

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 3, 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 *KIN*
Campaign Spending Commission

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

Tuesday, February 4, 2014
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission ("Commission") strongly supports this bill.

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.

This measure has a companion bill, S.B. No. 2119.



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

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Tuesday, February 4, 2014, Room 325
HB1604 RELATING TO ELECTIONS
TESTIMONY

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

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Har, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports the intent of 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. However, we recommend that HB2196 is a better approach at this time.

As written the bill could place the Chief Elections Officer or County Clerk in the untenable position of withholding a certificate of election from a candidate who has otherwise been duly elected, because having a clean record with the Campaign Spending Commission is not a condition of filing nomination papers. We think the approach outlined in HB2196 is better, whereby a potential candidate for office would ***certify at the time nomination papers are filed*** that the candidate has no outstanding reports, corrected reports, or fines due to the campaign spending commission. This is a more preventive approach aimed at people who ***chronically*** disregard deadlines and overdue fines.

If elected the chief elections officer or county clerk would be delivering certificates of election to persons who had certified at nomination time that they had filed mandatory campaign finance reports and paid any fees due.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.