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**STATE OF HAWAII  
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION**

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 28, 2015

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary  
  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary  
  
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Kristin Izumi-Nitao, Executive Director *kei*  
Campaign Spending Commission

SUBJECT: **Testimony on H.B. No. 175, Relating to Campaign Spending**

Friday, January 30, 2015  
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Hawaii Campaign Spending Commission ("Commission") strongly supports this bill.

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") §11-334(a)(4) to more clearly align the law with present practice. Presently, every candidate files the Supplemental Report that is due on January 31<sup>st</sup> every year and not just on January 31<sup>st</sup> after an election year. That is, every elected state and county official as well as all candidate committees who are registered with the Commission, have filed the Supplemental Report that was due on January 31<sup>st</sup> in an election year (e.g., January 31, 2012 and January 31, 2014). This bill would simply align the law with present practice by deleting "after an election year" from the statutory provision and provide that the Supplemental Report is due on January 31 of each year. If this amendment is not passed, the Commission will not be able to enforce the filing of the January Supplemental Report in an election year leaving a one-year gap (July 31<sup>st</sup> of a nonelection year to sometime in July of an election year) in reporting by candidate committees. This bill does not require an additional or new report.

In the 2013 session, the Legislature passed S.B. No. 31 which was signed into law as Act 111. That measure amended HRS §11-336(d) which made the same amendment we seek in this bill to noncandidate committees. The Commission now asks that the same be done for the Supplemental Report due on January 31 for candidate committees regardless of whether it is after an election year.

This measure has a companion bill, S.B. No. 452.



House Judiciary Committee  
Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Joy San Buenaventura

Friday 01/30/2015 at 2:00 PM in Room 325  
HB 175 Relating to Campaign Spending

TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT  
Carmille Lim, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

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Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

**Common Cause Hawaii supports HB175**, which we see as a “housekeeping” bill. HB175 would correct a problem caused by a change in the reporting section of the campaign spending statutes. Originally, candidates and candidate committees were required to file supplementary reports by January 31 of each year and by July 31 after an election year. This resulted in a report being filed approximately every 6 months between elections, since the next required report is just prior to the next primary election.

Apparently there was an attempt to make the statements parallel by requiring the January report only following an election year. This change has had the unintended consequence of requiring no report for approximately a year—from July 31 in the year following an election until 30 days before the primary election the next year. This period of time is often a very active one for fund-raising leading up to the next election.

Common Cause Hawaii is especially concerned with transparency in government. We believe that a year gap in reporting campaign finances—by incumbents and candidates who plan to run for office again—is not in the public interest. For that reason, we urge you to pass HB175.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB175.