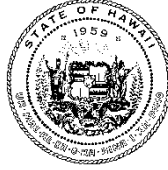


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STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION


235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 22, 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. 597, SD 1, Relating to Campaign Finance**

Thursday, February 25, 2021
9:30 a.m., Via Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the intent of this bill and offers the following comments.

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) §11-381 by amending subsection (a) to add childcare costs and vital household dependent care costs as additional permissible expenses of a candidate committee in a new paragraph (9). The original bill only provided for the payment of childcare expenses. HMS added payments for vital household dependent care costs in SD 1. The Commission recommends that the bill be further amended by adding a definition of “vital household dependent care” in subparagraph (D) or combining such a definition with the definition of “child care” already contained in subparagraph (D).

Hawaii
Holding Power Accountable

Statement Before The
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Thursday, February 25, 2021
9:30 AM
Via Video Conference

in consideration of
SB 597, SD1
RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE.

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

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 597, SD1 which allows candidates seeking election to use campaign funds for child and vital household dependent care costs under certain conditions.

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.

Common Cause Hawaii understands that parenthood and care for one's dependents should not be a barrier to political office. One solution to this unnecessary obstacle to this problem is to allow candidates to use campaign funds to defray the expensive costs of a candidates' child care or dependent family care. A growing number of candidates and good governance organizations are pushing state legislatures and elections commissions to adopt such a proposal because it would encourage more women and low-income candidates to run for office by clearing a restrictive financial barrier to offices for parents and caregivers.

Common Cause Hawaii suggests lowering the age of the child to under 18. Minor children under the age of majority, i.e., 18, may not need childcare.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 597, SD1. 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-597-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 3:04:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Younghee Overly	Testifying for AAUW Of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support for S.B. 597 SD1, which would allow candidates seeking election to use campaign funds for child care costs under certain conditions. Parenthood and caregiving for one's dependents should not be a barrier to running for a political office. Thank you for your consideration.

Younghee Overly, Public Policy Chair, AAUW of Hawaii

SB-597-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 8:28:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 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 597 SD1.

- We understand that parenthood and care for one's dependents should not be a barrier to political office. One solution to this unnecessary obstacle to this problem is to allow candidates to use campaign funds to defray the expensive costs of a candidates' child care or dependent family care. A growing number of candidates and good governance organizations are pushing state legislatures and elections commissions to adopt such a proposal because it would encourage more women and low-income candidates to run for office by clearing a restrictive financial barrier to offices for parents and caregivers.
- We suggest lowering the age of the child to under 18. Minor children under the age of majority, i.e., 18, may not need childcare.

Thank you for your time to review this issue. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

SB-597-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 5:56:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Candidates should not have to be rich to run for and serve in office.

SB-597-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2021 3:43:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I support SB 597.

Mahalo,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

SB-597-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 11:44:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB597 SD1 for the simple reason that this levels the playing field for candidates who are unable to afford dependent care while on the trail, allowing for more equal campaign time and chance of success.

Mahalo for your attention.

SB-597-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 6:17:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/25/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Parenthood and care for one's dependents should not be a barrier to political office. One solution to this unnecessary obstacle to this problem is to allow candidates to use campaign funds to defray the expensive costs of a candidates' child care or dependent family care while campaigning. A growing number of candidates and good governance organizations are pushing state legislatures and elections commissions to adopt such a proposal because it would encourage more women and low-income candidates to run for office by clearing a restrictive financial barrier to offices for parents and caregivers.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.