



Pono Hawai'i Initiative

Josh Frost - President • Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Kristin Hamada  
Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

Relating to Campaign Finance  
Testifying in Support with amendments

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports with amendments SB2989 SD1 Relating to Campaign Finance**, which allows candidates seeking election to use campaign funds for childcare costs.

Running for office is hard. This measure will help to ease the financial burden for those candidates with children. Encouraging more individuals to get involved in politics and elected office is essential for democracy to thrive. Historically women have been the family caregivers. This has translated to fewer women and low-income individuals from seeking elected office. This measure will help open doors for more women, single parents and other low-income individuals to be a part of the political arena.

Even though many elected positions are considered part-time, being an elected official doesn't always translate to a typical 9-5 workday. For those individuals who represent the neighbor islands in the State legislature it can mean Monday – Friday on a different island all together from where your children are located. We should not limit these individuals from utilizing their campaign funds to offset the unique childcare requirements that holding public office sometimes requires.

For all these reasons, we urge you to consider amending this measure to continue to help these individuals once they are elected.

Mahalo for the opportunity,  
Gary Hooser  
Executive Director  
Pono Hawai'i Initiative

Statement Before The  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**Wednesday, February 19, 2020  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211in consideration of  
**SB 2989, SD1**  
**RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE.**

Chair DELA CRUZ, Vice Chair KEITH-AGARAN, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 2989, SD1, which would allow candidates seeking election to use campaign funds for child care costs, under certain conditions.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization to reforming government and strengthening democracy through improving our campaign finance system with laws that amplify the voices of everyday Americans.

Common Cause Hawaii understands that parenthood and care for one's dependents should not be a barrier to political office. One solution to this unnecessary obstacle to this problem is to allow candidates to use campaign funds to defray the expensive costs of a candidates' child care or dependent family care. A growing number of candidates and good governance organizations are pushing state legislatures and elections commission to adopt such a proposal because it would encourage more women and low-income candidates to run for office by clearing a restrictive financial barrier to offices for parents and caregivers.

Common Cause Hawaii suggests that SB 2989, SD1 be broadened to include the care of a candidate's other vital household dependents, such as family members living in the candidate's household who are physically or mentally incapable of self-care. Regulations that expressly allow campaign funds to be spent on both childcare and dependent care will help keep campaign finance models modernized.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2989, SD1 with comments. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at [sma@commoncause.org](mailto:sma@commoncause.org).

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma  
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

**LATE**

**SB-2989-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 2:57:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathleen Algire	Testifying for Hawai`i Children's Action Network Speaks!	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2989-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/15/2020 5:07:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

I writing in support of SB2989 SD1.

- Common Cause Hawaii suggests that SB 2989, SD1 be broadened to include the care of a candidate's other vital household dependents, such as family members living in the candidate's household who are physically or mentally incapable of self-care. Regulations that expressly allow campaign funds to be spent on both childcare and dependent care will help keep campaign finance models modernized.

Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

**SB-2989-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 9:50:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 2989 SD1

Common Cause Hawaii suggests that SB 2989, SD1 be broadened to include the care of a candidate's other vital household dependents, such as family members living in the candidate's household who are physically or mentally incapable of self-care.

Regulations that expressly allow campaign funds to be spent on both childcare and dependent care will help keep campaign finance models modernized.

Mahalo,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona HI 96740