



**HAWAII
STATE
ETHICS
COMMISSION**

State of Hawaii • Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE TESTIMONY

March 1, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 002
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **Testimony on S.B. No. 671, SD 1, Relating to Ethics**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Written Testimony From: Hawaii State Ethics Commission

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair; The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair;
and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 671, SD 1, Relating to Ethics.
The Commission has **serious concerns** about this bill.

Senate Bill No. 671 significantly amends Hawaii Revised Statutes section 84-11, the State Gifts Law, and would allow legislators and state employees to accept significant and costly gifts that will likely cause substantial harm to the public's perception of an ethical state government. Currently, the Gifts Law prohibits legislators and state employees from accepting or soliciting a gift if it is reasonable to infer that the gift is being given to influence or reward the legislator or employee in the performance of the legislator's or employee's official duties. Stated differently, the current law is not based on actual influence or reward; rather, consistent with the legislative intent "to promote high standards of ethical conduct in state government," it is based on the reasonable appearance of such influence or reward. As such, in determining whether acceptance of a gift is prohibited under the Gifts Law, the Commission considers: (1) the source of the gift; (2) the value of the gift; and (3) the state benefit, i.e., how the gift will benefit the legislator or state employee in performing his official duties.

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
March 1, 2011
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Senate Bill No. 671, SD 1 would allow a legislator and state employee to accept any gift, under any circumstances, and from any source, so long as the value of the gift does not exceed \$200. Thus, a state inspector who had just completed the inspection of a business could accept a \$200 gift from that business; a state employee in charge of issuing permits could accept a \$200 gift from a person seeking a permit; a legislator could accept a \$200 gift from a lobbyist seeking favorable action on a bill before that legislator. While, in general, the Commission does not object to placing a specific dollar value on gifts that may be accepted, the Commission believes that the \$200 threshold established in this bill is simply far too high. The Commission firmly believes that allowing the receipt of gifts of such high value would significantly erode the public's confidence in state government. Moreover, in certain specific situations, the Commission believes that the inference of influence or reward is so great that no gift to a legislator and state employee should be allowed.

The proposed section 84-11(b) would prohibit gifts in excess of \$200 in certain specified situations. While the Commission agrees that the situations set forth in section 84-11(b) would raise very significant issues, the Commission is extremely concerned that this section would appear to allow gifts in excess of \$200 in all other situations. Moreover, it appears that the language of the proposed subpart (c) will, in many situations, supersede subpart (b), allowing a legislator and state employee to accept many types of gifts that currently are prohibited. Again, the Commission believes that such a permissive Gifts Law would be detrimental to the public's interest.

The proposed subpart (c) creates exemptions to the Gifts Law and allows state legislators and employees to accept certain types of gifts, without any limitation on the value of those gifts. For example, section 84-11(c)(1) appears to allow state legislators and employees to accept gifts of food and beverages of unlimited value. a state inspector could be offered a very expensive dinner; a state employee who issues permits could similarly be wined and dined; a state legislator could receive very elaborate meals from lobbyists. In each situation, there is clearly a reasonable inference that the gift is offered to the legislator and state employee to influence or reward that person, and accordingly, under the current law, would be prohibited.

The proposed subpart (c) also creates an exemption for the receipt of honoraria. This exemption is clarified in proposed subpart (d), which states that a legislator or employee shall not accept honoraria but then provides a list of items that shall not be considered honoraria. For example, the proposed subpart (d)(1) appears to allow legislators and state employees to accept all expenses for meals, travel, and lodging and expenses, including those expenses relating to the care of child or dependent adult.

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
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This testimony highlights the Commission's chief areas of concern about this bill. The Commission is quite willing to work with the legislature to appropriately amend the Gifts Law to create a clearer law, including exceptions if appropriate. Senate Bill 671 SD1, however, was not created with any Commission input. As noted above, the Commission believes that this bill simply allows legislators and state employees to accept too many gifts, most of which clearly raise a reasonable inference that the gift is offered to influence or reward the person. As stated in the preamble to the State Ethics Code, the purpose of the Ethics Code is to preserve public confidence in public servants. The Commission strongly believes that this bill would do the opposite.

For the reasons set forth above, the Hawaii State Ethics Commission has strong concerns about this bill. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 671 SD1, Relating to Ethics. We would like to thank the Committee for its consideration of our testimony.



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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Testimony in Opposition to SB671 SD1

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor.

Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

Testimony in Opposition to SB 671 SD1 – Relating to Ethics.

