

SB2629

LATE

TESTIMONY



Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro

Monday 02/24/14 at 10:15AM in Room 016
SB2629– Relating to Lobbyists

Testimony of Support
Carmille Lim, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee:

Common Cause Hawaii supports the intent of SB2629, which requires persons who engage in lobbying ninety days prior to the convening of a special session or through sine die of that special session, or both, to file a statement of expenditures with the state ethics commission within ten days of sine die of that special session.

This bill aims to provide greater transparency on such activities that occur during special session – which is held in between regular sessions and in between regular lobbying expenditure reporting periods. In 2013, the Hawaii State Legislature convened a special session on Same-Sex Marriage, which was considered a controversial issue in Hawaii. During special session, mailers were distributed on Oahu which targeted several legislators in a slanderous way and/or contained false information. Additionally, the mailers were sent anonymously – they did not include information on who or what organization paid for or mailed these literature. The source was eventually traced back to a religious institution.

Hawaii residents deserve to know who is trying to influence their public opinion on issues and legislators, and in a timely manner, and such organizations must be held accountable for these types of activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB2629.

February 23, 2014

To: Chair Clayton Hee (Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor)
Vice Chair Maile S. L. Shimabukuro (Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor)

Re: **Strong Opposition to SB 2629**
Hearing: Monday, February 24th, 2014 at 10:15 AM
Rm. 016, State Capitol

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My name is James Hochberg, and I have been a civil rights attorney in Honolulu since 1984. Currently I am also the president of Hawaii Family Advocates, a 501(c)(4) independent expenditure, non-candidate committee. I am local counsel in a challenge to the Hawaii Campaign Finance laws in a case known as Yamada v. Snipes, which the Campaign Spending Commission appealed to the Ninth Circuit.

I strongly oppose further burdening the people of Hawaii who take interest in the work of this legislature – because of the legislature’s habit of passing bad laws that negatively affect our faith, freedom and families. Tolerance must be a two way street but the legislature overwhelmingly refused to provide that in connection with the special session. When advocates for laws that attack our faith, freedom and families by changing the historic definition of marriage in special session can buy legislative votes with \$509,000 of money from the mainland, reporting the lobbying activity is not the problem or solution. The problem is that our legislature accepted those campaign contributions and acted as it did in special session. Instead of attacking the people of Hawaii, why not amend your own campaign contribution reporting requirements related to special session. That is something we deserve to know about within 10 days of the end fo special sessions.

Please do not pass SB 2629 to further burden us because we take an interest in watching what you do in this building. Clean up your own house.

Sincerely,

James Hochberg, Esq.
President, Hawaii Family Advocates

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDL Testimony](#)
Cc: OccupyHiloMedia@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2629 on Feb 24, 2014 10:15AM*
Date: Sunday, February 23, 2014 10:57:06 PM

SB2629

Submitted on: 2/23/2014

Testimony for JDL on Feb 24, 2014 10:15AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerri Marks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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