



STATE OF HAWAII  
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 30, 2019

TO: The Honorable Chris Lee, 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 *KI*  
Campaign Spending Commission

SUBJECT: **Testimony on H.B. No. 165, Relating to Campaign Reports**

Thursday, January 31, 2019  
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 all other reports beginning with the disclosure period in which the threshold was exceeded. In the 2018 election, there were 48 or 16% of the 294 state and county candidates that ran and 11 or 4% of the 257 registered noncandidate committees who indicated to the Commission their intent to remain under the \$1,000 threshold for the 2018 election period. All committees within

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<sup>1</sup> The companion bill is S.B. 140.

this group complied with their intent and remained under the \$1,000 threshold as indicated by the filing of their Final Election Period reports due December 6, 2018.