

HB1604

HD2

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**STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION**

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 12, 2014

TO: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on H.B. No. 1604, HD 2, Relating to Elections**

Friday, March 14, 2014
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 016

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 with an amendment to the effective date.

This bill amends HRS §11-156, by replacing “expense statements” with disclosure reports and the payment of any fine assessed by the campaign spending commission, that a winning candidate would need to be in compliance with prior to the issuance of a certificate of election to that candidate. The Commission supports this amendment because candidates file “reports” with the Commission, not expense statements. See e.g., §11-331 & §11-333. Also, requiring the payment of administrative fines already levied by the Commission, as a condition for the issuance of the certificate of election, will further encourage compliance with the Campaign Finance Law.

The Commission urges the Committee to amend the measure to reflect an effective date upon its approval.



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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, March 14, 2014, 10:00 AM, Room 016
HB1604, HD 2 RELATING TO ELECTIONS

TESTIMONY

Janet Mason, Co-Chair, Legislative Committee League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB 1604 providing that certificates of election would be delivered only after the filing of campaign commission disclosure reports and the payment of any fine assessed by the Campaign Spending Commission.

It is important that all candidates promptly comply with any outstanding campaign commission disclosure reports and any fines already assessed. The reason we have a Campaign Spending Commission is to assure all candidates for public office, the voters and other citizens that election campaigns are conducted as required by state laws on campaign finance. Without enforcing CSC rulings, the state law could be flouted – surely not the intent of the Legislature.

It is also important that the requirements for delivering elections certificates are clear.

We note that we have been assured that the Attorney General has declared that the process of HB1604 is legal under the state Constitution. We are currently trying to get a copy of that decision, which is presumably available to Legislators.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.