

KRISTIN E. IZUMI-NITAO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



PHONE: (808) 586-0285  
FAX: (808) 586-0288  
WWW.HAWAII.GOV/CAMPAIGN

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION**  
235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 8, 2018

TO: The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, 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. 1661, Relating to Election Campaign Reporting**

Friday, February 9, 2018  
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.<sup>1</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> The companion bill is S.B. 2156.



House Committee on Judiciary  
Chair Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair Joy San Buenaventura

02/09/2018 2:00 PM Room 325  
HB1661 – Relating to Election Campaign Reporting

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

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Dear Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the committee:

**Common Cause Hawaii supports HB1661** which would require candidate and noncandidate committees to inform the Campaign Spending Commission if they do not intend to receive or spend 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. 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 easily avoidable situations. We believe 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 HB1661**.