please pass this legislation. Mahalo

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

melissa lowe [melzannlowe@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 5:42 PM

To: JUDtestimony

From: melissa lowe

RR3 box 1020
Pahoa, HI, 96778

Date: Thursday, February 2, 2012

I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700.

In the 2010 election cycle, eight candidates utilized the Big Island pilot program, and four of those candidates won. We spent \$147,000 plus administrative costs for a batting average of 50% on the Big Island. Now, four out of nine County Councilors are publicly funded and accepted no money from large special interests (outside of the \$5 qualifying contributions candidates collected from 200 registered voters who all lived in the district for which the candidates were running).

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Please pass this legislation. Mahalo

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Sheri Joy [sheerjoy4ever@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:11 PM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Sheri Joy
person
12-227 Oliana Dr.
Pahoa, Hi, 96778

Date: Thursday, February 2, 2012

I'm writing in strong support for HB 2700.

In the 2010 election cycle, eight candidates utilized the Big Island pilot program, and four of those candidates won. We spent \$147,000 plus administrative costs for a batting average of 50% on the Big Island. Now, four out of nine County Councilors are publicly funded and accepted no money from large special interests (outside of the \$5 qualifying contributions candidates collected from 200 registered voters who all lived in the district for which the candidates were running).

Between 2002 and 2010, 137 candidates utilized the partial public funding program, and 30 of those candidates won. To elect 30 candidates, taxpayers spent approximately \$3,756,000. Spending that much money for a batting average of under 22% is a waste of resources.

The bottom line is that when it comes to the partial public funding program, taxpayers are losing out. We need to upgrade and modernize the program to catch up with the times.

Money in politics is the defining issue of our democracy and will continue to be so. All over the country, citizens and lawmakers are waking up to this reality. Between 2003-2005, oil companies spent over \$600,000 in lobbying and expenditures in Hawaii (this does not even count the lobbying money that is not required to be disclosed). It's not a wonder why we burn oil to get nearly 90% of our energy.

House bill 2700 provides upkeep and maintenance for Act 244, the Big Island Fair Elections pilot program.

Please pass this legislation. Mahalo

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

moses thrasher [alohamoses@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 6:14 PM

To: JUDtestimony

From: moses thrasher
person
pobox 44653
kamuela, hi, 96743

Date: Thursday, February 2, 2012

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Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Robert Petricci [nimo1767@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 10:58 PM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Robert Petricci
Citizen
PO box 2011
Pahoa , Hawaii, 96778

Date: Thursday, February 2, 2012

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Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Joyce Vitales [jvitaless@hawaii.edu]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 7:56 PM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Joyce Vitales

310 Ululani St.
Hilo, HI, 96720

Date: Thursday, February 2, 2012

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Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Policy Ninja Testimony Update

Paul McKimmy [paul.mckimmy@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 10:12 PM

To: JUDtestimony

From: Paul McKimmy

2736 puuhonua st.
HONOLULU, hi, 96822

Date: Thursday, February 2, 2012

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Testimony for HB2700 on 2/2/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for HB2700 on 2/2/2012 2:00:00 PM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 8:16 AM

To: JUDtestimony

Cc: alohaxtc@hawaii.rr.com

Testimony for JUD 2/2/2012 2:00:00 PM HB2700

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Harvey Arkin
Organization: Individual
E-mail: alohaxtc@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

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