



49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813  
www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7448 | voters@lwvhawaii.com

## COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 2:00 pm  
Conference Room 325  
HB2533 Proposed HD1 RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE

### TESTIMONY

Beppie Shapiro for the League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Har, Members of the Committee:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports the intent of HB 2533, which would amend Hawai`i's campaign finance law to provide public funding for elections to the state House of Representatives, subject to qualifying collection of signatures and donations, and to other requirements.**

Following recent SCOTUS rulings, particularly the *Citizen's United* decision allowing unlimited independent expenditures supporting candidates for election, Hawai`i like other states has experienced troubling increases in expenditures to influence voters' perception of candidates. I'm sure it did not escape your attention that a lot of money spent in the last election in Hawaii came from out of state, and also that wealthy individuals and "independent" committees made some eye-popping expenditures. We are not convinced that these expenditures were primarily motivated by the public interest of citizens of Hawaii as a whole.

Large private expenditures on elections also raise the cost of campaigning, threatening to prevent the election of ordinary citizens and requiring sitting legislators to spend excessive time and energy fund-raising for their next election rather than attending to the peoples' business.

Public funding has been recognized by the State of Hawaii (as well as a long-standing and well-supported position of the League of Women Voters), as a preferable way to pay for elections. That's why we have a tax check-off to support public funding of elections.



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[www.lwv-hawaii.com](http://www.lwv-hawaii.com) | 808.531.7448 | [voters@lwvhawaii.com](mailto:voters@lwvhawaii.com)

The League takes no position on Sections 4 and 5 which define maximum public funding for specific offices (Mayor, Governor etc.) because we have not studied this adequately to form an opinion.

The League wishes to call attention to the admirable performance of the Campaign Spending Commission in implementing the previous pilot of public funding for Hawaii County Council elections. We are happy to see that Section 9 of HB 2533 provides for extra funding for the additional responsibilities and costs which the Commission office (as well as County Election offices) will incur under this legislation. The CSC has shown innovative and responsible management of its duties; it deserves a guarantee of adequate and stable funding for its important work in supporting democratic elections.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

**HB2533**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joseph Heaukulani	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am very concerned about the influence that money has on Hawaii's political campaigns, and would like to see fewer politicians accept campaign contributions from special interests. That is why I would like to see HB2533 passed.

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 2/8/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 2/9/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ronnie Perry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill. We desperately need publicly financed elections to have fair election. Please support this bill

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Abigail Cutter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
JONATHAN LOTT	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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KRISTIN E. IZUMI-NITAO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**LATE**

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**STATE OF HAWAII  
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION**

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 10, 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 *kei*  
Campaign Spending Commission

SUBJECT: **Testimony on H.B. No. 2533, Proposed H.D. 1, Relating to Campaign Spending**

Tuesday, February 11, 2014  
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission ("Commission") appreciates the intent of this bill establishing comprehensive public funding for candidates for election to the House of Representatives, but offers the following strong concerns and comments about its implementation. Also, the Commission opposes the ability of certified candidates to raise "supplemental contributions" as currently provided for in the proposed draft of the measure.

In section 1, page 3, proposed §11-A of this bill permits a "qualifying contribution" to be made in the form of cash. The Commission, as in the past, suggests that qualifying contributions be only in the form of a personal check or money order, as provided for in the original version of this bill. We recognize that this bill attempts to allay our concern by also requiring the contributor's signature affirming and acknowledging that the contribution was made from personal funds. However, we would like to point out that it is harder to verify that a contribution comes from the personal funds of the contributor when the contribution is in the form of cash.

Proposed §11-D of this bill, beginning at page 6, allows a candidate seeking eligibility for comprehensive public funding to raise seed money to pay for expenditures necessary to determine whether the candidate has sufficient support to run for office as a publicly-funded candidate. The amount of seed money allowed to be raised is \$3,000. Because there are no limits on the amount an individual may contribute in seed money, it appears that just one individual could contribute the maximum \$3,000 in seed money to the potential candidate for public funding. The Commission suggests that individuals be limited to giving \$250, in the

aggregate, in seed money contributions to a candidate. This is the same contribution limit for individuals contributing seed money to participating candidates in the Pilot Comprehensive Public Funding for Elections to the Hawaii County Council. §5 of Act 244, Sess. Laws Haw. (2008).

Proposed §11-E, at page 7, requires that candidates seeking certification for public funding obtain at least two hundred (200) qualifying signatures accompanied by \$5 qualifying contributions. Proposed §11-E, at page 9, requires the Commission, in coordination with the county clerks, to verify all of the signatures. The measure requires the Commission to issue a final decision to certify or deny certification of a candidate within ten (10) business days following receipt of the candidate's application. The Commission would require an appropriation in 2015 to properly staff its office to take on the enlarged duties imposed by the measure. The Commission roughly estimates that it would need one seasonal employee<sup>1</sup> if one candidate in each House district applied for certification for public funding and two seasonal employees if two candidates in each House district applied for certification for public funding. The Commission has learned that the Office of Elections paid its seasonal employees an hourly rate of \$11.25 in 2012. The Commission notes that the proposed H.D. 1, in contrast to the original measure, does not contain appropriation language to support the full-time, seasonal position(s) to the Commission to carry out the duties of verifying the qualifying names and contributions. Further, we would advise that the county clerks and the Comptroller be consulted with respect to the time and manpower the counties would expend in verifying the qualifying names and with respect to the Comptroller, the turn-around time to distribute the public funds. The Commission will provide a copy of the proposed H.D. 1 and the Commission's testimony to the county clerks and the Comptroller.

Proposed §11-G, beginning on page 10 of the bill, increases dramatically<sup>2</sup> the maximum amount of public funds available to candidates for seats in the House of Representatives. Using expenditure data from the 2012 election, the maximum amount of public funds available for a candidate for the House, will be \$32,598.38. Assuming all fifty-one House districts have one candidate receiving public funding under this proposed amendment, the maximum amount of public funding available will be \$1,662,517.30. Assuming all fifty-one House districts have two candidates receiving public funding under this proposed amendment, the maximum amount of

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission estimates that the seasonal workers will be needed from July 1, 2015 through January 31, 2016. A candidate can collect qualifying names and contributions only after the candidate files a declaration of intent to seek public funding. The first day that a candidate can file a declaration of intent is July 1, 2015, so applications for certifications will come after that date. The July 1<sup>st</sup> start date allows for training of the seasonal hires before the applications for certification start to come in. The last day a candidate can file an application is December 31, 2015, so the January 31, 2016 end date allows for the processing of applications filed on or near the deadline.

<sup>2</sup> In the 2012 election period, ten house candidates received public funding under the partial public financing program. The candidate that received the greatest amount of public funds received \$2,186. Of the ten candidates, two of them (one incumbent and one challenger) won election to office. In the 2010 election period, four house candidates received public funding under the partial public financing program. The candidate that received the greatest amount of public funds received \$2,613. Of the four candidates, one (an incumbent) won election to office. The Commission is certain that the significantly higher amount of public funding available under this measure will attract far more candidates to seek certification.



public funding available will be \$3,325,034.60. Considering that the balance of the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund was \$2,810,057.69 as of December 31, 2013, the proposed amendments will require an appropriation from the Legislature in 2015 to the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to pay for the anticipated dramatic increase in public funding for certified candidates to the House in 2016, should this measure pass. To be on the safe side, when deciding on the amount of the appropriation, this committee should assume that there will be at least one candidate seeking public funds under this measure in each of the 51 state House districts. The Commission notes that the proposed H.D. 1, in contrast to the original measure, does not contain language for an appropriation into the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund.

Proposed §11-I, on page 14, allows certified candidates to accept “supplemental contributions” in an amount that does not exceed \$50 per person from individuals who reside in the State. The certified candidate can collect supplemental contributions upon certification for public funding until the general election. The Commission is opposed to supplemental contributions. The public funding available under this measure is **comprehensive**. That is, the funding amount is based upon the average amount winning House candidates in the 2012 elections spent. We seriously question whether a certified candidate should be allowed to raise more private funds. There is no triggering mechanism, or stated reason, to allow certified candidates to raise supplemental contributions from private funds. Also, because there is no maximum amount that a certified candidate may raise in supplemental funding, we believe that the purpose of comprehensive public funding would be undermined by allowing certified candidates to potentially stockpile private funds. Further, the Commission questions the necessity for supplemental contributions since the bill, in proposed §11-K, at page 18, already permits a certified candidate who is elected to office to raise funds if the candidate’s surplus funds fall below \$4,000.

Proposed §11-Q, beginning on page 22 of the measure, requires that the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund (“HECF”) has a minimum balance of \$3,500,000 on July 1 of each odd-numbered year before a general election, to certify candidates and to provide comprehensive public funding for candidates in House races. As of December 31, 2013, as mentioned above, the HECF’s balance was **\$2,810,057.69**. Thus, it is certain that unless the Legislature provides funding for this program and other Commission expenses such as proper staffing, this proposed comprehensive public funding program will not be implemented in 2016.

Finally, Section 4 through Section 6, on pages 24 to 27, of the measure, excludes candidates for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Senator, in addition to State Representative, from expenditure limits and participation in the Partial Public Financing Program. Although the Commission can see the rationale behind the exclusion of House candidates from the expenditure limits and the current partial public financing program, the Commission does not understand the need to exclude the other offices. If the exclusion is a cost-saving measure, the Commission would like to point out that since the 2006 elections, the HECF has paid \$113,507.20 in public funds to certified candidates running for those excluded offices minus certified House candidates. Thus, the Commission does not view this proposal as a significant cost-saving measure.

This measure has a companion bill, S.B. No. 2972.



House Judiciary Committee  
Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Sharon Har

Tuesday 02/11/2014 at 02:00PM in Room 325  
HB2533 - Relating to Campaign Finance  
Public Funding for Election Candidates

TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT  
Carmille Lim, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

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

**Common Cause Hawaii supports the proposed HB2533 HD1, and offers amendments.**

HB2533 would create a public funding program of candidates for the offices of state representative.

According to a 2005 AARP survey, 86% of voting age residents in Hawaii think campaign contributions moderately or greatly influence policies supported by elected officials. The survey goes on to state: Realizing that politicians have to raise money for their election campaigns, almost half of all Hawai'i residents strongly agree, and over one-third somewhat agree, they become obligated to the people who contributed money to their campaign. <sup>(1)</sup>

Similar programs are in use in Arizona, Connecticut, and Maine and in a number of localities scattered across the country. An increasing number of Hawaii residents are familiar with this system's success in other states. Given their growing awareness of, and disappointment in money's influence in politics, Hawaii residents are becoming more vocal in their support of a publicly funded election system. Among the many "good government" issues Common Cause advocates for, Publicly Funded Elections has resonated longest with our 4,000 members and supporters.

Comments and suggested amendments

- Seed money
  - P. 6, Section II-Dc., lines 12-17 and its reference to subpart E does not clarify who may contribute to the prospective candidate, nor does to indicate how much they may contribute. In this case, we may see an individual contributing the full \$3,000 of seed money to a candidate who intends to run on the public funding program.
    - Suggestions:
      - Limit contributions to \$200 per person. This helps to prevent large contributions, yet allows the prospective candidate to not spend much of her/his time fundraising.
      - Allow no more than ½ of the seed money to be funded from the individual's personal funds.
      - Allow for out-of district, but in-state contributions for seed money.

- Qualifying contributions
  - P.8, Section II-Eb, line 10: we suggest removing “who is a registered voter.” This provision is limiting, as Hawaii already has low voter participation. A candidate seeks to represent her or his district – and that includes citizens who are not registered to vote.
- Supplemental funds
  - P.14, Section 11-i, line 8-10:
    - Increased the supplemental fund cap to \$100 per person.
    - Include a threshold on how much of a publicly-funded candidate’s supplemental funds can come from out-of district. We suggest a 75% in-district, and 25% out-of district (but in-state) threshold.
    - Allow a candidate to obtain supplemental fund contributions from the same individuals who donated for qualifying contributions. Currently, the bill does not allow for this.
  - P.19, (e), (f), (g):
    - Include a threshold on when a publicly funded-candidate can fundraising for supplemental contributions. We suggest allowing the candidate to raise supplemental funds once she or he has spent 80% of the public funds received.
- **Comments on coordination with political parties**
  - We recognize that even with a public-funding program, political parties may still want to assist a candidate. We believe that assistance and verbal, written, or oral endorsements from a political party or a political party’s caucus should remain permissible.

The heart of Common Cause’s mission is to create a robust democracy by and responsive to an engaged public. We believe that implementing a public funding option would significantly reduce the perception of pay-to-play politics and by increasing competition, can reengage the citizenry in the democratic process.

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB2533.**

- (1) AARP, “Campaign Finance Reform in Hawai’i: A Survey of Residents 18+” 2005.  
<http://www.voterownedhawaii.org/uploads/AARPSurvey.pdf>



# LATE

## ADON

HAWAII

AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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MAILING ADDRESS

PO. Box23404  
Honolulu  
Hawai'i 96823

February 9, 2014

TO: Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Sharon Har  
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: John Bickel, President  
Americans for Democratic Action/Hawai'i

RE: Support and Comments on HB 2533 Relating to Campaign Finance

Americans for Democratic Action/Hawaii supports HB 2533 For over a half century, Americans for Democratic Action has been advocating for public policies to pursue social justice. Much of the public is cynical about government however. A good deal of that cynicism is the perception that money is corrupting public policy. After the *Citizens United* decision came down from the Supreme Court, a Washington Post-ABC News poll showed 76 percent of Republicans and 85 percent of Democrats opposed the ruling. The opposition to the corrupting influence of money in politics is bipartisan. A nice step forward would be passing HB 2533 to provide public funding for state representative elections. That would indeed go far to restoring public confidence in good elected officials such as yourselves. The bill also has an important feature in improving the financing of the Campaign Spending Commission. I thank you for your attention to this bill and for your favorable consideration.



Voter Owned Hawaii  
3442 Waialae Ave, Suite #8  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
808-457-8622  
<http://voterownedhawaii.org>

February 10, 2014

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

              The Honorable Sharon Har, Vice Chair  
              House Committee on the Judiciary

              Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM:       Kory Payne, Executive Director  
              Voter Owned Hawaii

Tuesday, February 11, 2014  
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. We strongly support this legislation as is.

### **Popular Support for this bill**

Last spring, Hawaii Elections Project contracted Lake Research Partners to conduct a poll in Hawaii, gauging public sentiment for this type of program; and by a 2-1 margin, voters expressed support for legislation that allows candidates to run for office by relying on a blend of small donations and limited public funds. These strong numbers in support of this legislation have remained consistent over the years.

During the 1978 Constitutional Convention, delegates fought hard to create the partial public funding program that we now have. Delegate Naomi Campbell said during that Convention: ". . . if we think these tremendous sums being spent [on elections], these tremendous sums being contributed, are not sums for which we are going to ultimately pay because of poorgovernment . . . and because of undue influence . . . we are fooling ourselves."

We have let the partial public funding program decay over the past 30 years, and along with it our best chance at a program that will encourage citizen-funded elections vs. special-interest-funded campaigns.

### **Good for the Economy**

In short, providing a public funding option for House and Senate candidates is the deal of the century for taxpayers. Right now, monied, special interests have an unfair monopoly on access to the lawmaking arena, and this often ends up hurting taxpayers.



The proposed legislation would cost taxpayers an absolute maximum of \$.62 per taxpayer, per year (Figure 3). We are counting on you to break the cycle and save this program that delegates fought for in 1978.

This bill will do the following:

1. Adds a new subpart to Chapter 11, HRS, which creates a public funding option for the House of Representatives (SECTION 2). The qualification process would require House candidates to collect 250 signatures from registered voters in the district for which they're qualifying. In addition, each signature would need to be accompanied with a five dollar check or money order.

We support the current requirements for publicly funded candidates because they are challenging and therefore will attract grassroots-oriented candidates who can demonstrate trust and support in their communities.

The amounts given to House candidates would be based upon amounts spent in the previous election cycle. Basing these amounts on a formula instead of a fixed amount will help ensure the amounts do not become obsolete (as is the case with the current partial system).

The formula for determining amounts given to qualified candidates would be determined by removing the top three and bottom three spenders in the previous election period, for each chamber. After removing the top three and bottom three spenders, the amount given would be the average amount spent by the winning candidates (Figure 1).

For House races, for example, after subtracting the top three and bottom three spending races, the total amount spent out of 46 remaining districts is \$1,568,426. That amount divided by 46 districts equals an average of \$34,853 per district. This is the amount that would be given to a House candidate who is able to qualify.

2. Allows candidates to continue raising small donations after they've spent their allotment of money from the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund. After the base allotment is spent, candidates can continue to accept contributions of no more than \$50 from residents in the state. This provision helps make sure candidates can remain competitive while at the same time maintaining the fundamental principles of the program; which are to enable candidates to run a competitive campaign through many small donations vs. few large donations.

Figure 1 -- Total spending in House Races by winning candidates, period 2012

<b>TOTAL</b>	\$1,880,078.25
<b>TOTAL / 51 =</b>	\$36,864.28
<b>TOTAL (-TOP 3, BOT 3) / 45</b>	<b>\$34,853.92</b>

### Potential Cost

Figure 3 -- Maximum potential cost of running House & Senate races in a two-year cycle

	<b>Base Allotment</b>	<b>Base Allotment x 51 House races</b>	<b>Base Allotment x 102 House</b>
<b>House (51 districts)</b>	\$34,853.25	\$1,777,515	\$3,555,031 ( \$.62 per taxpayer per year)

**LATE**

**HB2533**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jim Albertini	Malu Aina	Support	No

Comments: Our organization supports citizen funded elections to level the playing field for all. Please support this effort. Mahalo. Jim Albertini

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Testimony in Support of HB 2533 HD 1 Proposed Relating to Campaign Finance  
To be heard February 11, 2:00 pm by House Committee on the Judiciary

TO: Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair Sharon Har  
Members of the House Committee on the Judiciary

FROM: Barbara Polk

SUBJECT: **Strong support for and comments on HB 2533 HD1**

The amounts of money which are flowing into political campaigns have tended to sideline the general public and force politicians to spend undue time raising money for election or reelection. This bill is an important step forward by instituting a voluntary public funding program for candidates for the Hawaii House of Representatives. I urge your support for the bill

I support the suggestions that Common Cause Hawaii is making for this bill. In addition, as an individual, I want to raise some additional questions and concerns in several areas that do not appear to be clear and which may need some rewording.

p. 6, Section 11-D (e), lines 21-22 and p. 7. lines 1-2 allows money in excess of \$3000 seed money to be kept. Since there is no limit on the amount of seed money that may be given to a candidate, does this open the door to large donations, making a candidate beholden to the donors? Shouldn't there be a limit on how much more can be kept and still consider a candidate to be publicly funded? How about limiting it to \$1000, collected as spelled out in the bill, with the remainder returned to donors.

p. 7 (f) If a candidate can transfer money from a previous campaign to use as seed money, but must continue accounting for the rest of it, this section needs some clarification. Suggestion: (lines 10 – 13)

Surplus campaign funds, **in excess of those used for seed money**, shall be frozen and maintained in a separate depository account from that established for the public funds under section 11-M.

