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STATE OF HAWAII  
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

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January 27, 2014

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on H. B. 1605, Relating to Campaign Spending**

Tuesday, January 28, 2014  
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission ("Commission") supports this bill and urges the Committee to pass the bill.

This bill amends subsection (b) of HRS §11-359 (Family Contributions) by replacing the reference to HRS§11-355 (Contributions by state and county contractors prohibited) with HRS §11-357 (Contributions to candidates committee; limits), as the exemption for contributions from immediate family members. This would conform §11-359 with the law prior to the recodification of Chapter 11 in 2010. See attached §11-204, Haw. Rev. Stat. (2009 Replacement).

dress of the person in charge, the price per person, the date, hour, and place of the affair and the method thereof. [L 1979, c 224, pt of §2; am L 1980, c 232, §1 and c 246, §1(e); gen ch 1985; am L 1987, c 369, §1(6); am L Sp 1995, c 10, §2(9); am L 1997, c 375, §7; am L 1999, c 64, §2; am L 2007, c 200, §5]

**[§11-203.5] Prohibition of fundraising on state or county property.** (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), it shall be unlawful for any person to solicit a donation of money or other thing of value in connection with an election campaign in a government facility that is used for the discharge of official duties by an officer or employee of the State or county.

(b) The prohibition of fundraising on state or county property shall not apply to any government facility that permits use by nongovernmental organizations for a fee or with reservations; provided the governmental facility's use regulations do not prohibit political activities on the premises. Government facilities that permit use for political activities shall be available to a candidate or committee for fundraising activities pursuant to the same terms and conditions that would otherwise apply to use by nongovernmental organizations.

(c) A person who violates the prohibition of fundraising on state or county property shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [L 2005, c 203, pt of §1]

**§11-204 Campaign contributions; limits as to persons.**

(a)(1) No person or any other entity shall make contributions to:

- (A) A candidate seeking nomination or election to a two-year office or to the candidate's committee in an aggregate amount greater than \$2,000 during an election period;
- (B) A candidate seeking nomination or election to a four-year statewide office or to the candidate's committee in an aggregate amount greater than \$6,000 during an election period; and
- (C) A candidate seeking nomination or election to a four-year non-statewide office or to the candidate's committee in an aggregate amount greater than \$4,000 during an election period.

These limits shall not apply to a loan made to a candidate by a financial institution in the ordinary course of business;

(2) For purposes of this section, the length of term of an office shall be the usual length of term of the office as unaffected by reapportionment, a special election to fill a vacancy, or any other factor causing the term of the office the candidate is seeking to be less than the usual length of term of that office.

(b) No person or any other entity shall make contributions to a noncandidate committee, in an aggregate amount greater than \$1,000 in an election.

(c) A candidate's immediate family, in making contributions to the candidate's campaign, shall be exempt from the above limitation, but shall be limited in the aggregate to \$50,000 in any election period. The aggregate amount of \$50,000 shall include any loans made for campaign purposes to the candidate from the candidate's immediate family.

(d) A contribution by a dependent minor shall be reported in the name of the minor but shall be counted against the contribution of the minor's parent or guardian.

(e) Any candidate, candidate's committee, or committee that receives in the aggregate more than the applicable limits set forth in this section in any primary, initial special, special, or general election from a person, shall be required to return any excess contribution to the original donor within thirty

days of receipt of the original campaign fund, with this subject any penalty under

(f) All payment or expenditure of money, labor organization, including unit of the corporate committees or other person, or by a single person

(g) An individual partner shall be

(h) No contribution shall have as off which supports a concert with, or tee.

(i) No candidate or corporate domestic subsidiary owned by a foreign is retained by the 2 United States as amended. No where:

(1) Foreign such a minist

(2) The co

(j) No published and maintained a political party election period. al political party amount greater t

(k) The sought by the ca [L 1979, c 224, p §1(7); am L 1988 L 1997, c 375, §§ 2000, c 99, §4 an

Subsection (b): vic er entities from mak statutory provision p has been registered; on the right of associ committees. Att. Ge

days of receipt of the excess contribution. Any excess contribution not returned to the original donor within thirty days shall escheat to the Hawaii election campaign fund. A candidate, candidate's committee, or committee who complies with this subsection prior to the initiation of prosecution shall not be subject to any penalty under section 11-228.

(f) All payments made by a person or political party whose contributions or expenditure activity is financed, maintained, or controlled by any corporation, labor organization, association, political party, or any other person or committee, including any parent, subsidiary, branch, division, department, or local unit of the corporation, labor organization, association, political party, political committees established and maintained by a national political party, or any other person, or by any group of those persons shall be considered to be made by a single person or political party.

(g) An individual and any general partnership in which the individual is a partner shall be treated as one person.

(h) No committee that supports or opposes a candidate for public office shall have as officers individuals who serve as officers on any other committee which supports or opposes the same candidate. No such committee shall act in concert with, or solicit or make contributions on behalf of, any other committee.

(i) No contributions or expenditures shall be made to or on behalf of a candidate or committee by a foreign national or foreign corporation, including a domestic subsidiary of a foreign corporation, a domestic corporation that is owned by a foreign national, or a local subsidiary where administrative control is retained by the foreign corporation, and in the same manner prohibited under 2 United States Code section 441e and 11 Code of Federal Regulations 110.20, as amended. No foreign-owned domestic corporation shall make contributions where:

(1) Foreign national individuals participate in election-related activities such as decisions concerning the making of contributions or the administration of a political committee; or

(2) The contribution funds are not domestically-derived.

(j) No person or any other entity other than political committees established and maintained by a national political party shall make contributions to a political party in an aggregate amount greater than \$25,000 in any two-year election period. No political committee established and maintained by a national political party, shall make contributions to a political party in an aggregate amount greater than \$50,000 in any two-year election period.

(k) The contribution limits under this section shall apply for the office sought by the candidate. This section shall not apply to ballot issue committees. [L 1979, c 224, pt of §2; am L 1980, c 246, §1(f); gen ch 1985; am L 1987, c 369, §1(7); am L 1988, c 403, §1; am L 1989, c 261, §1; am L Sp 1995, c 10, §2(10); am L 1997, c 375, §8; am L 1998, c 31, §1; am L 1999, c 96, §6 and c 187, §3; am L 2000, c 99, §4 and c 242, §1; am L 2005, c 203, §7]

#### Attorney General Opinions

Subsection (b): violates First Amendment to U.S. Constitution because it restricts persons or other entities from making contributions to noncandidate ballot measure committees. Subsection (j): statutory provision prohibits contributions based upon length of time that noncandidate committee has been registered; this durational requirement is unconstitutional because it imposes limitations on the right of association and the right of expression when contributions are made to noncandidate committees. Att. Gen. Op. 98-5.



House Judiciary Committee  
Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Sharon Har

Tuesday 01/28/14 at 02:00PM in Room 325  
HB1605– Relating to Campaign Spending

COMMENTS  
Carmille Lim, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

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Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

**Common Cause Hawaii supports HB1605.**

This “housekeeping” bill’s purpose is to correct a reference in state statute that was meant to reference contribution limits contributions from immediate *family*, rather than from contractors.

**Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB1605.**