

**HB2533**

**HD2**

**LATE**

**TESTIMONY**



**STATE OF HAWAII  
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION**

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 17, 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 *kin*  
Campaign Spending Commission

SUBJECT: **Testimony on H.B. No. 2533, HD 2, Relating to Campaign Finance**

Tuesday, March 18, 2014  
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 016

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.

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 came from the personal funds of the contributor when the contribution is in the form of cash.

Proposed §11-E of this bill, beginning at page 5, 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. As currently drafted, it appears that just one individual could potentially contribute up to \$2,000 in seed money to the candidate. 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-F, 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-G, 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. 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.

Proposed §11-H, 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 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

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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.

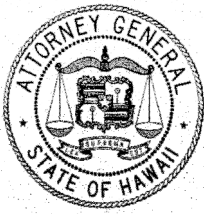
The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
March 17, 2014  
Page 3

least one candidate seeking public funds under this measure in each of the 51 state House districts.

Proposed §11-R, 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.



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2014**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 2533, H.D. 2, RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 18, 2014

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 016

**TESTIFIER(S):** David M. Louie, Attorney General, or  
Valri Lei Kunimoto, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General has concerns regarding section 11-J of this bill regarding supplemental contributions and provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to establish a comprehensive public funding program for elections to the State House of Representatives, to begin with the 2016 election. The bill also repeals provisions under the existing partial public financing program specifically applicable to candidates for the Office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Senator, and State Representative pertaining to campaign expenditure limits, maximum amounts of public funding, and minimum amounts of qualifying contributions. This bill adds a new section 11-J (page 14, lines 7-16), supplemental contributions, which allows a certified candidate and certified candidate's committee to accept supplemental contributions, provided that the contributions does not exceed \$50 per person from individuals who reside in the State and are not individuals whose contributions are prohibited under sections 11-351 to 11-364, subpart E of chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

The Department is concerned that this bill's restriction on nonresidents and limitation to individual contributors may not be justified as preventing "corruption or the appearance of corruption" given the relatively small amount of the supplemental campaign contribution permitted. See Buckley v. Valeo, 424 U.S. 1, 26-27, 96 S. Ct. 612, 46 L. Ed. 2d 659 (1976) (government interest in preventing corruption or the appearance of corruption is "constitutionally sufficient justification" for limits on contributions to candidate campaigns). Accordingly, the

Department suggests that the bill's proviso be amended to permit contributions from nonresidents, and as well as noncandidate committees, as follows:

provided that the contributions shall not exceed \$50 per person  
from persons whose contributions are not prohibited under subpart  
E.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony. We look forward to working with you on any amendments.



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

March 17, 2014

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

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

              Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee

FROM:       Kory Payne, Executive Director  
              Voter Owned Hawaii

Tuesday, March 18, 2014  
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 016

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. We strongly support this legislation, and encourage two amendments.

First, we suggest adding a provision that would change payroll and administrative costs for the Campaign Spending Commission from the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to the General Fund. In fiscal year 2012, this was approximately \$580,000.

Second, we suggest a one-time infusion into the Election Fund of \$1 million to help get the program off the ground. There is currently a provision that requires the Election Fund to have \$3.5 million in order to run the citizen-funded elections program. This one time infusion would bring the fund from it's current ~\$2.9 million balance to ~\$3.9 million.

### **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 poor government . . . 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



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

March 17, 2014

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Hawai'i State Legislature

Re: H.B. 2533, H.D. 2, Relating to Campaign Finance  
Tuesday, March 18, 2014

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee on Judiciary and Labor members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of H.B. 2533, H.D. 2.

This measure will rehabilitate and further the public funding option established by Hawaii's 1978 Constitutional Convention.

