

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Thursday, February 11, 2021
2:00 PM
Via Video Conference, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HB 674
RELATING TO THE ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATION.

Chair NAKASHIMA, Vice Chair MATAYOSHI, and Members of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee

Common Cause Hawaii opposes HB 674, which limits electioneering communication disclosure requirements to noncandidate committees.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening democracy through improving our campaign finance system with laws that amplify the voices of everyday Americans by requiring strong disclosures and making sure everyone plays by the same commonsense rules.

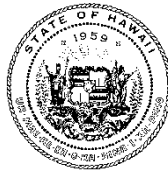
Common Cause Hawaii opposes amending Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 11-341, dealing with electioneering communications, to only require noncandidate committees file statements of information. Currently, “persons”, including individuals, partnerships, candidate committees or noncandidate committees, parties, associations, corporations, business entities, organizations, and labor unions and its auxiliary committees, who make electioneering communications in an aggregate amount of more than \$2,000 during any calendar year, are required to file a statement of information for electioneering communication pursuant to HRS § 11-341.

To limit statements of information for electioneering communications to only noncandidate committees would not serve transparency and would reduce the level of transparency in electioneering communications in Hawaii. Therefore, Common Cause Hawaii opposes HB 674.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 674. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii



STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 10, 2021

TO: The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

The Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on H.B. 674, Relating to Electioneering Communications.**

Thursday, February 11, 2021
2:00 p.m., Via Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) **opposes** this bill.

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) §11-341 by removing candidate, candidate committee, and person from the requirement of filing statement of information for electioneering communications. The bill amends HRS §11-341 to expressly make noncandidate committee the only “person” that is required to file the statement of information.

In the 2020 elections, candidate committees filed 673 statements of information (for electioneering communications) in the primary election and 625 statements of information in the general election. That constitutes a total of 1,298 statements of information filed by candidate committees in the 2020 elections. If this Committee exempts candidates from the requirement to file statements of information, transparency in the 2022 elections, and beyond, will be dealt a huge blow. Further, in past elections, individuals spending their own money have paid for electioneering communications. These individuals were required to file statements of information if they spent over \$2,000 in a calendar year. This is because an individual comes within the meaning of “person” in HRS §11-302. Under this bill, these individuals will no longer be required to file statements of information and there would be absolutely no transparency for individuals spending their own money because they are also excluded from the definition of “noncandidate committee” in HRS §11-302 and thus don’t have to register with the Commission and file periodic disclosure reports.

The Commission strongly opposes this bill and asks this Committee to defer or hold this bill.