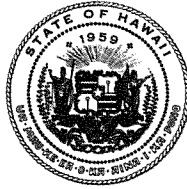


SB 2648

KRISTIN IZUMI-NITAO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



PHONE: (808) 586-0285
FAX: (808) 586-0288
www.hawaii.gov/campaign

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

February 6, 2012

TO: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 2648, Relating to Campaign Finance**

Thursday, February 9, 2012
9:30 a.m., Conference Room 016

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission ("Commission") takes no position on this bill.

This bill amends §11-381, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by allowing candidates to use campaign funds to award scholarships to students attending an institution of higher education or vocational education school full time. The bill applies the same amount and temporal limitations on the use of campaign funds for charitable donations and donations to any public school or public library to the use of campaign funds for scholarships.



SB2648
RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

February 8, 2012

9:30 a.m.

Room 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following comments on SB2648, which would authorize campaign funds to be used to award scholarships to students attending an institution of higher education or vocational education school full time in a program leading to a degree, certificate, or other recognized educational credential. There is a high demand for—but limited pool of—financial aid, and this measure will make more resources available to students in tough economic times.

OHA supports the spirit of this authorization because it will make available much needed funds for scholarships. Over 3,000 Native Hawaiian students apply for OHA's higher education scholarships each year through Hawai'i Community Foundation, but we can only meet a portion of that demand. In addition, OHA is interested in helping students achieve post-secondary degrees because we recognize the correlation between these degrees and higher paying careers. The types of awards contemplated by SB2648 would help to further OHA's work in this important area.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



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

**Thursday 2/9/12 at 9:30AM in Room 016
SB2648 – Campaign Finance**

TESTIMONY
Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee Members:

Common Cause Hawaii opposes SB2648. This bill allows campaign funds to be used for awarding scholarships to higher education or vocational school students.

What is the problem this bill seeks to address?

- If the problem is **too much money left in incumbents' campaign accounts**, perhaps the legislature should reduce the contribution limits to campaigns.
- If the problem is the **high cost of higher education**, we would encourage legislators to address that problem directly through a more comprehensive policy solution that reaches all students who truly need it. (For example, this week in California, legislators are proposing cutting tuition and fees at state universities by two-thirds for students from families with household income of less than \$150,000.)

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: lkakatsu@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2648 on 2/9/2012 9:30:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 7:57:02 PM

Testimony for JDL 2/9/2012 9:30:00 AM SB2648

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lkakatsu@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2012

Comments:

I strongly support SB 2648 as written. It a wonderful opportunity for campaign funds to assist students attain their higher education aspirations through scholarships. It will help the community on a greater scale.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.