The support that this important bill has received at the Legislature is very encouraging. 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

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mhasselle@gmail.com](mailto:mhasselle@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2533 on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM  
**Date:** Monday, March 17, 2014 7:29:04 PM

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Hasselle	MoveOn.org	Support	No

Comments: Please accept this testimony in support of HB2533. Our elected officials in Hawaii should be allowed to run for office based on a level playing field, and not have to consistently work on raising campaign funds from "special interests" to obtain or keep their office. Elected officials should win elections based on their own experience, values and record, and not have to routinely worry about the special interests that fund their competitor's campaign today. Respectfully, Mike Hasselle  
MoveOn Honolulu Council

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**Cc:** [kentolsen@hawaiiotechworks.org](mailto:kentolsen@hawaiiotechworks.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2533 on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM  
**Date:** Monday, March 17, 2014 10:51:07 AM

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kent Christian Olsen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I've lost track of how many times I've submitted testimony to support this bill. Wouldn't it be nice if my testimony could move from to committee to committee without me having to continuously monitor its progress? Until that time, here I am again. Testifying in support. mahalo.

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**Cc:** [sundownertoni@yahoo.com](mailto:sundownertoni@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2533 on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM  
**Date:** Monday, March 17, 2014 10:51:09 AM

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Toni Withington	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill. Public funding works! We are living with the success of it on the Big Island. Our rural communities especially need protection from the big money of special interest. mahalo, Toni Withington, Hawi

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**Date:** Monday, March 17, 2014 10:51:11 AM

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kimberley Coburn	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing in support of HB2533 for fair elections. If you support this bill, we can win back our democracy and elect our officials again. I like corporations for the purpose they are meant to serve, but electing my government is not one of them and that is what they will continue to do unless you help us win back our elections and give voice to the people. This campaign is cool because it reaches all active citizens from the far left, to the center, to the far right: it gives voice back to the people, no matter what it is you believe government should or should not be doing. Please support it! This is the first bill I have ever actively worked to support; I just want to share how much I believe it is critical that you pass it for us. Thanks!

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2533 on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM\*  
**Date:** Monday, March 17, 2014 10:53:07 AM

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<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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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2533 on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM  
**Date:** Monday, March 17, 2014 10:53:48 AM

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments: This is a critical bill for the citizens of this state - a major step forward in giving people voice over special interests. It can not happen fast enough, please support this important bill!

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**Cc:** [streamgirll@yahoo.com](mailto:streamgirll@yahoo.com)  
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**Date:** Monday, March 17, 2014 11:28:45 AM

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments: I am tired of the best government money can buy. Since when was the Bill of Rights written for the wealthy and the corporations? I thought it was to protect the citizens from the undue influence of money and power.

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**From:** [Brodie Lockard](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** HB 2533 yes!  
**Date:** Monday, March 17, 2014 11:57:18 AM

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Aloha, Committee Members!

HB 2533, the Comprehensive Public Funding bill, will soon be before you. With no effect on the Senate, there is no reason to oppose the bill.

This is not an anti-incumbent bill. It gives incumbents a new way to run their campaigns, and restores some measure of voters' confidence in the integrity of their elected officials. I know some of you have been elected for decades under the current system. As worthy Senators, you will win under stronger public financing as well, if and when Senate elections are ever affected.

Public financing frees all candidates from the endless hours of fundraising and courting special interest groups, and frees them from any obligations later. They can vote on the quality of ideas, and on their conscience. Candidates can spend more time talking with voters and constituents, and can do more of what they went to the legislature to do in the first place.

I urge you to help pass this bill this session.

Brodie Lockard  
Kailua

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2533 on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM\*  
**Date:** Monday, March 17, 2014 12:39:41 PM

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carolyn L Knoll	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Cc:** [mattbinder@earthlink.net](mailto:mattbinder@earthlink.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2533 on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM  
**Date:** Monday, March 17, 2014 12:38:53 PM

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Matt Binder	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support either HB 1481 or HB 2533. We need to have a better system of elections to keep our democracy vibrant. These bills will do that.

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Hawaii State Legislature  
March 17, 2014  
HB2533 Support

Aloha Hawaii State Legislature,

Please support HB2533. On Hawaii Island we have seen Voter Financed Elections work well with the majority of county council members running with the program. Voter Financed Elections allow candidates to focus more on the issues and less on raising money. Please support this bill and support good government.

