

**SB2118**

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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION**

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January 24, 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 *kei*  
Campaign Spending Commission

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

Tuesday, January 28, 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.

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formerly allowed to persons who made contributions to candidates who agreed to abide by expenditure limits was repealed by Act 59, Session Laws of Hawaii (2010).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bill repeals HRS §11-424 (Tax deduction for qualifying contributions) because the tax deduction, as noted above, was repealed by Act 59.



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SCOTT T. NAGO  
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TESTIMONY OF THE  
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR  
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2118  
RELATING TO CAMPAIGN SPENDING

January 28, 2014

Chair Hee and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, 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.