



LATE TESTIMONY

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

Thursday 3/8/12 at 2:00PM in Room 325
SB2508 SD2 – Campaign Reporting Laws

TESTIMONY

Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

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

Common Cause Hawaii offers comments on SB2508 SD2, which changes the date of campaign spending reports.

We support the change in filing dates for preliminary reports. This change is necessary due to the new earlier Primary Election date in August 2012. Moving up the deadline for the first preliminary report is important to ensure disclosure and transparency, and avoid the redundancy of having two reporting deadlines only one day apart.

We ask the Committee to reinsert important language from the earlier version of this bill. The original bill included the following on the bottom of Page 2:

- (4) The filing dates for supplemental reports are:*
(A) January 31 [after an election year]; and
(B) July 31 after an election year.:

This provision would clarify that supplemental reports by candidates are due in January of every year – this is already the current practice. But the bill was changed in the Senate to eliminate this clarification. Without the language change above, there could be a gap of an entire year without candidates' reports – a huge problem for transparency. We ask the Committee to reinsert this provision.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.