



STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 29, 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 Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 403, HD 1, Relating to Reports filed with the
Campaign Spending Commission**

Tuesday, March 30, 2021
2:00 p.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 Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) §11-334(a) by amending paragraph (1)(E) to exempt candidates who either lose or are elected into office in a primary election from filing preliminary general reports. These candidates will not be on the ballot in the general election. GVR amended the bill by adding the requirement for a candidate who is unsuccessful in the primary election that the candidate also “does not intend to remain politically active after the primary” election. This subjective test will be difficult for the Commission to implement. The Commission requests that this committee restore the bill in the form reflected in the original S.B. 403 that was passed by the Senate.

This measure also amends HRS §11-339 by amending subsections (b) and (c) to make them consistent with subsection (a). In subsection (a), for a candidate or noncandidate committee to be required to file only the final election period report, the committee’s aggregate contributions **and** aggregate expenditures must total \$1,000 or less in an election period.

The Commission urges this Committee to pass this measure with the stated amendment.

¹ The companion bill is H.B. No. 143, HD 1.

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2021
2:00 PM
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE, CONFERENCE ROOM 325

in consideration of
SB 403, HD1
RELATING TO REPORTS FILED WITH THE CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION.

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

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 403, HD1, which (1) clarifies that candidates do not need to file preliminary general reports if they are either unsuccessful in the primary election and does not intend to remain politically active until after the general election or are elected to office in the primary election and (2) clarifies the aggregate contribution and expenditure amounts that trigger the requirement for a candidate or noncandidate committee to file only the final election period report.

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 403, HD1 but is concerned that it may be difficult to ascertain the true intent of whether or not a person is committed to remaining politically active until after the general election if not successful in the primary election. It is Common Cause Hawaii's position that the public should be informed as to donations, specifically the identity of donors, to candidates regardless of whether a candidate is on the ballot until termination paperwork is filed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 403, HD1. 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-403-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 7:12:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/30/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John D. Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill and pass it through.