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STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION


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February 1, 2021

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

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

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

Tuesday, February 2, 2021
9:30 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.

Statement Before The
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

9:30 AM

Via Videoconference

in consideration of

SB 200**RELATING TO ELECTIONS.**

Chair RHOADS, Vice Chair KEOHOKALOLE, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Common Cause Hawaii opposes SB 200, which clarifies 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.

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