

KRISTIN E. IZUMI-NITAO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



PHONE: (808) 586-0285
FAX: (808) 586-0288
WWW.HAWAII.GOV/CAMPAIGN

**STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION**

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 19, 2013

TO: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

SUBJECT: **Comments on S.B. No. 30, Relating to Campaign Spending**

Thursday, February 21, 2013
9:00 a.m., Conference Room 211

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission ("Commission") supports this bill and urges the Committee to pass the bill. This bill will not require an appropriation from the Legislature.

Section 1 of the bill amends HRS §11-423 (voluntary expenditure limits; filing affidavit) by amending subsection (b) to require candidates to file the affidavit to abide by statutory expenditure limits no later than the time to file nomination papers. This timeline is contained in §12-6(e)¹ and was provided for in the prior campaign spending law (§11-208(c) (2009 Replacement)). This would allow Commission staff to better implement the partial public financing program and achieve compliance with state election laws.

The bill also amends subsection (d) by adding "prosecuting attorney" to paragraph (4). Thus, the prosecuting attorney, along with state senators, state representatives, and county council members participating in the partial public financing program would be able to spend \$1.40 multiplied by the number of registered voters in the voting district. This amendment reinstates language deleted by Act 203, Sess. Laws Haw. (2005). This deletion forced the Commission to place the prosecuting attorney in the "all other offices" category of spending limit, *i.e.*, 20 cents multiplied by the number of registered voters in the voting district. This

¹ HRS §12-6(e) provides, "Upon the showing of a certified copy of an affidavit which has been filed with the campaign spending commission pursuant to section 11-208 by a candidate who has voluntarily agreed to abide by spending limits, the chief election officer or clerk shall discount the filing fee of the candidate by the following amounts: (1) For the office of the governor and lieutenant governor -- \$675; (2) For the office of mayor -- \$450; and (3) For all other offices -- \$225."

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Comments on S.B. No. 30
February 19, 2013
Page 2

seems unreasonable given the fact that the prosecuting attorney is a county-wide office. For example, under current law, the expenditure limit for the Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney for the 2012 elections was \$81,560 while the expenditure limit for the Honolulu Mayor was \$815,602. The expenditure limit for the Hawaii County Prosecuting Attorney for the 2012 elections was \$17,978 while the expenditure limit for the Hawaii County Mayor was \$179,776. Finally, the expenditure limit for the Kauai County Prosecuting Attorney for the 2012 elections was \$7,167 while the expenditure limit for the Kauai County Mayor was \$71,672.

Section 1 of this bill is also section 9 of S.B. No. 555 and H.B. No. 201, H.D. 1. S.B. 555 is the legislative proposal the Commission delivered to the Senate President for introduction in the Senate and H.B. No. 201, H.D. 1, is the identical House version.