(There may also need to be allowance for in-office constituent communications in this sentence.)

p. 15. Reference to part 11-J c should be made in section 11-E (g), so that prospective candidates are clear that they need to register after receiving \$100

Also, in II-J c (p. 15), when does “receiving more than \$100 in seed money” taking place? Does that include transfer of surplus funds from a previous election or the candidate's own funds? This needs clarification.

**Expenditure of Public Funds**

p. 13 11-H (2) c. forbids the expenditure of public funds “outside the applicable campaign period”. Is this redundant with the statement in the stem of 11-H (2) “Upon certification for public funding and until the general election. . .”? If not the “applicable campaign period” needs to be clarified for those who do not win their primary campaign.

p. 17 lines 10-12 Suggested wording change: certifying that all public funds paid to the certified candidate and certified candidate's committee **that have been expended** have been used as required.

### **Supplemental Contributions**

Permitting supplemental contributions raises a number of problems with the rest of the provisions of the bill. For example:

p. 19 (e)(f) and (g) concern return of unused public funds. Which of their funds is considered to be "public funds" if they have also raised supplemental funds? E.g., if a candidate receives \$30,000 in public funds and raises \$30,000 in "surplus funds," but spends \$30,000, has s/he spent all the public funds or only half of them?

p. 14 Section 11-I appears to contradict Section 11-H (1) by saying that supplemental contributions can be accepted, while 11-H (1) says they cannot and sets a severe penalty.

p. 19. The reference to subpart E in subpart I is not clear, since subpart E does not specify individuals whose contributions are prohibited. However, it does limit contributions to registered voters in the district, while subpart I allows contributions from individuals statewide, whether or not they are registered voters.

### **Continuing Obligations:**

p 18 11-K(d) Appears to allow elected candidates to continue to raise supplemental funds beyond \$4000 throughout the following year, prior to the registering as a publicly funded candidate in the next election . This gives an elected individual a substantial advantage over a newcomer who can only raise seed money until he is certified.

Except for seed money contributions, qualifying contributions, **supplemental contributions** pursuant to section 11--I, and surplus campaign fund contributions pursuant to this section, a certified candidate who is elected to the office sought and the certified candidate's committee shall not accept private contributions from any person until either July 1 of the next odd--numbered year following the general election in which the candidate was last elected, or the date when the commission determines there are insufficient funds under section 11--Q,



whichever occurs earlier.

**Other :**

**p. 23, lines 4-9** Section 11-Q

Shouldn't the commission publish notice saying whether or not public funding will be available, instead of just a notice that funds are available?

Thank you for the opportunity to present these concerns. I hope that they can be addressed, as needed, and I fully support the bill.

**LATE**

**HB2533**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB2533**

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Frank DeGiacomo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support the passage of this bill in the hopes it will limit the influence of monied interests and place constituents' issues on the public agendas, as well as allow for more diversity of candidates.

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Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robert Freitas Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill!!!

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**LATE**

**HB2533**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00 min Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marvin Heskett	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Please support HB2533. Please support this bill to allow all voting members of our community the chance at joining the electoral process. I realize that it is difficult to run a campaign now without accepting contributions from donors that candidates may not necessarily feel comfortable accepting. In order to compete with other candidates who are accepting donations from a system fraught with paybacks, otherwise more principled members find themselves in a difficult situation accepting monies from less than desirable sources. Public funded campaigns can help even the playing field, allowing politicians to run on their merit and not on the political favors they owe special interest. Again, please do the right thing and support this bill. Mahalo, Marvin Heskett

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**LATE**

**HB2533**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gail Jackson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

**HB2533**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Strongly Support! This is the ONLY thing that will stop our state and country from being utterly ruined. If you TRULY love Hawai'i and its citizens - you will pass this bill. People are tired of the foot dragging on this issue. There's GOT to be a better way than the way we're headed - without your help now. This year. Mahalo.

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jerome M. Comcowich	Individual	Support	No

Comments: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair February 11, 2014 Testimony on HB 2533 -  
Campaign Finance by Jerome M. Comcowich 1120 Lauloa St. Kailua, HI 96734 I urge  
you to vote in favor of publicly financed elections in Hawaii as reflected in HB 2533. This  
legislation is long overdue! Public financing will level the playing field for candidates who  
wish increase the voice of voters and diminish the power of special interests in the  
making of public policy. Furthermore, we will be a step closer to making policy decisions  
based on the needs of the "common good" rather than the demands of the special  
interests. Again, I respectfully urge your support for this much needed bill. With warm  
regards and aloha. J. M. Comcowich

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**LATE**

**HB2533**

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
christine trecker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I urge you to pass this bill. While campaign financing reform may be challenging to institute, we must keep the wheels turning toward reform. I am appalled and saddened by national and state legislators acting as puppets for special interest groups. Without reform we will never have a true democracy.

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dana G. Moss	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The best thing so big money has far less influence on all of us. Creates a level field and the candidates can spend far less time raising money. So they can spend more time in open communication with who they represent. We the people want this.

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**HB2533**

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paul Deeter	Individual	Support	No

Comments: There is a growing awareness that our government is often unduly influenced by corporations and wealthy individuals, This is absolutely antithetical to our cherished principle of democracy--one person, one vote. As we watch our legislators consider this measure, we will know who is working for the people and who is a prostitute for special interests.

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**LATE**

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ben Trevino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

**HB2533**

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Marvin Porter	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Public Financing worked really well on the Island of Hawaii and made it possible for some excellent candidates to run that could not have done so otherwise. I strongly support.

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**LATE**

From: Daniela Kittinger  
244 Hawai'i Loa St.  
Honolulu, HI 96821

Date: February 10th, 2014

Re: **HB 2533, relating to campaign finance - in support**

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Dear Legislators,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in **support of House Bill 2533**, which creates a public funding mechanism for state office elections.

As a taxpayer, I support this bill because I believe campaign finance is at the heart of corruption in politics. Publicly funded campaigns would create an environment in which candidates are behold to the needs and desires of the people, rather than high-powered corporate donors and well-financed lobbyists. It also opens the door for average citizens to run and get elected to office... not just the wealthy.

**The time is now for this bill.** Hawai'i's urgent social and environmental problems are not going away, as our politicians are not responding to the needs of the people and the land. Problems like education reform, pesticide use by big agriculture corporations, homelessness, and climate change mitigation go on unaddressed because they are not concerns of moneyed interest groups and corporations. By design, these entities are concerned with only one thing above all else – profits.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

With aloha,

Daniela Kittinger  
Hawai'i resident

Elections that citizen funded only will save taxpayer money because the public will have more access and voice when it comes to important policy decisions. 86% of Hawaii residents support citizen-funded elections and is important to more than three fourths of Hawaii Island residents. We could fund two candidates in every House seat for only \$.62 per taxpayer, per year. This would save tax payers money needed to take care of families. Citizen-funded elections will allow candidates to run a more grassroots-oriented, populist campaigns instead of having to cater to big businesses looking to take control of the Big Island for profit driven motives.