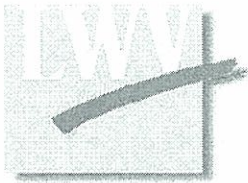
Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

While this bill doesn't fall directly in the purview of the Media Council Hawai'i (MCH), it does relate to good government and as such is a matter of concern to MCH and the general public.

In the 1930's and 40's Hawaii's people waged a hard fought and ultimately victorious struggle against a privileged oligarchy that controlled almost all aspects of Hawaii's business and social life.

Over the past few years we have seen an alarming trend that favors big money in our election process and has begun to create another oligarchy through use of money to control election outcomes. It is time to stop this retro-movement. SB 671 will have a negative impact on ethics and government trust. We urge its defeat. Thank you.

Chris Conybeare
President



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII

TESTIMONY ON SB 671, PROPOSED S.D.1, RELATING TO ETHICS

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 1, 2011
Time: 9:00 A.M.
Place: Conference Room 016

Testifier: Jean Aoki, LWV Legislative Committee

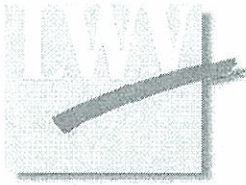
Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii is totally opposed to the proposed SD1 of SB671.

What was a very good ethics bill which provided much needed transparency to lobbying activities by tightening up on required financial disclosures, requiring timely reporting of campaign donations made during the legislative sessions, and disclosure of contractual relationships between lobbyists and legislators which provide income to legislators among other things, was gutted and replaced by provisions that are mostly unacceptable.

Chapter 84 – 11 Gifts. (a) begins commendably with the inclusion of the clause, or facilitate the solicitation on behalf of another person to actions that legislators or their employees may not employ to ask for gifts in the form of things, money, entertainment, travel, etc., but soon *exempts* any gift that “does not exceed \$200 in value from any entity.....so long as the value of the gifts received from that entity or principal does not exceed \$_____ in the aggregate in any calendar year”. From our past experiences, we cannot support any blanks within bills.

The intentions for the different passages sound so good, until we come to the exceptions and the exemptions ---- like the part trying to define what would not be defined as honoraria which are generally not allowed.



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII

(continued)

The purpose in having a Code of Ethics is to prevent corruption in government, a problem that is so prevalent in governments all over the world and even, we hope to a lesser extent, in many of our states and counties. Even the giving of aid to nations that are suffering from hunger because of drought or earthquake damage, etc. are hampered by the theft of so much of the money by corrupt government officials.

For government to work, people must have faith in the integrity of its elected officials and the culture of honesty and belief in government's mission by the employees who implement the policies set by our elected officials. And giving mixed messages in our laws designed to make ethics a shining principle of an incorruptible government is not the way

Section (e) on page 6 of this bill states, "Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit, approve, or prohibit the proper jurisdiction of the ethics commission." The League of Women Voters believes, that rather than trying to itemize every allowable and every prohibited act, limit the bill to objectives, intent of the legislature, broad policies, and leave the minutae for the Ethics Commission to interpret as to their appropriateness in advancing ethical behavior.

We ask you to pass the original S.B. 671 and give more thought to the passage on "gifts" at a later date. Thank you for this opportunity to address these two bills, SB 671 S.D. 1 and SB 671.

To: Senator Clayton Hee,
Senator Maile Shimabukuro
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Laura Robertson, President/CEO, Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc.

Date: February 28, 2011

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 671, SD1, Relating to Ethics

Goodwill Industries supports SB 671,SD1, Relating to Ethics, which would provide lawmakers and government officials with clear guidelines in attending charitable events. Attending such events provides lawmakers and government official's educational opportunities in order to keep them current with the complex issues they face within our communities.

Due to the limited resources of nonprofit organizations, many times education about community issues is done at an event held by the non-profit such as a lunch or a dinner which may also be a fundraiser. Non profits who need to maximize their resources find that these group educational events give the greatest exposure to a variety of issues to attendees so that they may learn about the issues that we and the people we serve face on a daily basis.

It appears that the fear is that these lawmakers and government officials are receiving the benefit of a "gift" by attending an event that provides a meal. As a nonprofit leader who has held and attended many non profit events over the year, I cannot think of a single instance in which what we fondly call the "rubber chicken dinner" that is often what a nonprofit can afford is of any value to influence an attendee about a specific issue and would guess that if asked, many government officials and lawmakers would state that their attendance is out of obligation of services to their community rather than to provide a gift or entertainment.

Attendance by legislators at these types of events is an important component in enhancing their knowledge of specific community issues. For example, at Goodwill's Annual Dinner/Auction friend raiser each year, we highlight not only the programs that we provide that help people gain employment and become self sufficient, but we highlight one individual through a personal story who came overcame poverty and has now become a contributing and taxpaying member of our community. The personal face an event such as this can put on the story of a single mother, abused by a family member, living in a homeless shelter and receiving public assistance and her journey and transformation into someone who now has a good job, and stable home for her children and gives back to her community through volunteering is the type of story that all of us need to hear as we consider how best to tackle these difficult social and economic problems that our State faces.

If government officials or lawmakers are no longer able to attend these types of events, it would affect their understanding of the issues involved would affect their ability to effectively represent these constituents.

We support clarifying the ethics law through this bill in order to provide clear guidance to government officials and lawmakers that attendance at nonprofit events is acceptable and permissible in the fulfillment of their responsibilities to represent the constituencies they serve, and for that reason we ask for your support of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



LATE TESTIMONY

March 1, 2011

Chair Clayton Hee
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol, Room 016
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SENATE BILL 671, RELATING TO ETHICS

Chair Hee and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

The Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations supports the SD 1 version of SB 671, which provides lawmakers and government officials with clear guidelines in attending charitable events. HANO is a statewide, sector-wide association for nonprofits. HANO's mission is to unite and strengthen the nonprofit sector as a collective force to improve the quality of life in Hawai'i. HANO member organizations provide essential services to every community across the state.

SB 671, SD 1 makes positive changes to HRS, section 84-11 to clarify the ethics law to enable lawmakers to attend nonprofit events. For many nonprofits, an annual fundraising dinner or charitable event is an opportunity to educate legislators about the work we do and the issues we face. This is true for both charitable organizations and professional associations, and many other nonprofits as well.

Legislators' attendance at nonprofit fundraisers demonstrates to the nonprofit community the State's recognition and support of the important role played by charitable nonprofit organizations. Nonprofit organizations fulfill important public functions such as direct services to low income and disadvantaged persons, the promotion of culture and the arts; good stewardship of our lands, energy, k-12 education, animal rights, think tanks and other public benefit entities.

The State will benefit by legislators' educational experiences attending nonprofit events and their nuanced understanding of the problems that exist in the communities they serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Lisa Maruyama
President and CEO

From: Brodie Lockard [brodielockard@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 3:22 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Subject: NO to SB671

LATE TESTIMONY

SB671 is a terrible bill. How dare you consider allowing gifts under any circumstances up to \$200 each, even when it can be reasonably inferred that the gift is intended to influence! Neither do legislators and govt employees have any business accepting expensive gifts of food/beverages, travel/lodging, event tickets, and various other items.

Brodie Lockard
Kailua

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 3:54 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: jeannine@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB671 on 3/1/2011 9:00:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for JDL 3/1/2011 9:00:00 AM SB671

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeannine Johnson
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jeannine@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:

When I read SB671, with its requirements for lobbyists, legislators and state employees, I thought those that drafted it were honest and ethical because those that are honest and ethical have nothing to hide. Then, I read SB671SD1, which no longer requires disclosures regarding lobbying, contractual relationships and campaign contributions. It was essentially gutted. Which makes me think that those senators who are proposing SD1 or vote for it have something to hide. Please approve SB671 in its original form.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 1:59 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: HawaiiVotingProject@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB671 on 3/1/2011 9:00:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for JDL 3/1/2011 9:00:00 AM SB671

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dorothy I. Cornell
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: HawaiiVotingProject@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:
I oppose weakening our gifts law by passing SD1.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 2:02 PM
To: JDLEstimony
Cc: jbickel15@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB671 on 3/1/2011 9:00:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for JDL 3/1/2011 9:00:00 AM SB671

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Bickel
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jbickel15@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/28/2011

Comments:

This ethics bill as originally written was good. The SD1 seems to have turned it on its head as it now, as I understand it, allows gifts up to \$200 to any public employee from anyone for any reason at any time. In addition, there would be no limit on food or beverage gifts. Legislative trips paid by lobbying organizations would be allowed. Honoraria would be allowed by parties not affected by legislation. Any size gift would be permissible if there were no legislative or financial links between the donor and the legislator/public employee. This seems to be regressive on ethnics not progressive.

IRIS R. OKAWA
Attorney At Law, A Law Corporation

Tel: (808) 543-3790
Fax: (808) 543-3792

Pioneer Plaza
900 Fort Street Mall, Suite 1120
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

E-mail: iris@iokawalaw.com

LATE TESTIMONY

February 28, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu HI 96813

Re: Letter in Support of INTENT of SB671
Relating to Ethics

Dear Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

There is no question that ethics in all levels of society must be strictly upheld. To that end, HRS Chapter 84 promulgates Standards of Conduct and the establishment of the Ethics Commission. I am an attorney in private practice and a community volunteer on several nonprofit boards for charitable and educational organizations.

This letter is in support of the INTENT of SB671 in clarifying what constitutes "gifts" to government employees and elected officials. Apart from the issue of gifts, however, is whether or not such gift is "intended to influence the legislator or employee."

The nonprofit community provides tremendous resources and services to the State. It fills in the gap not filled by the private sector or government. Each nonprofit has its own constituency and are organized for, among other things, educational, cultural, and charitable endeavors.

It is necessary for the nonprofits to work closely with the private sector and government and to communicate, provide education and awareness, and keep our community working together productively and without wasting precious resources. Because of limited finances and reliance on contributions from the public, nonprofits are continually engaged in fundraisers and other programs and events to which government employees and legislators are often invited for the purpose of providing education, awareness, and communication. There is mutual benefit for all parties but whether such invitations are deemed to influence a legislator or to provide a reward for a particular action is questionable and open for debate.

To the extent that SB 671 advances the debate, I am in support. Thank you.

Yours very truly,


Iris R. Okawa



Hawaii
COMMON CAUSE **LATE TESTIMONY**
Holding Power Accountable

P.O. Box 22703 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96823 • (808) 275-6275

Web: www.commoncausehawaii.org • Email: info@commoncausehawaii.org

Senate JDL Committee
Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro

Tuesday 3/1/11 at 9:00 AM in Room 016
SB 671 – Ethics

TESTIMONY

Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee Members:

Common Cause Hawaii supports the original SB 671 and opposes the Proposed SD1.

The original SB 671 represented a big step forward for ethics and disclosure for Hawaii's legislators and lobbyists. The original bill would significantly improve disclosure of financial interests, gifts/events, campaign donations and lobbying expenses.

Unfortunately the proposed SD1 is a huge step backward and we strongly oppose it. It creates numerous exemptions that would render the gifts law largely meaningless. Legislators and state employees would now be allowed to freely accept things such as: gifts up to \$200 apiece, multiple times, from any source and under any circumstance; unlimited food and beverage; travel and lodging; and event tickets.

We believe that strong ethics and gifts laws play a critical role in preventing situations of undue influence by special interests, promoting fairness in policymaking and implementation, and promoting greater trust in government. By creating numerous exemptions for expensive gifts from interested parties, the Proposed SD1 undermines our gifts law and will seriously erode the public trust.

We urge the Committee to pass the original SB 671 and bolster—not degrade—our ethics and gifts laws.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.



LATE TESTIMONY

The Official Sponsor of Birthdays

February 28, 2011

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Hearing:

March 1, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Rm. 016

RE: SB 671 – Relating to Ethics

Comments

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor, my name is **George Massengale**. I am the Director of Government Relations for the American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc. Thank you for the opportunity to offer **these comments** regarding the proposed SD1 for SB671, which establishes prohibitions and exceptions regarding gifts to legislators and employees.

For over 60 years, the American Cancer Society in Hawaii has led the fight against cancer in Hawaii, which takes the lives of almost 6,700 of our family members, friends, and co-workers each year. Nationally, approximately 1.5 million people will die of cancer this year.

A key factor in our battle against cancer is our relationship with policy makers at all levels of government – local, state and federal. Over the past ten years, this relationship has resulted in increased funding for cancer research; passage of legislation curtailing smoking in work and public places; cigarette and tobacco tax measures supporting our health safety net programs, EMS services, and trauma care; and just last year, the enactment of Health Care Reform which will improve health care access for all our residents.

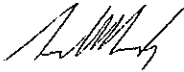
Many lawmakers and government officials have been personally touched by cancer, and they and their families have benefited from the latest advances in the treatment of cancers.

As an organization, the American Cancer Society routinely invites lawmakers and government officials to events sponsored by us including, Relay for Life which occurs on all islands, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, research breakfasts, colloquiums and other special functions. Their attendance is important as it demonstrates to the community their recognition and concern for our organization's mission in the battle against cancer.

We would also point out that Hawaii benefits by legislators' attendance at our events because it gives them a deeper understanding of what we do, how we do it, and the problems that we encounter in addressing the needs of our constituency.

Clarifying the ethics law will provide legislators with guidance on what is a permissible activity. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Massengale", written in a cursive style.

George S. Massengale, JD
Director of Government Relations



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February 28, 2011

LATE TESTIMONY

TO: Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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

**OPPOSITION TO SB 671 PROPOSED SD1 RELATING TO ETHICS
SUPPORT FOR SB 671 AS ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED**

Americans for Democratic Action/Hawaii strongly opposes the proposed SD1 for SB 671. By allowing legislators and all other public employees to receive gifts of not over \$200 in value and making other changes that allow extensive courting of public employees, the proposed draft completely reverses the intent of the original bill.

Because not all members of the committee may have read the original bill, which we support, I want to read part of it’s preamble:

“The legislature finds that a properly functioning democracy is important to the health of our community. Our democratic governance system depends upon decision making processes free from undue influence by parties favoring narrow and special interests to the detriment of the general interests of the populace as a whole.”

“The purpose of this Act is to strengthen the democracy of our State by providing for transparency and fairness in the following ways:

- (1) Requiring lobbyists and public officials to report their financial and contractual relationships and transaction amounts;
- (2) Requiring lobbyists to disclose certain events attended by legislators;
- (3) Requiring lobbyists and their clients to disclose all campaign donations made during the legislative session;
- (4) Requiring lobbyists to file disclosure reports at the end of each of the months that the legislature is in session; and
- (5) Requiring legislators to file financial disclosure reports by January 31 after the beginning of each regular legislative session.”

Without explanation, the Proposed Draft eliminates the statement of purpose and these provisions and instead allows any person, for any reason, at any time to make a gift of \$200 or less to any state employee! (Gifts over \$200 would be prohibited in certain cases, with no limits on the size of the gift in other cases.)

Perhaps \$200 does not seem like much. But consider this: What if each bar in Honolulu decided to give the Liquor Commissioner or Police Chief a "gift" of \$200? He would quickly become a wealthy man and his judgement about liquor laws might well come into question. Or take a bill currently before the Legislature that is of special interest to dentists, 65 of whom (and only one or two other individuals) testified in favor of it. Suppose each of them offered a legislator \$200? An extra \$13,000 is no small amount! Yet both of these scenarios would be legal under the proposed SB 671 SD1.

And it doesn't stop there. The proposed draft exempts gifts of food and beverage from the \$200 limit; allows public employees to receive meals, travel, lodging and other expenses to attend a conference paid by any person, without limit.

Proposed SD 1 would clearly undermine public trust in government at all levels, interfere with enforcement of law, distort the legislative process, and open our government to "legal" corruption at all levels.

In the interests of public confidence in government, we urge you to defeat the draft bill in its entirety and to pass the original bill that sought to regulate lobbyist activities.

LATE TESTIMONY

For: SB 671 RELATING TO ETHICS. Establishes prohibitions and exceptions regarding gifts to legislators and employees..
To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Time: Tuesday, March 1st, 2011, 9:00: AM, Conference Room 016

HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

Good morning Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Distinguished Committee Members:

My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide hui of more than 20 non-profit treatment and prevention agencies.

HSAC supports SB 671:

Summary: Legislators attending non-profit fundraisers is a way for non-profits to educate Legislators about community needs and how the mission statement addresses those community needs. Clear guidelines are important for lawmakers and government officials to attend charitable events.

Explanation

- Legislators' attendance at nonprofit fundraisers demonstrates to the nonprofit community the State's recognition and support of the important role played by charitable nonprofit organizations. Nonprofit organizations fulfill important public functions such as policy research, direct services to low income and disadvantaged persons, and the promotion of culture and the arts;
- The State will benefit by the legislators' educational experiences attending nonprofit events. Attending community events, gives legislators a better understanding of the problems that exist in the communities they serve;
- Attending a charitable event at the invitation of a nonprofit entity or table sponsor cannot be reasonably inferred that it is intended to influence the legislator in the performance of his or her duties;
- Clarifying the ethics law to enable lawmakers to attend nonprofit events is important for lawmakers and the community to ensure clear rules on permissible activities.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify and are available for testimony.



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LATE TESTIMONY

State of Hawaii
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Legislature

March 1, 2011; 9:00am
Room 016

SB 671, SD 1, Relating to Ethics

Good afternoon, Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and
Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee,

Lanakila Pacific supports the intent of measure SB 671, Proposed
SD 1, to establish prohibitions and exceptions regarding gifts to
legislators or employees.

As a nonprofit organization that serves thousands of seniors and
people with disabilities each year, we particularly understand the
importance of allowing free admission for legislators to attend
charitable, cultural or community events for informational,
educational, or appreciative value.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these **comments**.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian E. Tsuji
President & CEO

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 7:54 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: thorton323@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB671 on 3/1/2011 9:00:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for JDL 3/1/2011 9:00:00 AM SB671

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: comments only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tom Horton
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: thorton323@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/1/2011

Comments:
Support the original SB671 but vigorously oppose the proposed SD1.