

Statement Before The
Friday, February 12, 2021
10:00 AM
Via Videoconference, Conference Room 309

in consideration of
HB 743
RELATING TO CAMPAIGN SPENDING.

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

Common Cause Hawaii opposes HB 743, which excludes expenditures for electioneering communications made by candidates and candidate committees from the requirement to file a statement of information with the campaign spending commission.

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 by requiring strong disclosures and making sure everyone plays by the same commonsense rules.

Currently, “persons”, including individuals, partnerships, candidate committees or noncandidate committees, parties, associations, corporations, business entities, organizations, and labor unions and its auxiliary committees, who make electioneering communications in an aggregate amount of more than \$2,000 during any calendar year, are required to file a statement of information for electioneering communication pursuant Hawaii Revised Statutes § 11-341.

To exclude expenditures for electioneering communications made by candidates and candidate committees from the requirement to file a statement of information with the campaign spending commission would not serve transparency and would reduce the level of transparency in electioneering communications in Hawaii. Therefore, Common Cause Hawaii opposes HB 743.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 743. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

HB-743

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 6:40:43 PM

Testimony for GVR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

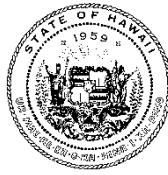
Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please support hb743.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn



STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 11, 2021

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 **KEI**
Campaign Spending Commission

SUBJECT: **Testimony on H.B. No. 743, Relating to Campaign Spending.**

Friday, February 12, 2021
10:00 a.m., Via Video Conference

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

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) §11-341(b) all references in subsection (b) to “candidate” or “candidate committee.” The description of the bill states that the bill “[e]xcludes expenditures for electioneering communications made by candidates and candidate committees from the requirement to file a statement of information with the campaign spending commission.” If the purpose of the bill is to exempt candidates and candidate committees from the requirement to file statements of information for electioneering communications, this bill falls short of its mark. HRS §11-341(a) requires “[e]ach **person** who makes an expenditure for electioneering communications in an aggregate amount of more than \$2,000 during any calendar year shall file with the commission a statement of information within twenty-four hours of each disclosure date provided in this section.”¹ The definition of “person” includes an individual and a candidate committee HRS §11-302.

Assuming, *arguendo*, that the bill accomplishes its purpose of exempting candidates and candidate committees from having to file statements of information, the Commission opposes the bill. In the 2020 elections, candidate committees filed 673 statements of information (for electioneering communications) in the primary election and 625 statements of information in the general election. That constitutes a total of 1,298 statements of information filed by candidate

¹ The bolded text was added.

committees in the 2020 elections. If this Committee exempts candidates from the requirement to file statements of information, transparency in the 2022 elections, and beyond, will be dealt a huge blow.

The Commission opposes this bill and asks this Committee to defer or hold this bill.