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STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION


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March 1, 2021

TO: The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
House Committee on Government Reform

The Honorable Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair
House Committee on Government Reform

Members of the House Committee on Government Reform

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 200, Relating to Elections**

Wednesday, March 3, 2021
11:00 a.m., Via Videoconference

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

This measure amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) §11-338(a) by clarifying that candidates who are not on the ballot of an election need not file the late contributions report that is due on the third calendar day prior to the election. This treatment of candidates who are not on the ballot is consistent with HRS §11-334 for the filing of preliminary, final, and supplemental reports.

The Commission urges this Committee to pass this measure.

Hawaii
*Holding Power Accountable*Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

11:00 AM

Via Videoconference, Conference 309

in consideration of
SB 200
RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

Chair MCKELVEY, Vice Chair WILDBERGER, and Members of the House Government Reform Committee

Common Cause Hawaii opposes SB 200, which provides that candidates or other committee representatives as specified who make contributions over a certain amount prior to an election are required to file a late contribution report only if the candidate is on the ballot in that election.

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.

SB 200 eliminates a disclosure requirement for a candidate that is not on the ballot and receives contributions in excess of \$500. The public should be informed as to donations to candidates regardless of whether a candidate is on the ballot or not. Common Cause Hawaii is unclear of the public transparency and accountability purposes that are served by eliminating such a disclosure. While Common Cause Hawaii understands the disclosure and reporting requirements of Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 11-334, HRS § 11-338 requires reporting of late contributions prior to any election, which provides for more contemporaneous donor transparency and accountability. HRS §§ 11-334(a)(2)-(a)(3) and 11-334(b) requires reporting after the applicable election.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of SB 200. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

SB-200

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 4:23:27 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/3/2021 11:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Andrea Quinn | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please support SB200.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn