



# HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawaii • Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

---

March 4, 2015

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members  
House Committee on Finance  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 306  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **Testimony on HB No. 180, Relating to Lobbying Contributions  
and Expenditures Statements**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 11:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Written Testimony From: Hawaii State Ethics Commission

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. No. 180, Relating to Lobbying Contributions and Expenditures Statements. The State Ethics Commission (“Commission”) strongly supports this bill, which clarifies the reporting requirements for lobbyists and organizations that engage in lobbying activities during a special session of the legislature.

Last year, Act 224 amended the Lobbyists Law, Hawaii Revised Statutes chapter 97, by requiring lobbyists and organizations to report expenditures and contributions relating to issues considered during a special session of the legislature within thirty days after adjournment sine die of that special session. Since the enactment of Act 224, questions have been raised as to whether lobbyists and organizations must file lobbying reports following a special session even if they did not lobby on any matters considered during the special session. The Commission believes this was not the legislature’s intent when it passed Act 224. Rather, Act 224 was only intended to require lobbyists and organizations that actually lobbied on matters considered during a special session to file lobbying reports for their activities relating to that special session. H.B. No. 180 clarifies the legislature’s intent by providing that special session lobbying reports must only be filed by persons who engage in lobbying activities relating to matters considered during a special session.

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members  
House Committee on Finance  
March 4, 2015  
Page 2

H.B. No. 180 further clarifies the law by providing that lobbyists and organizations that file lobbying reports for their special session lobbying activities as required by Act 224, are not required to report the same special session expenditures and contributions on any subsequent lobbying reports. This will prevent duplicative reporting of lobbying expenditures and contributions by lobbyists and organizations.

To summarize, H.B. No. 180 will clarify the reporting requirements for special session lobbying activities by lobbyists and organizations, and will prevent duplicative reporting of special session lobbying expenditures. For these reasons, the State Ethics Commission strongly supports H.B. No. 180.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on H.B. No. 180, Relating to Lobbying Contributions and Expenditures Statements. We would like to thank this Committee for its consideration of our testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 9:12 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: anthuriumz@hotmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB180 on Mar 4, 2015 11:00AM

**HB180**

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 4, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
wynnie hee	League of Women Voters of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports the State Ethics Commission and HB 180 which would establish a more timely reporting of Special Session lobbying expenditures.

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)