



Senate Ways and Means Committee  
Chair Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair Ronald Kouchi

Friday 02/27/2015 at 9:00 AM in Room 211  
SB1194 SD1 Relating to Lobbyists

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

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Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and members of the Committee:

**Common Cause Hawaii supports SB1194 SD1**, which requires the electronic filing of lobbyist disclosure statements, and requires that these statements be posted online.

Searching and accessing lobbyist disclosure statements has been among the top issues for Common Cause members in the past year.

While lobbyist expenditures are currently done through “electronic filing”, it is done so in an antiquated format. That is: these reports can be filed via emailing a pdf form online, which is not searchable, and its data cannot be extracted in spreadsheet formats-- thus making it more difficult for interested citizens to analyze available data. Ideally, we would have an electronic system that would require electronic filing and data input capabilities that would give citizens the ability to search, extract, and analyze lobbyist disclosure statements and relevant data filed with the Ethics Commission. We feel that SB1194 would give the Ethics Commission the flexibility to set this sort of system up.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony **supporting SB1194 SD1**.

**SB1194**

Submitted on: 2/26/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 27, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Polk	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I urge you to continue the process of making information available to the public on-line. This bill would further that effort. I urge you to support it.

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Friday, February 27, 2015 9:00 a.m. Room 211  
SB1194 Relating to Lobbyists  
Testimony from Susan Dursin, representing herself  
Captain Cook, HI [sgd8@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:sgd8@hawaiiantel.net)

Chair Senator Tokuda, Vice chair Senator Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support SB1194, which would require lobbyists and lobbying organizations to electronically transmit registration statements and expenditure reports. It requires the Ethics Commission to post these filings on its website in a text searchable form which can then be downloaded.

As an individual with ties to groups with interests in legislation, I do follow various bills closely. I share the public's concerns about the effects of lobbying at a time when corporations and large organizations may have goals that run counter to the public good. This bill allows the public to monitor disclosure statements in a more accessible and more timely manner.

Please give consideration to the February 18<sup>th</sup> testimony from the Office of Information Practices indicating that the current wording of this bill would change disclosure statements from public records to government records. The latter may allow privacy exemptions, thus removing access to documents that should be public by law. Thus, the wording should remain "public records."

I would also suggest that, in response to the testimony of the Hawaii State Ethics Commission, adequate appropriations be made to implement the necessary electronic filing system.

This bill increases the accessibility and transparency of government, which helps build public trust.

Thank you for considering my testimony.