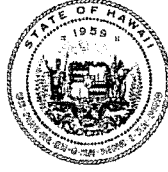


KRISTIN E. IZUMI-NITAO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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

March 12, 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 S.B. No. 2992, S.D. 1, Relating to Campaign Finance**

Wednesday, March 14, 2018
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission ("Commission") offers the following comments about this bill.

The Commission is concerned about the language in the provisos following subsection (a)(3) primarily because the first proviso states that "signs and banners shall not be considered advertisements." The Commission is concerned that the language may lead candidates and noncandidate committees to believe that expenditures for signs and banners that support or oppose the nomination or election of a candidate need not be reported on the Commission's electronic filing system since signs and banners are not considered to be advertisements under the proviso. This would reduce transparency in campaign finance. The Commission proposes that the language of the provisos be substituted with the following language:

Provided that, signs and banners that support or oppose the nomination or election of a candidate shall be exempt from the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2).

The Commission's proposed language avoids the express exclusion of signs and banners from the definition of advertising and obviates the need for the second proviso concerning signs and banners supporting or opposing a ballot issue.



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

03/14/2018 2:00 PM Room 325
SB2992 SD1 – Relating to Campaign Finance

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

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

Common Cause Hawaii opposes SB2992 SD1 which would exempt signs and banners from the requirement that campaign advertisements contain the name and address of the person who paid for the advertisement and whether the advertisement has been approved by the candidate. It would require banners and signs advocating for or against an issue or ballot question to display this information.

In today's post *Citizens United* world, it is undeniable that money influences politics. This, coupled with the "fake news" phenomenon, has made it more important than ever to be able to identify the sources of campaign materials, including signs and banners, and to identify whether or not the advertisement was approved by the candidate. We believe that in this age of misinformation we should be increasing transparency, not reducing it.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony **opposing SB2992 SD1**.