

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 09 2021

RE: S.B. No. 401

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2021  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B.  
No. 401 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VIOLATIONS OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE  
LAW,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Increase the amount of the fine for campaign spending law violations that may be assessed against a noncandidate committee making only independent expenditures and that has received at least one contribution of more than \$10,000, or spent more than \$10,000, in an election period; and
- (2) Allow the Campaign Spending Commission to order that the payment of a fine assessed against a noncandidate committee, or any portion thereof, be paid from the personal funds of an officer of the noncandidate committee.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Campaign Spending Commission, Common Cause Hawaii, and six individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual.



Your Committee finds that campaign contributions and expenditures by large, well-funded political committees have a significant effect on elections. Your Committee further finds that enforcement of campaign finance law violations against these committees is difficult due to the resources available to them. This measure will increase the ability of the Campaign Spending Commission to enforce campaign finance law violations against large political committees by significantly increasing the amounts of fines and provide that the Commission may order that the fines, or a portion of the fines, be paid from the personal funds of an officer of the committee.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 401 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Judiciary,



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KARL RHOADS, Chair



