



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

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 13, 2014; 2:00 PM; Room 325

SB2634 SD1 Lobbyists; Expenditure Reporting

Testimony in SUPPORT
Wynnie Hee, LWV-HI Legislative Committee Member

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports policies that increase the public's trust in the ethical operation of our government. **We therefore support SB2634 SD1** which amends Section 97-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to require lobbyists to itemize expenditures in specified categories.

Our law currently only requires the lobbyist report to list "total sum or value of all expenditures for the purpose of lobbying." Obviously, total sum/value is not very useful to someone trying to "follow the money," trying to understand who may be spending money to influence particular lawmakers. SB2634 SD1 attempts to correct this deficiency.

However, the sad fact is that even if lobbyists in Hawaii are required to categorize expenditures and describe the nature and purpose, almost all Hawaii lobbyists report their expenditures as \$0.00. Therefore, there is nothing to be categorized or described.

After the end of the 2013 legislative session and no bill to require more information from lobbyists had been given a hearing, an Associated Press story about Hawaii's almost useless lobbyist reports was published, both in our *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* and on the Internet, *Yahoo News*. The article was featured as "infotainment" with the headlines: "*Hawaii lobbyist reports say little about influence of money on Hawaii politics; most report \$0*"

Yes, the nation was laughing at Hawaii. AP reporter Anita Hofschneider joked:

“Lobbyist disclosures in Hawaii may be a misnomer — the records don't disclose much.

“Hardly any individual lobbyists reported spending even \$1 schmoozing Hawaii lawmakers early in the recent legislative session, making it all but impossible for state residents to tell from the filings how special interest groups are affecting state legislators.

“Lobbyists haven't stopped wining and dining elected officials in the Aloha State, but a combination of outdated state laws, wide loopholes and lax oversight has created an environment where disclosure reports say little about how much is money spent, who is spending it and which lawmakers are being courted most often.”

[<http://news.yahoo.com/lobbyist-reports-little-influence-hawaii-150938962.html>]

SB2634 SD1 is a very small step toward updating our lobbying law and increasing disclosure and transparency. The League of Women Voters of Hawaii urges you to take this step and keep going. *The journey of a thousand miles begins* Please PASS SB2634 SD1.

Thank you for hearing this lobbying disclosure bill and allowing us an opportunity to testify.

SB2634

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 13, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

SB2634

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for JUD on Mar 13, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeannine Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Transparency is a good thing. We need more transparency in government, especially when it comes to lobbyists. Mahalo!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov