



STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 8, 2019

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

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

SUBJECT: Testimony on S.B. No. 138, Relating to Reports of Candidate Committees

Tuesday, February 12, 2019
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.

This bill seeks to amend Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) §11-334 to require candidates and candidate committees to file a report on October 1 of the year of a general election. Presently, noncandidate committees are already required to file this preliminary general report. HRS §11-336(a)(3). During recent elections, the number of absentee ballots mailed in has steadily increased over ballots cast at precincts on the day of the election. Absentee ballots are mailed out to voter approximately twenty-one days before an election. Presently, after the Final Primary Report, which is due twenty days after the primary election, a voter will not be able to access more current information about a candidate’s spending until the filing of the Preliminary General Report, which is due ten days before the general election. This bill will give voters in the general election², who choose to vote by mail, the ability to access the most current campaign finance information before the voters receive their absentee ballots in the mail.

The Commission requests that this Committee pass this measure.

¹ The companion bill is H.B. 163.

² For the primary election, the Commission believes that the 1st Preliminary Primary Report, which is due thirty days before the primary election, already provides timely information about candidates for mail-in voters.



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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

TUESDAY, 2/12/19, 9 AM, Room 016
SB138, RELATING TO REPORTS OF CANDIDATE COMMITTEES
TESTIMONY

Beppie Shapiro, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii **supports SB138** that **adds an additional report filing date of October 1st in the year of a general election.**

The date of the new report will give voters time to reflect on the information in the report before they vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.