



STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION


235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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. 400, Relating to Campaign Finance Reports**

Tuesday, February 2, 2021
9:30 a.m., Via Videoconference

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

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 reports mandated by the Legislature in 2019. The Commission urges this Committee to pass this measure without amendments.

¹ The companion bill is H.B. No. 140.

Hawaii*Holding Power Accountable*

Statement Before The
Tuesday, February 2, 202
9:30 AM
Via Videoconference

in consideration of
SB 400
RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS.

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

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 400, 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 10 days before the primary, general, or special 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 because it clarifies that increased fines applies to candidate and noncandidate committees alike if they fail to file preliminary primary, general, or special reports, which are due 10 days before any such election. Timely filing of reports is necessary for transparency and accountability.

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 400, and Common Cause Hawaii respectfully urges the Committee members to pass SB 400 unamended out of your Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 400. 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-400

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 8:58:11 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dyson Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB400, and mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-400

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 9:36:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward B Hanel Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Concur with comments submitted by Common Cause Hawaii. The failure to file required campaign reports is unacceptable behaviour. It is unfortunate that any fine is required. But if we are going to impose one, it needs to be harsh enough to encourage compliance.

SB-400

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 11:38:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee members,

I am a member of Common Cause HI and i have read their info sheets about pending legislation. I have copied their suggestions as my testimony, but i totally agree with their assessment and that is why i share MY thoughts and feelings with you. Mahalo

1. [SB400](#) -- Clarifies that increased fines may apply if a candidate committee or noncandidate committee fail to timely file the preliminary primary or preliminary general report due 10 days before the primary or general election (SUPPORT).

Talking Points:

We support SB 400 because it clarifies that increased fines applies to candidate and noncandidate committees alike if they fail to file preliminary primary, general, or special reports, which are due 10 days before any such election. Timely filing of reports is necessary for transparency and accountability.

We respectfully urges the Committee members to pass SB 400 unamended out of your Committee.

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona 96740

SB-400

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 12:27:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Martha Nakajima	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill which will enforce greater transparency in election campaigns.

As a member of Common Cause I associate with the position of that organization on SB400.

Thank you.

Martha NAKAJIMA

SB-400

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 8:22:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I fully suport SB 400.

Mahalo,

Michael

SB-400

Submitted on: 1/31/2021 9:57:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Feena Bonoan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill.

SB-400

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 9:06:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laurie boyle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of sb400 for the simple reason that we need quality and timely campaign finance reports from all campaigns, and the rules pertaining to this should be clearly written for maximum compliance and minimum confusion.

Mahalo

SB-400

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 4:19:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/2/2021 9:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Committee on Judiciary,

Please support SB 400 to improve the overall fairness of our elections.

I support SB 400 because it clarifies that increased fines applies to candidate and noncandidate committees alike if they fail to file preliminary primary, general, or special reports, which are due 10 days before any such election. Timely filing of reports is necessary for transparency and accountability.

I respectfully urges the Committee members to pass SB 400 unamended out of your Committee.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake