



# Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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**LATE**

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 21, 2013, 1:30 P.M.  
(Testimony is 2 pages long)

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1481 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, with over 10,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, respectfully *supports* HB 1481 HD1. This measure would create a publicly funded election process.

We believe that publicly funded elections help to remove the pressures of raising campaign donations from individuals or companies that seek to influence the behavior of elected officials. While the Sierra Club's mission is to keep Hawaii's environment clean, that mission can't be achieved when special interests financially back Hawaii's lawmakers.

At the state and county levels, it is clear that money influences politics. To avoid impugning any current elected official, this testimony will share an older example. On the November 6, 1997, 10 p.m. broadcast of KHON-2 News it was reported, "Bank of Hawaii's Larry Johnson says his bank powerful political action committee will support the re-election of lawmakers who vote for the task force (*Economic Revitalization Task Force*) recommendations and withhold contributions from those who do not." Such a statement is nothing short of bribery. Hawaii Revised Statutes § 710-1040 defines bribery as follows:

“(a) The person confers, or offers...pecuniary benefit upon a public servant with the intent to influence a public servant's vote, opinion, judgment, exercise of discretion, or other action in the public servant's official capacity.”

Such inappropriate influence from campaign donations continues today. Even the perception of impropriety—actions based on campaign donations instead of citizen representation—harms our democratic processes as citizens question decisions and lose interest in the political process. By establishing a public funding process for elections, this measure will help remove pressure on both elected officials to raise funds and individuals and corporations from having to make

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**HB1481**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 21, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brucella H. Berard	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB1481**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 21, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alicia Morrier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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donations. We believe it will also increase citizen faith in the democratic process and deliberative decision making.

This measure is consistent with the Sierra Club's principles on campaign finance reform: public financing for campaigns and limits on donations and gifts. We encourage its passage.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 7:49 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** akamaimom@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1481 on Feb 21, 2013 13:30PM

### **HB1481**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 21, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Felicia Cowden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the public funding of candidacies. It helps preserve the integrity of the people willing to serve in office and allows them to focus on understanding legislation. The present system can almost cause them to be slaves to bribery. At a minimum, they are more vulnerable to lobbyists. The public coffers would save money in being more efficient with the elected officials time, and the state would be more a reflection of the needs and will of the people rather than the corporations who stand to profit from unnecessary and over-generous contracts.

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**FINTestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 4:57 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** joncole@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1481 on Feb 21, 2013 13:30PM

**HB1481**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 21, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jonathan R Cole	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Strong support!!

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Toni Withington	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please help us get rid of special interest influence in our elections.

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
April Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I dream of this happening. Let's end the problems with corruption in government...sounds rude, but you can see it from the inside out. PLEASE have the inner strength to see this one through, April Lee

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Skye White	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I Support Clean & Fair Elections bill for House and Senate races. You should always go the people in the community first, instead of interest groups to get monies for elections. The people want you to come to us. When you don't come to the people first, I feel it shows the measures that are taken that lead to unfair practices.

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**From:** Carol Langner [<mailto:crllngnr60@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 11:35 AM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1481

I am in full support of the bill, HB1481 for Campaign Finance of the designated offices. This bill increases the possibility of wider participation in state government.

Fritz Fritschel  
1415 Victoria St # 1101  
96822

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 1:00 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** palmtree7@earthlink.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1481 on Feb 21, 2013 13:30PM

**HB1481**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 21, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
janice palma-glenie	Individual	Support	No

Comments: more public funding of elections helps achieve one person, one vote and protects democracy. mahalo for supporting this bill.

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