



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 **KI**

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

Tuesday, March 23, 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, 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.

¹ The companion bill is H.B. No. 145.

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 405, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.

Chair NAKASHIMA, Vice Chair MATAYOSHI, and Members of the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs 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 another 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 (1) 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, and (2) allow candidates, candidate committees, and noncandidate committees to decide which candidate contributions to return and thereby certain contributions may be returned to curvy further future donations.

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: 3/21/2021 2:48:41 PM

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

SB-405-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 2:37:40 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha JHA Committee Members,

- SB 405, the original bill, would have provided another 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 (1) 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, and (2) allow candidates, candidate committees, and noncandidate committees to decide which candidate contributions to return and thereby certain contributions may be returned to curry further future donations.
- 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.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

SB-405-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 2:57:56 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

SB-405-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 2:11:31 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

Please support SB405 SD1 HD1 with amendments.

SB 405, the original bill, would have provided another 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 (1) 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, and (2) allow candidates, candidate committees, and noncandidate committees to decide which candidate contributions to return and thereby certain contributions may be returned to curry further future donations.

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

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

SB-405-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 5:31:12 PM

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

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

Comments:

As a resident of Hawai'i island , i support sb405 for the simple reason that more donations could be returned during the extended tineframe, thereby making the funds available to other candidates through the general election fund.

Mahalo for youf attention.

SB-405-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 6:23:10 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Morgan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB 405, the original bill, would have provided another source of income for the perennially underfunded Hawaii Election Campaign Fund, which candidates may use, if they choose, to partially publicly fund their campaigns. I support SB405 amended to its original form.

SB-405-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 6:43:08 AM

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

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

Comments:

SB 405, the original bill, would have provided another 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 (1) 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, and (2) allow candidates, candidate committees, and noncandidate committees to decide which candidate contributions to return and thereby certain contributions may be returned to curry further future donations.

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 submit testimony in support (with amendments) of this bill.

SB-405-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 9:14:15 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Larry Meacham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony SUPPORTING SB 405 SD1, HD1 Excess contributions by nonresident contributors to go the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund, With Suggestion.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The Hawaii Election Campaign Fund is very important to support our publicly funded election program, but it has always been underfunded. One way to support it is to transfer excess contributions to the Fund, as this bill would do.

I would also respectfully suggest that the extra 30-day window in SD1 be eliminated.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.