



STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 5, 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. 1350, Relating to the Campaign Spending
Commission Operating Budget**

Wednesday, February 6, 2019
2:15 p.m., Conference Room 325

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

Section 2 appropriates additional general funds for FY 20 in the amount of \$29,000 and \$22,000 for FY 21 for Commission operations. Specifically, the increased amount in FY 20 would be used to fund the following items:

- (a) \$20,000 for "Socrata – Noncandidate Committee Dashboard" – In August 2018, the Commission built the Candidate Committee Dashboard for the 2018 election. This amount reflects the cost estimate required to build its counterpart, the Noncandidate Committee Dashboard. Notably, the Candidate Committee Dashboard which was released on September 12, 2018 received over 11,500 hits on the Commission's website from the date it was launched to November 19, 2018. Over this 2 ½ month period, the Commission's website had 37,750 hits of which the dashboard captured about 1/3 of the Commission's overall website activity. The Commission would like to build the Noncandidate Committee counterpart in preparation of the 2020 election.
- (b) \$4,000 for "Investigative Services" – Currently, the Commission does not have a full-time investigator on staff and we seek additional funds to contract their services to ensure that all cases (some of which are requested by candidates, third parties, or the public) are timely and thoroughly investigated. We average about 15-20 complaints

every year. With this funding, we will be able to properly address campaign finance violations through enforcement actions. Investigative service contracts average about \$4,000 per case. At this time, the Commission believes contracting for these services is preferred rather than hiring a full-time investigator.

(c) \$5,000 for a “Hearings Officer” – The Commission averages 15-20 complaints each year, any of which may result in a contested case hearing. Because the Commissioners are volunteers, the majority of whom have full-time jobs, contracting services for hearing officers would allow for more efficient proceedings and handling so that we are better equipped to manage these matters. Hearing officer contracts average about \$5,000 per hearing. Presently, we are handling a contested case hearing (and hired a hearings officer) and it appears that another complaint has requested a contested case hearing which we need to schedule.

The increased amount in FY 21 would be used to fund the following items:

- (a) \$13,000 for the anticipated monthly maintenance fees to sustain the Noncandidate Committee Dashboard.
- (b) \$4,000 for “Investigative Services” – See above.
- (c) \$5,000 for a “Hearings Officer” – See above.

The Commission requests that this Committee pass this measure.

HB-1350

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 12:38:40 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/6/2019 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Waste of Money. Hawaii Waste the most money on CRAP!!