Mahalo,  
Justin Avery

Justin Avery  
1314 Kumukoa St  
Hilo, HI 96720

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sherrian witt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Meredith Lenz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Date:** Monday, March 17, 2014 3:22:39 PM

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Greg Mebel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha - Is there really a reason to oppose HD 2533? Who is served when our representatives spend all their time fund raising? Why can't candidates and issues stand simply on their merits? And, is there a better way to level the playing field so our democracy works the way it was intended? Thanks for your service and consideration.

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michelle Matson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shaun Stenshol	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Public funding of political campaigns is necessary for a democracy to thrive.

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments: March 18, 2014 Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor SUPPORTING HB 2533 Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony. Our current system of campaign finance leaves candidates at the mercy of special interest money with all the distortions and conflicts of interest that come with it. This bill offers the alternative of voluntary public funding to those who can show community support in the form of small donations, in order to reduce special interest influence, encourage more people to run for office and to level the playing field for those who do not have access to a lot of money. This is already working well in five states. In Maine, the majority of candidates use public financing. We should move towards that system, too, and this bill is an important step. I strongly urge you to pass HB 2533. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony.

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To whom it may concern,

I am a student at UH Hilo, and an active member of my community. I support this bill for many reasons, and I wish that you would too. Most of the people I know support this bill, whether they submit testimony about it or not. The reasons that I wish most for you to support this bill are: 1.) Enabling the "common man" not coming from a wealthy background, or being supported by corporations to run for office and have a fair chance at winning. 2.) I think most of us are aware that when a corporation can "donate" significantly more money to a campaign than the rest of a district combined, that a politician can be more or less indebted to that corporation. The government should be run by the people and for the people. If you show your support for this bill and Clean Elections, you will have the support of the people when it matters most. Mahalo for taking the time to hear what I have to say. Mahalo for doing the right thing.

Sincerely,

-Amber Shouse

1314 Kumukoa St. Hilo, HI 96720

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paul A. komara, Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cristin Moore	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I think this will be beneficial to reduce corruption in government allowing anyone to run based on their campaign.

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments: We have watched as big money has begun swamping elections and forcing legislators to spend more time with those who can fund their campaigns than with their constituents. I doubt that many legislators enjoy this or even feel that their allocation of time is what they would wish. HB 2533 is important, since members of the House, elected every two years, must be forever seeking money. Allowing them to choose public funding that makes them competitive will ease that problem and lead to more time spent on legislative matters and with constituents. I urge you to pass this bill.

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments: Please pass this bill. It would help get some big money out of our elections. Please stand up for "We the People!" Mahalo for all your hard work!

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments: Aloha senators: Our organization stands in strong support of clean elections. Mahalo for your support. Jim Albertini president

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Russell F. Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Washington is bought out by corporations let have Hawaii goverment owned by the our people!

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments: Aloha, I strongly support HB2533 Public Funding for Election Candidates. It has worked extremely well here on the island of Hawai'i. Please give this approach the opportunity to demonstrate statewide how highly qualified candidates can run without having large financial resources. Mahalo, Mary Marvin Porter Island Eyes Video Kea'au, Hawai'i, 96749

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

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

Comments: It is absolutely time to get money out of politics. Please pass this bill.

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<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 public funding for elections. It allows candidates to run a clean campaign without having to depend on corporations and thereby prevents any conflicts of interest. Mahalo, Ronnie Perry

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/17/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in favor of HB2533 HD2 and support public funding of elections. Taking the money out of politics will hopefully result in more substance from the candidates resulting in a healthier, more democratic exchange of ideas.

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randy Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments: HB2533 will enable more candidates with a public interest agenda to run for office. These candidates will not have to depend on big money interests to run their campaigns. They can fund their campaigns with money from "regular" people. This is good for democracy.

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**HB2533**

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for JDL on Mar 18, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wendy Arbeit	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this measure. It's about time we had some kind of election reform.

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Written Statement of

**Mike Purvis**  
**Web Developer**

**HB 2533**

I submit submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the Clean Elections.

We are seeing more and more everyday how this is an issue that will need to be addressed in a larger, national scenario. I believe this will become one of the largest issues in the next 10 years.

Hawaii can support HB 2533, which will ultimately be the steps other states will follow.

We need to have the publicly funded option for elections.

Thank you for your time.