



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION**

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 22, 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 S.B. No. 400, SD 1, HD 1, Relating to Campaign Finance Reports**

Tuesday, March 23, 2021  
2:00 p.m., Via Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.<sup>1</sup> The Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) supports this bill.

As originally introduced, this measure amends HRS §11-340(c) to make clear that the increased fine (not to exceed \$300 per day) for the late-filing of preliminary reports only applies to the reports due ten days before a primary, general, or special election. This measure is necessary due to the additional preliminary report for candidate committees mandated by the Legislature in 2019. For reasons unknown to the Commission, GVR blanked out the ten days at lines 5, 7, 10, and 12 of the measure. The Commission urges this Committee to restore the language of the bill as originally introduced in the Senate and reinsert the ten days in the lines mentioned.

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<sup>1</sup> The companion bill is H.B. No. 140.

**Hawaii**  
*Holding Power Accountable*Statement Before The  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

2:00 PM

Via Video Conference, Conference Room 325

in consideration of  
**SB 400, SD1, HD1**  
**RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS.**

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

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 400, SD1, HD1 with suggested amendments, which clarifies that increased fines may apply if a candidate committee or noncandidate committee fails to timely file the preliminary primary or preliminary general report due in an unspecified number of calendar days before a primary or general 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.

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 400, SD1, HD1 because it clarifies that increased fines apply to candidate and noncandidate committees alike if they fail to file preliminary primary, general, or special reports. Common Cause Hawaii respectfully requests that this Committee restore the original language of bill which required that the preliminary primary, general, or special reports are due 10 calendar days before any such election. Timely filing of reports is necessary for transparency and accountability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 400, SD1, HD1, with suggested amendments. 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

**SB-400-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 2:04:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear JHA Committee memebbers,

I support SB 400, SD1, HD1 because it clarifies that increased fines apply to candidate and noncandidate committees alike if they fail to file preliminary primary, general, or special reports.

I respectfully request that this Committee restore the original language of bill which required that the preliminary primary, general, or special reports are due 10 calendar days before any such election.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

**SB-400-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 2:53:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This will increase transparency & accountability

**SB-400-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 1:55:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

Please support SB400 SD1 H1 with amendments.

I request that this Committee restore the original language of bill which required that the preliminary primary, general, or special reports are due 10 calendar days before any such election.

Timely filing of reports is necessary for transparency and accountability.

We need to continue improving the fairness of the election process.

Thank you for taking the time to review this issue. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB400 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

**SB-400-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 2:45:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Golojuch Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

I support SB 400 SD 1 HD 1.

Mahalo,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

**SB-400-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 5:13:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
laurie boyle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a resident of Hawai'i Island, I support sb400 for the simple reason that all candidates should follow the filing rules or be penalized with fines to help deter this behavior while providing greater accountability and transparency to the election process.

Mahalo for your attention.

**SB-400-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 6:06:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Linda Morgan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The timely reporting of campaign finances provides voters transparency needed as they decide for whom to vote. SB400's fees for late reporting should motivate candidates and campaign committees to submit their campaign finance reports on time. Please support SB400.



**SB-400-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 6:37:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 400, SD1, HD1 because it clarifies that increased fines apply to candidate and noncandidate committees alike if they fail to file preliminary primary, general, or special reports.

I respectfully request that this Committee restore the original language of the bill which required that the preliminary primary, general, or special reports are due 10 calendar days before any such election.

Timely filing of reports is necessary for transparency and accountability.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill.

**SB-400-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 8:49:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/23/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Larry Meacham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony SUPPORTING SB 400, SD1, HD1 Increased Fines for Late Campaign Finance Reports

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony.

This bill makes sure that both candidate and non-candidate committees will be fined if they do not file timely reports.

This is important because some fly-by-night noncandidate committees deliberately delay filing their reports so that voters and the media will not know where their funding is coming from. The least we can do with such stealth campaigns is fine them for such behavior.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony