



**STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION**

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 13, 2017

TO: The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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

SUBJECT: Testimony on H.B. No. 289, H.D. 1, Relating to Election Campaign Reporting

Wednesday, March 15, 2017
9:00 a.m., Conference Room 016

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.¹ The Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) supports this bill.

Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) §11-339 provides that candidate and noncandidate committees who receive or spend \$1,000 or less in an election period need only file the final election period report and supplemental reports. This bill amends HRS §11-339 by adding two new subsections that would require candidate and noncandidate committees to notify the Commission before the first preliminary reports are due of their intent to limit their activity to \$1,000 or less for the election period. With knowledge of such an intent, the Commission will not automatically generate notices of late reports and fines to committees who are not required to file preliminary and final primary reports.

This amendment, if passed, would only apply to candidate and noncandidate committee who intend to limit their activity to \$1,000 or less in an election period. If a person notifies the Commission of such an intent, but later exceeds the \$1,000 threshold, that person will need to file the report for the disclosure period in which the threshold was exceeded.

¹ The companion bill is S.B. 446. That measure was deferred by this Committee on February 27, 2017.



Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Karl Rhoads

03/15/2017 9:00 AM Room 016
HB289 HD1– Relating to Election Campaign Reporting

TESTIMONY / SUPPORT
Corie Tanida, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and members of the committee:

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB289 HD1 which would require candidate and noncandidate committees to inform the Campaign Spending Commission (CSC or Commission) if they do not intend to receive or spend contributions and expenditures that aggregate more than \$1,000 in an election period.

Knowing which committees intend to raise or spend \$1,000 or less in an election period is critical because these committees are only required to file the final election period report and supplemental reports. Unfortunately many committees do not communicate their intentions with the Commission. Thus with no other way of knowing the Commission generates notices of late reports and fines to these committees when they do not file preliminary and final primary reports. The Commission then must follow up with these committees in order to resolve these avoidable situations. We believe that by requiring committees to make their intentions known to the Commission will reduce confusion and allow the Commission to work more efficiently.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony **supporting HB289 HD1**.

