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State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate

Committee on Human Service
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 11, 2016, 1:20pm
Room 016

SB 2066 Making an Appropriation For Senior Centers

Good afternoon, Chairs Chun Oakland and Vice Chair Riviere.

Lanakila Pacific **strongly supports** SB 2066, Making an Appropriation For Senior Centers, as it provides critically needed services that provides physical, emotional, social, and economic benefits to our most vulnerable seniors.

This appropriation for senior centers is necessary to help the elderly population maintain wellness and independence. The executive office on aging's 2013 *Profile of Successful Aging Among Hawaii's Older Adults* notes that Hawaii has the fastest growing elderly population, 85 years and older, increasing at a rate of 190.8% as compared with a national increase of 29.6% between 1990 and 2010. It would be prudent to take preventative measures to keep the drastically growing aging population from being institutionalized or home-bound. Senior centers assist in preventing this by encouraging continued wellness, providing health education, a variety of health screenings, fitness opportunities, recreation, and case management. Additionally, studies have shown that supportive social relationships that emerge from these centers are positively correlated with the physical and emotional well-being of older adults.

As a Kupuna Care service provider, Lanakila Meals on Wheels serves more than 2,000 Hawaii seniors every day or more than 260,000 meals each year. About one third of our meals go to Congregate Dining Centers, including senior centers like Catholic Charities and Moiliili Senior Center with whom we partner. Senior centers are critical in keeping our kupuna active, and preventing conditions that make our seniors home-bound or institutionalized.

We urge you to support Hawaii's Kupuna by supporting funding for Senior Centers as it provides essential services for the most vulnerable senior citizens in Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian E. Tsuji
President & CEO

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STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 10, 2016

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. 2066, Relating to Campaign Funds.**

Thursday, February 11, 2016
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) opposes this bill.

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) §11-381(a)(8), the provision that allows expenditures “for ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in connection with the candidate’s duties as a holder of an office,” by providing that expenses for membership in civic or community groups or for protocol gifts shall not exceed twice the amount that a person can contribute to the office holder. Under HRS §11-357, the limit, per election period, would be \$4,000, \$8,000, or \$12,000 depending on the office.

HRS §11-381(a)(8) is almost a verbatim copy of its federal counterpart, 52 U.S.C. § 30114(a)(2).¹ The Commission frequently refers to Federal Election Commission (“FEC”) guidelines and advisory opinions in enforcement proceedings and when drafting its own advisory opinions, where the Hawaii Campaign Finance Law provision is substantially similar to its federal counterpart. Thus, HRS §11-381(a)(8) should not be amended absent a clear and compelling need to modify the provision. The information disclosed by candidates on the Commission’s electronic filing system from November 7, 2012 to December 31, 2015 (a span of two election periods) show that no candidate would have been in violation of the law had the limitation been in effect, although one candidate would have come close to the limit. None of

¹ That federal statute provides that a contribution may be used “for ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in connection with duties of the individual as a holder of Federal office.” A copy of the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA) of 1971, as amended, is available at www.fec.gov/law/feca/feca.pdf.

Testimony H.B. No. 2066
House Committee on Judiciary
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the other candidates who reported paying for membership in civic or community groups or protocol gifts, would have come close to the proposed limit. This bill is therefore not necessary because there is little conduct to deter.

The Commission respectfully ask this Committee to hold this bill.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary
Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 2:00 P.M.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol**

LATE

RE: HOUSE BILL 2066 RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FUNDS

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 2066, which limits the amount of campaign funds that may be spent by an elected official on memberships in civic or community groups or on protocol gifts to twice the allowable individual contribution amount.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Chamber supports participation with civic and nonprofit organizations. Candidates should be allowed to devote time to civic activity outside of political activity. Through participation, elected officials and candidates, with their larger range of influence and capacity, can effectively guide efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.