



HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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

January 30, 2015

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
Honorable Members
House Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 305
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

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

Testifying: Susan D. Yoza, Associate Director
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”) 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.

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January 30, 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 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.



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

Friday 01/30/2015 at 2:00 PM in Room 325
HB 180 Relating to Lobbying Contributions and Expenditures Statements

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

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

Common Cause Hawaii strongly supports HB180, which we see as a “housekeeping” bill.

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.

Thus, in the 2014 Legislative Session, the Legislature passed SB2629 (Act 224), which would require lobbyists to submit an expenditure statement at the conclusion of special session. However, SB2629 requires *all* lobbyists to submit expenditure statements – regardless of their activity (and inactivity) during special session. As a result, the Hawaii State Ethics Commission could receive an overwhelming amount of blank lobbyist expenditure reports.

HB180 would clarify the intention of the aforementioned bill and make the special session expenditure requirement only applicable to lobbyists who are actively lobbying on an issue before the Legislature during special session.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB180.



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

House Committee on Judiciary

Friday, January 30, 2014, 2:00 PM in House conference room 325

H.B.180 RELATING TO LOBBYING CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES STATEMENTS

Clarifies the requirements relating to statement of expenditures to be filed upon the adjournment sine die of a special session.

TESTIMONY
League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair San Buenaventura, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii **supports H.B.180** which clarifies the requirements relating to statement of expenditures to be filed upon the adjournment sine die of a special session.

This is a very straightforward ethics bill that would ensure the more timely reporting of special session expenditures. As we saw with the Marriage Equality Special Session in the fall of 2013, lobbying expenditures from May 1 to the special session sine die in November did not need to be reported until January 31 of 2014. H.B.180 corrects this oversight.

We urge you to pass H.B.180. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



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