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**Senate PGM Committee
Chair Will Espero, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani**

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

**Tuesday 4/3/12 at 10:00AM in Room 016
SR 68 – Constitutional Amendment / Citizens United**

TESTIMONY

Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

PGM Chair Espero and Vice Chair Kidani, JDL Chair Hee and Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee Members:

Common Cause Hawaii supports SR68. This resolution urges Hawaii's Congressional delegation to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution to address *Citizens United v. FEC*.

The 2010 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. FEC* opened the floodgates to unlimited spending by corporations and unions to influence elections. New Super PACs and other entities are popping up at the federal and state levels to take advantage of these new pathways for campaign money.

The public's understanding of this issue has grown over the past two years, and the concern about campaign finance is becoming more widespread. Numerous polls have shown that an overwhelming majority of Americans disagree with the *Citizens United* decision and want elected officials to take action to address the issue of money in politics.

This is leading to a growing movement nationwide for a U.S. Constitutional Amendment to overturn *Citizens United* and rein in campaign spending by corporations. Here in Hawaii, a Civil Beat poll in December found that an overwhelming majority of Hawaii voters support this idea (see article at <http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2012/01/05/14419-civil-beat-poll-hawaii-voters-support-limiting-political-donations>).

We ask you to move this resolution forward. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.