



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2019**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 712, H.D. 1, RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**DATE:** Tuesday, April 2, 2019

**TIME:** 9:45 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 016

**TESTIFIER(S):** Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or  
Valri Lei Kunimoto, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

H.B. No. 712, H.D. 1, requires candidates for President and Vice President of the United States, governor, lieutenant governor, or mayor of a county to submit their federal income tax returns for the five most recent taxable years to the Office of Elections no later than sixty days prior to a general election. The candidates must also provide their written consent to the Office of Elections for the public disclosure of the tax returns. The Chief Election Officer shall redact all personal identifying information as well as information that the Director of Taxation deems appropriate. If the candidates fail to comply with the section, their names shall not be printed on the ballot. The bill also prohibits presidential electors from voting for candidates for President or Vice President unless the candidate complied with the proposed section or have posted their tax returns for the five most recent taxable years on the internet at no charge for public viewing at least sixty days prior to the general election. The Department offers the following comments.

The Department agrees that the posting of the candidates' tax returns promotes transparency and provides voters with information regarding a candidate's potential conflicts of interest, business dealings, and charitable donations and allows voters to fully evaluate the fitness of the candidates. However, the bill's provisions requiring the candidates for President and Vice President to submit or post their returns may violate the Qualifications Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Article II, section 1, clause 5 of the U.S. Constitution provides the qualifications a person must meet in order to be a candidate for President of the United States as follows:

No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

Pursuant to the Twelfth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the Vice President has identical qualifications as the President.

With respect to the members of Congress, the courts have held that the states cannot impose qualifications on the offices in addition to those set forth in the Constitution. In Powell v. McCormack, 395 U.S. 486, 550 (1969), the U.S. Supreme Court held that "in judging the qualifications of its members, Congress is limited to the standing qualifications prescribed in the Constitution" and since Powell met those qualifications, the House was without power to exclude him. In Term Limits, Inc. v. Thornton, 514 U.S. 779 (1995), Arkansas voters amended their state constitution to set term limits on its state officers and members serving in the House of Representatives and U.S. Senate by preventing the candidates from having their names printed on the election ballots. The Court held that states may not impose qualifications for United States Congress in addition to those set forth in the Constitution. Pursuant to article IV, the Supremacy Clause, these provisions are controlling and when any state statute conflicts with them or with laws enacted pursuant to these provisions, those statutes must fall. Ex Parte Siebold, 100 U.S. 371 (1879).

The Department believes the same rationale would extend to the qualifications for the offices of President and Vice President of the United States. Anderson v. Celebrezze, 460 U.S. 790 (1983) (Ohio statute requiring independent candidate for office of President of the United States to file statement of candidacy and nominating petition in March to appear on general election ballot in November placed an unconstitutional burden on voting and associational rights of supporters of independent candidate).

The U.S. Supreme Court has, however, recognized that the states must impose substantial regulation of federal elections for these elections to be meaningful. Storer v. Brown, 415 U.S. 724 (1974) (Statutory requirement that independent candidates, in order to obtain ballot status, file nominating papers signed by voters not less in number than five percent nor more than six percent of entire vote cast in preceding general election in area was not invalid as constituting additional requirement for office of representative).

If this bill is viewed as only regulating the selection of presidential electors and concerned only with the manner of conducting elections, the bill may not be subject to a Qualifications Clause challenge. However, the effect of the bill is to preclude candidates otherwise qualified under the U.S. Constitution to run for President and Vice President from being placed on the ballot. We are unable to predict how the courts would rule but this bill's provisions regarding the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates could be subject to litigation. The Department recommends that the provisions be deleted.

As to the qualifications for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, article V, section 1, clause 4, Hawaii State Constitution, provides, "No person shall be eligible for the office of governor unless the person shall be a qualified voter, have attained the age of thirty years and have been a resident of this State for five years immediately preceding the person's election." It may be argued that requiring the candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor to post five years of tax returns in order to be placed on the ballot adds to the qualifications in the Hawaii State Constitution. The Department recommends that the Legislature propose this requirement as a constitutional amendment to comport with the Constitutional qualifications for those public offices.

Lastly, with respect to the requirement for county mayor candidates to submit their tax returns for posting, article VIII, section 6, Hawaii State Constitution, permits the Legislature to enact measures that affect the county's executive where they are matters of statewide concern. The Department recommends that the bill be amended to clearly state that this is a matter of statewide concern in order to supersede any affected county charter provisions.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, federal laws provide for the confidentiality of tax returns and state officers who disclose tax return information may be subject to liability. A federal law, 26 U.S.C. § 7213, provides for the confidentiality of federal tax returns and prohibits the release or disclosure of tax return information by state officers or employees. The Department also notes that the tax information of taxpayers filing jointly with the candidates will also be disclosed and the candidate's consent to disclose the tax return would not be effective as to the joint filer. The Department has concerns that the Chief Election Officer who is required to post the tax returns on the Office of Elections' website will be exposed to liability because pursuant to this bill, he is responsible to post the tax returns on the website. The Department recommends that the bill be amended to require the consent of a joint filer, if the candidate has filed a joint tax return.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Cap  
DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN M.D.  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LINDA CHU TAKAYAMA  
DIRECTOR

DAMIEN A. ELEFANTE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION**

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To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Time: 9:45 A.M.

Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

From: Linda Chu Takayama, Director  
Department of Taxation

Re: H.B. 712, H.D. 1, Relating to Elections

The Department of Taxation (Department) offers the following comments on H.B. 712, H.D. 1, for the Committee's consideration.

H.B. 712, H.D. 1, would require certain candidates for office to disclose their federal tax returns to the State Office of Elections, which would make them available to the public. A summary of key provisions are as follows:

- Amends chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), by adding a new section requiring candidates for President, Vice President, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Mayor to disclose their federal income tax returns for the five most recent taxable years in order for their names to appear on an election ballot;
- Requires candidates to provide written consent to the Office of Elections for the public disclosure of their federal income tax return;
- Directs the Office of Elections to make the returns publicly available within seven days of submission;
- Directs the Chief Election Officer to redact all personal identifying numbers from the returns, whether belonging to the taxpayer or to any other entity, as well as any other information that the Director of Taxation (Director) deems appropriate to redact;
- Amends section 14-28, HRS, to prohibit state electors from voting for candidates for President and Vice President of the United States who have not disclosed their federal income tax returns; and
- Effective upon approval.

The Department notes that the House Committee on Judiciary amended the previous version of this measure to require submission and consent by candidates no later than 60 days

before a general election, rather than the original period of 50 days, to coincide with the deadline for political parties to submit candidates for President and Vice President. The Committee also amended the measure to explicitly require redaction of personal identifying numbers, such as social security numbers (SSNs) and federal employer identification numbers (FEINs).

The Department appreciates the incorporation of its suggested amendments by the previous committee and respectfully requests that the new requirement for the Chief Election Officer to redact all personal identifying numbers be maintained.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

**HB-712-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 5:57:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2019 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Golojuch Jr	Testifying for LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii supports the passage of HB 712 HD 1.

Mahalo for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.  
Chair  
LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

# TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

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126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

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SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS, Mandatory Disclosure of Income Tax Returns for Candidates

BILL NUMBER: HB 712, HD-1

INTRODUCED BY: House Committee on Judiciary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Requires a candidate for President or Vice President of the United States, governor or lieutenant governor, or mayor of a county, to submit a copy of the candidate's individual federal income tax return as a condition of appearing on the ballot in Hawaii. Why don't we impose the same requirement for our own legislators as well as the chief executives?

SYNOPSIS: Adds a new section to HRS chapter 11 to require a candidate for President or Vice President of the United States, governor or lieutenant governor, or mayor of a county, to submit a copy of the candidate's five most recent individual federal income tax returns, and to provide written consent to the office of elections for public disclosure of the federal income tax returns. Requires public disclosure on the website of the office of elections no later than seven days after submission. Allows for redaction of all personal identifying numbers such as social security numbers and federal employer identification numbers, whether belonging to the taxpayer, a payor or payee, or any other entity; and information that the director of taxation deems appropriate.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.

STAFF COMMENTS: We note that a very similar bill, SB 94, is already on its way to the Governor's desk.

The measure apparently is in response to President Donald Trump's refusal to release his tax returns.

"It's a reasonable step since every modern president has released their tax returns and put their assets into a blind trust to make sure the only interest they have is the interest of our country and its people," the Star-Advertiser quoted one lawmaker as saying.

In most states, including ours, tax returns and tax return information are confidential. The reason for the confidentiality is that it is generally believed that people will be more honest with the government about their finances if the people won't have to worry about collateral consequences from other folks peeking. What might happen if a nosy neighbor wants to peek? Or a business competitor? Or an opposition candidate if you are trying to run for public office? The interest in confidentiality is strong enough so that in civil litigation where parties are suing each other, parties are usually able to demand that the other side disclose any information "designed to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence," but aren't allowed to demand tax returns unless the judge thinks that there is a special need for them.



Even in Hawaii, people don't like to cough up tax returns or other sensitive financial records. Back in 2014, when a law (Act 240, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014) required that sensitive financial disclosures of many state volunteer boards and commissions be made public, Hawaii News Now reported that at least sixteen board or commission members resigned rather than allow their financial disclosures to be released to the public. The state Land Use Commission lost five of its nine members (56%), the board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation lost four of 11 (45%), the University of Hawaii Board of Regents lost four of its 15 (27%), and the board of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation lost two of eight (25%).

We need to ask ourselves what price is necessary to have a participatory role in government. If we want to have those with relevant experience and backgrounds to serve the public interest, do we need to have them bare all their financial information? In this digital age, potential office holders may well ask what consequences they or their family will suffer at the hands of those who may have a different political agenda once this information is irrevocably exposed. Some won't want to take the heat and will get out of the proverbial water, leaving our country to be run by whoever is left.

What people might not already know is that candidates for President and Vice President of the United States already are required to make financial disclosures to the Federal Election Commission, which then turns over the information to the Office of Government Ethics. The financial disclosures for the President and Vice President can be downloaded from this page: <https://extapps2.oge.gov/201/Presiden.nsf/President%20and%20Vice%20President%20Index?OpenView&ExpandView>. The law prescribing the contents of those reports, 5 U.S.C. App. § 102, requires disclosure of the source, type, and amount of income from any source, including honoraria; all gifts, other than from family; all liabilities exceeding \$10,000; and tons of other information, more extensive than that normally found on a tax return. President Trump's financial disclosures for 2017 and 2018 were 98 and 92 pages, respectively. With that kind of information already available publicly, one needs to wonder what, if anything, disclosing a federal tax return would add.

Thus, we raise the question, "Why do we need this bill?" Do we need it to thumb our noses at the President and Vice President? Do we want to help the IRS because we think that embarrassing or false information may be in those returns and that the IRS won't be able to deal with it? Are we trying to prove that Hawaii has more ethics than anywhere else? And if we think it's such a great idea, why don't we apply it to state executives, judges, or legislators?

Digested 3/29/2019



## O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

**LATE**

DATE: Tuesday, April 2, 2019  
TIME: 9:45 a.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 016 State Capitol

RE: Testimony in Support of HD 712, HD 1 Relating to Elections

To the Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair; the Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Melodie Aduja and I serve as Chair of the O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i (“DPH”). Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony on HD 712, HD 1. The O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee (“OCDLPC”) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of HD 712, HD 1 Relating to Elections**.

The purpose of HD 712, HD 1, is to promote electoral transparency and accountability by requiring that candidates for President or Vice President of the United States, governor or lieutenant governor of the State, and mayor of a county in the State disclose their federal income tax returns from the five most recent taxable years. Chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is to be amended by adding a new section to part I to read as follows: (a) No later than sixty days before a general election, each candidate for the office of President or Vice President of the United States, governor or lieutenant governor, or mayor of a county, shall: (1) Submit to the office of elections a copy of the federal income tax return of the candidate for the five most recent taxable years that a return has been filed with the Internal Revenue Service; and (2) Provide written consent to the office of elections for the public disclosure of the federal income tax returns.

Please see <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/washington/articles/2019-03-12/presidential-tax-return-requirement-passes-washington-senate> where a similar bill recently passed the Washington State Senate requiring candidates for President and Vice-President to make their tax returns for the past 5 years public for transparency purposes. Per the National Conference on State Legislatures, 25 states have proposed similar rules.

The Democratic Party of Hawai`i supports limitations on political, campaign or issue related donations by organizations, corporations, and individuals. In addition, we promote the practice of public financing of all elections, to ensure that the power to bring positive change to our county and state lies in the hands of individual voters. We do not believe that money equals speech or that corporations are people for purposes of First Amendment protections. We support and encourage legislation that would limit the impact of the Citizens United decision. We also support fully funded elections office.

We believe that a government based on the will of the people but respecting the rights of all is a potential solution to its citizens' needs and should not be denigrated as an option to a completely laissez-faire society. Thus, fair and equitable taxation is essential for good government, as providing services to society is worthy of financial support. We believe that this will adequately, efficiently, courteously, openly and fairly administer to the needs of the people. We support the incorporation of *ho'oponopono*, ethics in government, and a fair, voter-verifiable, fully transparent and auditable voting system. We also support enforcement of all sunshine laws and transparency in sessions and meetings that discuss and make policy.

We support limitations on political, campaign or issue related donations by organizations, corporations, and individuals. In addition, we promote the practice of public financing of all elections, to ensure that the power to bring positive change to our county and State lies in the hands of individual voters. We do not believe that money equals "free speech." *Democratic Party of Hawai`i Platform (2018), p. 19, ln. 33-54.*

For the foregoing reasons, to wit, to support the incorporation of *ho'oponopono*, ethics in government, and a fair, voter-verifiable, fully transparent and auditable voting system, OCDLPC supports HD 712, HD 1, and urges that it passes out of the Committee on Judiciary.

Mahalo nui loa  
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja  
Chair, O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee  
Ph. (808) 258-8889  
Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com



*Common Cause Hawaii • 307A Kamani St. • Honolulu, HI 96813 • 808.275.6275*

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To: The Senate Committee on Judiciary  
From: Brodie Lockard, Board Member, Common Cause Hawaii  
Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2019, 9:45 am

**In support of HB712 HD1, with comments**

Dear JDC Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members—

Common Cause Hawaii supports HB712 HD1.

Candidates for President of the United States have disclosed their tax returns for decades, not by law, but as a good faith gesture to the American electorate. Disclosure gives voters insight into candidates' ethics, personal spending habits, choices of investments, and general style of money management. It's a perfectly reasonable expectation for voters to know these details about someone who may oversee how many billions of their dollars are spent.

Every recent Administration has met this expectation until the current one. Reluctance to share tax returns rightfully raises suspicion of and distracting speculation about what they might reveal. Disclosure would avoid this, or if the returns do contain questionable information, would bring it to voters' attention so they can weigh it in choosing the leader of the free world.

Common Cause Hawaii suggests that requiring candidates' last ten tax returns would make this bill ten times as useful. We welcome the same requirements for Vice President, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Mayor.

As a small state in America's last time zone, Hawaii has limited influence in presidential elections. HB712 HD1 's requirement for inclusion on the state ballot would increase our state's influence and perhaps lead other states to follow suit.

Please pass HB712 HD1 and protect the integrity of these highest offices.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brodie Lockard  
Board Member, Common Cause Hawaii

**HB-712-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 9:53:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2019 9:45:00 AM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Bickel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

States already decide to exclude candidates from their presidential ballot if the candidate does not come from an established party or have some show of strength. So I personally think it is constitutional to require the disclosure of tax returns. The voters have a right to know the financial interests of the candidates. Support this bill.

**LATE**

**HB-712-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 4:03:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2019 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB712. The information gleaned from candidates' disclosure of tax returns should help to weed out corrupt politicians thereby enhancing our democracy.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

**LATE**

**HB-712-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 5:26:19 PM  
Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2019 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keith Richmond	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairman Rhoads, Vice Chairman Wakai and Committee Members,

It is very important for voters to have candidates' tax returns to vet them before casting ballots. This is true for many offices including Governor, Lt. Governor and Mayor, but especially true for U.S. President and Vice President. In the case of Pres. and V.P. they are not required to apply for and receive Intelligence clearances like cabinet secretaries or congressmen who are committee members. So that makes this disclosure all the more important.

Therefore, it makes sense that tax return disclosure be required to appear on the Hawaii ballot for these office and to receive Electoral College votes from Hawaii.

**HB-712-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 6:04:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2019 9:45:00 AM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Arlene Twomey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is very important for voters to have candidates' tax returns to vet them before casting ballots. This is true for many offices including Governor, Lt. Governor and Mayor, but especially true for U.S. President and Vice President. In the case of Pres. and V.P. they are not required to apply for and receive Intelligence clearances like cabinet secretaries or congressmen who are committee members. So that makes this disclosure all the more important.

