

KRISTIN E. IZUMI-NITAO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



PHONE: (808) 586-0285
FAX: (808) 586-0288
WWW.HAWAII.GOV/CAMPAIGN

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. 1951, Relating to Campaign Finance**

Friday, February 9, 2022
09:30 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, which allows candidates to donate surplus campaign funds to an alternate government fund before escheating to the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund. The Commission asks this Committee to specify the state or county fund being referenced on page 3, lines 2, 5.

Hawaii*Holding Power Accountable*

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

in consideration of
HB 1951

RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE.

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

Common Cause Hawaii provides comments on HB 1951, which authorizes candidates of inactive campaigns and their candidate committees to donate residual campaign funds to the State or the counties.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening 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 1951 provides yet another category for candidates of inactive campaigns and their candidate committees to donate residual campaign funds. There are already multiple ways, under Hawaii Revised Statutes § 11-384, by which candidates and their committees may make use of their residual campaign funds. It is unclear that the undefined State and county funds, under HB 1951, will serve any purpose, especially when the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund is experiencing a need for additional funding and its amounts have not been statutorily raised since 1995. See <http://ags.hawaii.gov/campaign/reports/hawaii-election-campaign-fund/> (retrieved Feb. 7, 2022).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 1951. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii