



LATE

Senate PGM Committee  
Chair Will Espero, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani

Tuesday 3/13/12 at 2:50PM in Room 224  
HB468 HD1 – County Ethics Commissions

TESTIMONY

Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

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Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani, and Committee Members:

Mahalo for bringing this bill up again for a hearing. **Common Cause Hawaii reiterates our support for HB468 HD1.** This bill provides a process for the selection of county ethics commission members to ensure their impartiality and independence.

The current process for appointment seems to create an obvious conflict for those on county ethics commissions. The commissioners are appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the council – the very same individuals over which the commissioners have to enforce ethics laws. This undermines impartiality and independence, and does not promote public trust.

HB468 HD1 sets forth an improved process for selecting commissioners. The judicial council would select at least three nominees for each vacancy, considering the integrity, impartiality, and independence of the candidates. Then the mayor would appoint commissioners from those nominees. This provides a process for review of qualifications and a degree of independence from the appointing authority.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.