



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782
www.hawaii.gov/elections

SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2118
RELATING TO CAMPAIGN SPENDING

February 25, 2014

Chair Ige and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2118. The purpose of this bill is, in part, to substitute the Office of Elections for the Chief Election Officer, as it relates to who candidates have to notify by telephone and in writing when they exceed the expenditure limit for an election.

We consider the substitution of Chief Election Officer with Office of Elections in HRS § 11-426 to be an appropriate housekeeping matter that is consistent with the statute's present reference to candidates notifying the Campaign Spending Commission, as opposed to its Executive Director, by telephone. Administratively, the Office of Elections will be better able to have staff available to receive these types of calls, as opposed to having to have the Chief Election Officer available at those times.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2118.

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 24, 2014

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 *KI*
Campaign Spending Commission

SUBJECT: **Comments on S.B. No. 2118, Relating to Campaign Spending**

Tuesday, February 25, 2014
9:15 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 §11-426 (Candidate exceeds voluntary expenditure limits) by replacing the chief elections officer with the office of elections in subsection (1) as the person that needs to be notified if a candidate exceeds the expenditure limit. From an operational standpoint, it makes sense to allow candidates to notify the office in general rather than its executive director specifically. Section 1 also repeals subsection (3) requiring candidates to notify their contributors of exceeding the expenditure limits because the tax deduction formerly allowed to persons who made contributions to candidates who agreed to abide by expenditure limits was repealed by Act 59, Session Laws of Hawaii (2010).

Section 2 of the bill repeals HRS §11-424 (Tax deduction for qualifying contributions) because the tax deduction, as noted above, was repealed by Act 59.