Therefore, it makes sense that tax return disclosure be required to appear on the Hawaii ballot for these office and to receive Electoral College votes from Hawaii.



**HB-712-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 6:38:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2019 9:45:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Shimei	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB712 HD1

1) Minimum qualifications for President and Vice-President have been spelled out in the Constitution and judicial precedent, and the question has been raised whether it is constitutionally permissible to add qualifications to those enumerated. This is a question for the courts to decide. Rather than self-editing and pre-empting the courts, we should pass this bill and make it clear where we stand. If the courts later invalidate the bill in whole or in part, we have lost nothing but have made our standards for ethical behavior a priority.

2) Comments have been made that a requirement of disclosure of finances constitutes an invasion of privacy that will discourage future candidates from running. Those aspiring to positions of public trust must earn that trust by demonstrating they have not in the past engaged in behavior that undermines that fiduciary responsibility. Just as, once in office, they must tolerate continued scrutiny to insure they do not later succumb to the temptations of power.

**LATE**

**HB-712-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 7:15:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2019 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Martha Nakajima	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is very important for transparency in our electoral process. Voters need to know what are candidates' financial interests which might conflict with the public interest. I strongly support.

Thankyou

Martha Nakajima

Secy. Disrict 22 Dems.

**LATE**

**HB-712-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 7:53:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2019 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lois Langham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

These are the highest offices in government and require transparency and the highest level of trust from voters. It has, unfortunately, become necessary to not only expect a good faith offering, but to spell it out and demand it. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this subject.

**LATE**

**HB-712-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 9:51:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2019 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Debra Rosenthal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a political scientist, I ask that you facilitate voters' access to candidates' tax returns so we can understand their business entanglements before we vote. This is true for many offices including Governor, Lt. Governor and Mayor, but especially true for U.S. President and Vice President. In the case of Pres. and V.P. they are not required to apply for and receive Intelligence clearances like cabinet secretaries or congressmen who are committee members. So that makes this disclosure all the more important.

Tax return disclosure should be required for candidates to appear on the Hawaii ballot for these offices and to receive Electoral College votes from Hawaii.

Mahalo and thanks for your service to the people of Hawaii.

Dr. Debra Rosenthal

**LATE**

**HB-712-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 11:33:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2019 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Poulos	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Dear Senators,

Please oppose HB712 HD1 as written. The bill states "The legislature finds that a robust democracy requires public servants to be transparent toward those whom they are elected to serve. While in office, those in executive branch positions make many decisions that directly impact the economy. To promote a robust democracy, ensure transparency, avoid conflicts of interest, and prevent unethical decision making within an executive branch administration, leaders should provide full financial disclosure. Without full public disclosure of a candidate's past income, business relations, and indebtedness, both monetary and otherwise, a citizen cannot cast an informed vote or be assured that decisions made by the executive will be in the interests of the people, rather than for the candidate's own financial gain."

If this is what you really believe then why stop at the executive branch, the governor and mayor? Why not ALL elected officials? Don't congressional and state legislators "make decisions that directly impact the economy, in our State and nationally? Don't we want to " promote a robust democracy, ensure transparency, avoid conflicts of interest, and prevent unethical decision making"? I would love to know your past income, business relations and indebtedness before I vote for you. If I had that insight it would definately help me determine if you are able to handle my tax dollars well. If I knew you had taken care of your own finances well that would give me great assurance that you are capable and prepared to make the best decisions for me and our State.

If you are willing to expose this information about yourself and mandate it for all candidates of public office I would support the bill. Unless you are willing to live by the same standard that you are requiring of other elected officials vote NO!!

Mahalo,

Lisa Poulos

**LATE**

**HB-712-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 8:40:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2019 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Libby Tomar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee: This is to support HB 712 without changes. Prior to the current President of the United States we all could rely on our candidates being transparent in their personal information so that we could know what kind of person the candidate was. Unfortunately this has changed, to what I believe is to the country's detriment. This bill would require the President and V. President nominees to provide their previous five years of income tax returns. It is especially important to have this information because those candidates do not have the scrutiny of security clearances.

Please pass this out of your Committee.

Very truly yours, Libby Tomar, Esq., Kailua, HI