Signed,

Susan Hammer





**LATE**

**HB2533**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
joy cash	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

**HB2533**

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Larry Meacham	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Testimony to the House Judiciary Committee SUPPORTING HB 2533 February 11, 2014 Thank you the for opportunity to offer testimony. This bill provides for public funding of the election campaigns of House candidates. I strongly urge you to pass this bill in order to: -Reduce the dependence on and influence of special interest money. -Give more candidates the opportunity to run. -Allow both incumbents and challengers the opportunity to focus on issues rather than fundraising. The program is optional, so no one is forced to use it. It has worked well in several other states, with a majority of candidates using it in some areas. Candidates have to show community support by getting signatures and small donations first and can only spend the money on direct campaign expenses - not salaries, vehicles, rent, etc. In short, this is a proven reform that we should adopt. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony. Larry Meacham

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Testimony for JUD on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

<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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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara L. George	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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# LATE TESTIMONY

*Democracy Under the Rule of Law is Based on Public Access*

February 11, 2014

House Judiciary Committee  
Hawai'i State Legislature

Re: H.B. 2533, Relating to Campaign Finance  
Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Har, and Judiciary Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of H.B. 2533.

Thank you for hearing H.B. 2533, and thank you for the opportunity to testify. We strongly **support** this measure, as we believe that it will rehabilitate and further the public funding option established by Hawaii's 1978 Constitutional Convention.

We are encouraged by the support that this important bill has received at the Legislature during the last session. H.B. 2533 will help to further the public interest in our state, by simply making it possible for our representatives to be "dependent on the people alone," as James Madison put it. If they so wish, the people's representatives will be better able to focus on the needs of their constituents without spending a significant percentage of their time fundraising. This measure will help make it possible for the long-term public interest to prevail, circumventing the waste associated with uneven policies based on special interests.

In *The Federalist* No. 52, James Madison referred to the U.S. House of Representatives as "that branch of the federal government which ought to be dependent on the people alone." (The members of the U.S. Senate, too, have been elected directly by the people since the Seventeenth Amendment was adopted a century ago.) But at both the federal and the state level, for decades but especially during the past seven years since the confirmation of Justices Roberts and Alito to the Supreme Court, a different sort of dependence has developed for many of our candidates, a dependence upon money from the aggregated wealth of special interest entities.

The deregulation effected by the U.S. Supreme Court decisions in *Randall v. Sorrell*, *Davis v. FEC*, *Citizens United v. FEC*, *American Tradition Partnership v. Bullock*, and other cases, and the reverberations of these decisions in the states, has significantly exacerbated this culture of dependence upon special interest money. But as the dissent in *Citizens United* noted, "in a functioning democracy the public must have faith that its representatives owe their positions to the people, not to the corporations with the deepest pockets."

We need for our legislators to depend upon the people alone. H.B. 2533 would help. Please support this bill. Mahalo!

Mahalo,

R. Elton Johnson, III  
Open Law Alliance



**CHRISTOPHER J. YUEN**  
**ATTORNEY AT LAW**

P.O. Box 5  
Ninole, HI 96773  
Telephone: (808)963-6966  
e-mail: chrisyuenz@hotmail.com

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Feb. 11, 2014

Re: HB2533

Dear Rep. Rhoads and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Please support HB2533, an important reform of the campaign finance system. It would allow candidates for the State House of Representatives to run financially competitive campaigns without having to solicit funds from big money interests that often have a very definite agenda. It is one way to reduce the excessive influence of money in our political system.

HB2533 would replace the current partial public funding program for state house races. The current program, which began in 1980, isn't working. In 2012, only two state house candidates used the program and won. No winning state senate candidate used the program. The current program has an unrealistically low expenditure limit, and provides little public funding (a maximum of only 15% of the expenditure limit.) At the same time, because participating candidates can still accept large donations, it really doesn't address the problem of big money subverting democracy.

Under HB2533, candidates would receive considerable public funding if they obtained large numbers of small donations from residents in their districts. This is similar to the comprehensive public funding pilot program for Hawai'i County council races, which was used by five of the nine councilmembers elected in 2012.

The effort to make people more important than money in our democracy has unfortunately been hobbled by recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions. The approach of HB2533—a voluntary public funding option—remains one avenue open toward this goal. Let's make it a reality.

Yours truly,

Chris Yuen