



STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 31, 2021

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

The Honorable Ty J. K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Members of the House Committee on Finance

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 405, SD 1, HD 1, Relating to Campaign Contributions**

Thursday, April 1, 2021
1:30 p.m., Via Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.¹ The Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) supports this bill, a house-keeping measure.

This measure amends subsection (a) of Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) §11-364 by including excess nonresident contributions to the list of prohibited contributions that committees must return to contributors within thirty days. Thereafter, if not returned, the excess nonresident contributions escheat to the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund. The Commission urges this Committee to pass this measure with an effective date upon its approval.

¹ The companion bill is H.B. No. 145.



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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
THURSDAY, 4/1/21, 1:30 PM, Room No. 308

SB405 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS
Beppie Shapiro, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keohokalole, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports this bill, which provides that excess contributions by nonresident contributors shall escheat to the Hawaii election campaign fund if not returned to the contributor within 30 days.

This bill complements existing law and will help ensure adequate funding for the partial public funding program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-405-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 7:45:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch Jr	LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaii's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization, fully supports SB 405 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

Chair

LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Thursday, April 1, 2021
1:30 PM
Via Video Conference, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
SB 405, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.

Chair LUKE, Vice Chair CULLEN, and Members of the House Finance Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 405, SD1, HD1 with amendments, which provides that excess contributions by nonresident contributors shall escheat to the Hawaii election campaign fund if not returned to the contributor within 30 days of the end of the election period.

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.

SB 405, the original bill, would have provided a more robust source of income for the perennially underfunded Hawaii Election Campaign Fund, which candidates may use, if they choose, to partially publicly fund their campaigns. SB 405 as amended by SD1 appears to possibly reduce this potential funding source by extending the time frame for candidates, candidate committees, and noncandidate committees to return excess contributions to 30 days after the election period, which would permit more time to return excess contributions.

Every endeavor should be made to shore-up the perennially underfunded Hawaii Election Campaign Fund and encourage candidates to use it. Common Cause Hawaii suggests amending SB 405, SD1, HD1 to the original form.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 405, SD1, HD1 with suggested amendments. 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-405-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 1:17:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this to be passed through legislature.

SB-405-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:01:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB 405, the original bill, would have provided a more robust source of income for the perennially underfunded Hawaii Election Campaign Fund, which candidates may use, if they choose, to partially publicly fund their campaigns. SB 405 as amended by SD1 appears to possibly reduce this potential funding source by extending the time frame for candidates, candidate committees, and noncandidate committees to return excess contributions to 30 days after the election period, which would permit more time to return excess contributions.

Every endeavor should be made to shore-up the perennially underfunded Hawaii Election Campaign Fund and encourage candidates to use it. Common Cause Hawaii suggests amending SB 405, SD1, HD1 to the original form.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 405, SD1, HD1 with suggested amendments.

SB-405-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 9:50:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Kathryn Afable	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB405, SD1 and HD1 with the following amendment.

- Restore the provision in the original SB405 which does not extend the timeframe to 30 days for the return of excess contributions to the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Afable

Hilo, Hawaii

SB-405-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 10:50:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Any effort to support the underfunded Hawaii Election Campaigning Fund is to be commended. Generally, I support the intent of SB405. But I concur with Common Cause Hawaii's recommendation for amending SB 405, SD1, HD1 to the original form.

SB-405-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 12:10:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Fin Committee Members,

I support SB405 SD1, HD1 with the following amendments:

- SB 405, the original bill, would have provided a more robust source of income for the perennially underfunded Hawaii Election Campaign Fund, which candidates may use, if they choose, to partially publicly fund their campaigns. SB 405 as amended by SD1 appears to possibly reduce this potential funding source by extending the time frame for candidates, candidate committees, and noncandidate committees to return excess contributions to 30 days after the election period, which would permit more time to return excess contributions.
- Every endeavor should be made to shore-up the perennially underfunded Hawaii Election Campaign Fund and encourage candidates to use it. Common Cause Hawaii suggests amending SB 405, SD1, HD1 to the original form.
- Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 405, SD1, HD1 with suggested amendments.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

SB-405-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 1:02:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Dursin	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I am asking the Finance Committee to carefully consider the problem addressed by the original SB405: the underfunding of the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund.

A truly democratic process enables candidates to run without the reputation and the contacts that attract large contributions. More experienced candidates may choose to use public funding to be free of potential obligations.

While I don't argue against the return of excess contributions, particularly from out-of-state donors, it should not impact funding for the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund. In fact, the funding has been so measly, that this committee should, without delay, return SB405 to the original form and consider increasing the funding amount.

Susan Dursin, Captain Cook, HI

SB-405-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 1:04:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee on Finance,

Please support SB405 SD1 HD1 with Amendments.

SB 405, the original bill, would have provided a more robust source of income for the perennially underfunded Hawaii Election Campaign Fund, which candidates may use, if they choose, to partially publicly fund their campaigns. SB 405 as amended by SD1 appears to possibly reduce this potential funding source by extending the time frame for candidates, candidate committees, and noncandidate committees to return excess contributions to 30 days after the election period, which would permit more time to return excess contributions.

Every endeavor should be made to shore-up the perennially underfunded Hawaii Election Campaign Fund and encourage candidates to use it. Common Cause Hawaii suggests amending SB 405, SD1, HD1 to the original form.

Thank you for taking the time to review this bill. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB405 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

LATE

SB-405-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 8:58:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2021 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I support sb405 for the simple reason that excess election contributions should be easy to give to the underfunded Hawai'i election fund for candidates to access.

Mahalo for your attention.