



**Senate JDL Committee**  
**Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro**

**Tuesday 3/27/12 at 10:30AM in Room 016**  
**HB468 HD1 SD1 – County Ethics Commissions**

TESTIMONY

Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

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Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee Members:

**Common Cause Hawaii supports HB468 HD1 SD1.** 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 SD1 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.