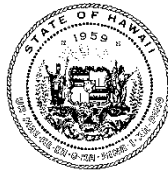


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STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION


235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 7, 2022

TO: The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
House Committee on Government Reform

The Honorable Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair
House Committee on Government Reform

Members of the House Committee on Government Reform

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on H.B. No. 1880, Relating to Electioneering Communications**

Wednesday, February 9, 2022
09:30 a.m., Via Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) provides the following comments on this bill.

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) §11-341 by eliminating the spending threshold (more than \$1,000) before a person would be required to file a statement of information. Instead, the bill would require a person to file a statement of information after each expenditure for electioneering communications. The Commission prefers the provisions in its bill on electioneering communications, H.B. No. 1425, which would have, among other things, restored provisions in HRS §11-341 that were changed or repealed by Act 3, Special Session of 2021. Last Friday, this Committee placed the contents of H.B. No. 1425 into H.B. No. 1888, but the Commission has not yet seen the HD 1 version of H.B. No. 1888. The Commission asks this Committee to hold this bill.

Hawaii*Holding Power Accountable*

Statement Before The
Wednesday, February 9, 2022
9:30 AM
Via Videoconference, Conference Room 309

in consideration of
HB 1880

RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE.

Chair McKELVEY, Vice Chair WILDBERGER, and Members of the House Government Reform Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports with suggested amendments HB 1880, which requires a person to file a statement of information with the campaign spending commission for every expenditure for an electioneering communication.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening our representative democracy through improving our campaign finance system with laws that amplify the voices of everyday people by requiring strong disclosures and making sure everyone plays by the same commonsense rules.

HB 1880 removes the qualifying amount triggering the filing of statements of information for electioneering communications. Any expenditure will necessitate a filing of a statement of information by noncandidate committees.

Further, HB 1880, at page 5, line 7-8, references person. Common Cause Hawaii suggests deleting the definition of person, at page 5, line 7-8, which excludes candidate or candidate committee, for improved transparency and accountability in our campaign disclosures.

Common Cause Hawaii acknowledges that having to file a statement of information for every expenditure for an electioneering communication will result in a heavy burden on the Commission.

HB 1880 also deletes the definition of "disclosure date" at page 3, lines 20-21, and page 4, lines 1-2. Common Cause Hawaii suggests keeping the definition of "disclosure date" so as a person will know when a statement of information must be filed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support HB 1880 with suggested amendments. If you have questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

TO: Members of the Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
808-395-3233

HEARING: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, February 9, 2022

SUBJECT: HB1880, Relating to Electioneering Communications - **OPPOSED**

Aloha Chair McKelvey and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on HB1880, which would require a statement of information to be filed with the Campaign Spending Commission for every electioneering expenditure.

Ads for social media can be as little as \$5. Requiring a statement for every electioneering communication expenditure would simply be a ridiculous requirement and would inundate the Commission with paperwork.

Please vote "no."