

**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

March 14, 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

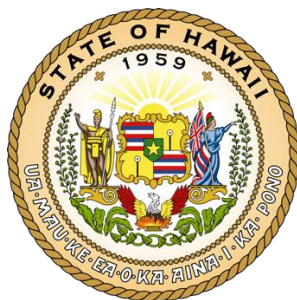
FROM: Kristin Izumi-Nitao, Executive Director   
Campaign Spending Commission

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 2300, Relating to Campaign Finance**

Wednesday, March 16, 2022  
9:00 a.m., Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the intent of this bill and provides 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 expenditures of a candidate committee in a new paragraph (9). The Commission notes that these expenditures are arguably also permitted by paragraph (1) as being directly related to the candidate’s campaign.



‘O kēia ‘ōlelo hō’ike no ke  
**Komikina Kūlana Olakino o Nā Wāhine**

Testimony on behalf of the  
**Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women**

In Support of S.B. 2300  
March 14, 2022

Dear Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Honorable Members:

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women **supports S.B. 2300**, which would allow political candidates seeking election to use campaign funds for child care and vital household dependent care costs under certain conditions. Women represent only 31% of total seats at the State Legislature and the number of women electeds has decreased in the House. The percentage of working class women and people is even lower.

Having children is very expensive in the United States. Without structural support, children are a serious barrier to running to office that falls heaviest on women and working families. To alleviate this burden and improve gender equality and working class representation in office, the Committee should pass S.B. 2300.

Mahalo,  
Khara Jabola-Carolus  
Executive Director

**Hawaii**  
*Holding Power Accountable*

Statement Before The  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM**  
Wednesday, March 16, 2022  
9:00 AM  
Via Videoconference and Conference Room 309

in consideration of  
**SB 2300**  
**RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE.**

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

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 2300, which would allow candidates seeking election to use campaign funds for child care costs, under certain conditions.

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.

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 commission 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. Regulations that expressly allow campaign funds to be spent on both child care and dependent care will help keep campaign finance models modernized. See <https://rollcall.com/2021/05/18/campaign-spending-on-child-care-growing-steadily-since-fec-allowed-it/> (retrieved Feb. 12, 2022).

Permitting campaign funds to be used for childcare purposes is not rare or unusual. It was adopted in New York and Utah in 2019. It was also administratively allowed in Connecticut, Kansas, and Texas. See <https://www.ncsl.org/blog/2019/09/17/child-care-and-the-future-of-campaign-funds.aspx> (retrieved Feb. 12, 2022).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2300. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at [sma@commoncause.org](mailto:sma@commoncause.org).

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma  
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii



To: Hawaii State House Committee on Government Reform  
Hearing Date/Time: February 16, 2022 9:00 AM  
Re: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2300

Dear Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and the Members of Committee,

Members of Hawaii State Democratic Women's Caucus thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB2300, which would allow political candidates to use campaign funds to pay for childcare and vital household dependent care costs when: such costs would not have occurred but for the candidate's campaign; those expenses were incurred from January 1st of an election year until the candidate wins or loses an election; and the care must not be provided by immediate family members.

Women face many hurdles in the political arena. Women are 15 times more likely than men to be responsible for the majority of childcare. If a mother wants to run for office, they are harshly judged for "not focusing on their family"; or are disfavored for being "unavailable" to constituents. Instead of seizing opportunities in the prime of their professional lives, mothers who would be candidates are inclined to wait until their children are grown before running for office. By then, they are set-back and unable to achieve leadership roles at the same rate as men. The sooner mothers run for office, the sooner their seniority will count.

Moreover, this proposal would be in keeping with movement on the national level. In 1995, the Federal Election Commission (FEC) granted a request from Louisiana Republican Rep. Jim McCrery to use campaign funds for babysitting while his wife joined him at campaign events. In 2018, congressional candidate in New York, Grechen Shirley successfully petitioned the FEC to use campaign money for child care. Drawing on its decision on Rep. McCrery's 1995 request from 23 years earlier, the FEC unanimously granted Shirley's petition.

Since then, 51 federal candidates, including Republican men, have availed themselves of this pro-family change. In 2020, federal candidates increased their child care spending by 311 percent over the 2018 cycle.

The idea is now spreading to the states, with 15 having enacted similar legislation, and proposals having been introduced in 14 others. Hawaii, the state which sent Patsy Mink to D.C. – mother of Title IX - *should* be among the first to pass this legislation.

Furthermore, this is a gender-neutral, non-partisan proposal that will profoundly lighten the burden not only felt by women, but by all caregivers, minorities, and those with low-middle income; which in turn, will increase their representation in elected office.

For example, although more than 73 percent of campaign funds spent on childcare was by female candidates, women only made up 29% of U.S. House candidates and 24% of U.S. Senate candidates in 2022. Over 45% percent of those funds were spent by people of color in 2018 and 2020. A third of the candidates who report child care expenses were Republicans, growing from 10 percent in 2018 to 30 percent in 2020.

Georgia Democrat Senator Raphael Warnock, a divorced father of two, reported \$39,000 in child care expenses – who, on this issue, stated: “In too many instances, our system is set up in such a way that only wealthy people can serve in these offices . . . It certainly helps us to be able to have people serving in office who understand the expense, the challenges and the logistics around child care and a whole range of things that ordinary people have to do.”

Had it not been for this change in FEC rules, United States Rep. Ilhan Omar, one of the first Muslim women to serve in Congress, claims she would not have won her election. Even so, she still says she “went into so much debt running for office.”

The timing for this proposal is certainly ripe. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate effect on not just working mothers, but all parents and caregivers - making clear that child and dependent care is a basic economic issue. SB2300 would help get candidates - with real lived experience coping with these challenges - into decision-making roles; candidates who understand the need law and policy that will alleviate financial burdens felt by so many.

Child and dependent care expenses are putting the squeeze on Hawaii’s working families in an increasingly stratified economy. The more lawmakers we have who are caregivers, the better our laws will be at easing the burdens felt by all.

Sincerely,

Members of Hawaii State Democratic Women’s Caucus

**SB-2300**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 6:49:58 AM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Louisa Duggan	Vote Mama Foundation	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Louisa Duggan. I am originally from Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i; was raised on the Big Island; and still consider it my home. I am here today to speak on behalf of Vote Mama Foundation in strong support of Senate Bill 2300.

In 2018, Vote Mama Foundation Founder & CEO Liuba Grechen Shirley petitioned the Federal Election Commission (FEC), and became the first woman to receive federal approval to use her Campaign Funds for Childcare.

This groundbreaking decision was approved by a unanimous, bipartisan vote. Over fifty federal candidates have since used their campaign funds to pay for childcare — both moms and dads, Democrats and Republicans.

However, the ruling on Liuba's request does not apply to candidates running for state and local office.

Vote Mama Foundation is the only organization working with legislators across the country to introduce legislation to approve the use of Campaign Funds for Dependent Care by state and local candidates.

We know that the first step to empowering a diverse pipeline of working caregivers to run for office is for candidates to no longer have to consider the cost of dependent care in weighing their decision to run.

Our country needs middle and working class representation now more than ever. Campaign Funds for Dependent Care breaks down a critical economic barrier to working caregivers running for office.

14 states, including Hawaii, have introduced Campaign Funds for Childcare legislation just this legislative session.

15 states have passed similar laws allowing the use of Campaign Funds for Childcare - we hope Hawaii will become the 16th!

Vote Mama Foundation thanks Sen. Kim for her leadership on this legislation. We urge the Committee to support SB2300.

Thank you.

**SB-2300**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 8:01:00 AM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rosemarie Muller	AAUW Hilo	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly support this measure.

Thanks

Rosemarie Muller

AAUW Hawaii Public Policy





**Children's Action Network Speaks!**  
**Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children**

*Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.*

To: Representative McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Wildberger, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Government Reform

Re: **SB 2300- Relating to campaign finance**  
9:00 AM, March 16, 2022

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and committee members,

**On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2300, relating to campaign finance.**

In 2018, the Federal Elections Commission ruled that congressional candidates could use campaign funds to cover campaign-related child care expenses. Although this decision has since been upheld and a record number of federal candidates have used campaign funds to pay for child care, states still need to make their own determination. Over half the states have taken action and now allow the use of campaign funds to cover campaign-related child care expenses.<sup>1</sup> Passing SB 2300 would allow for all parents to have support for child care while campaigning but it would have an acute impact on women running for state office. Women still provide the majority of caregiving and running for office does not change this. In fact, since the start of the pandemic, many women have reported new caregiving responsibilities.<sup>2</sup> Senate bill 2300 will reduce barriers women running for office face. It is not a coincidence that there are fewer women with children elected to office in Hawai'i. The high out of pocket expense of child care should not be a deciding factor when thinking about running for office, but for many women it is. For reference, the state increased the Preschool Open Doors monthly subsidy rate to \$1,500 to attempt to cover the true cost of child care.<sup>3</sup>

Having a young family is a barrier to running for office in Hawai'i. For many working parents, most notably mothers, running a campaign without childcare is not feasible. **For these reasons, we respectfully request the committee support SB 2300.**

Thank you,  
Kathleen Algire  
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy

<sup>1</sup> Center for American Women and Politics, *Funds for child care expenses*, <https://cawp.rutgers.edu/election-watch/state-candidates-and-use-campaign-funds-childcare-expenses#Table>

<sup>2</sup> Ranji, U., Frederiksen, B., and Salganicoff, A., (2021) *Women, work, and family during COVID-19: Findings from the KFF women's health survey*, <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/issue-brief/women-work-and-family-during-covid-19-findings-from-the-kff-womens-health-survey/>

<sup>3</sup> Hawai'i State Department of Human Services, Preschool Open Doors and Child Care Connection subsidy rate chart, <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/POD-Child-Care-Rates-temporary-rates-for-July-2020-January-2022.pdf>



**Great Wāhine Run**  
GREATWAHINERUN.ORG

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Statement Before The  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM**

Thursday, March 15, 2022

9:00am

Via Videoconference

in consideration of

**SB 2300**

**RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE**

Aloha e Chair MCKELVEY, Vice Chair WILDBERGER and Members of the House  
Government Reform Committee,

My name is Jasmine Slovak and I represent the **Great Wāhine Run**. Our mission is to work toward gender equity, diversity and reflective representation in Hawai'i by breaking down the structural and cultural barriers that mothers and working families face while running for office.

**We are in support of SB 2300.** This measure would codify and ensure the rights of all future candidates in state elections to use campaign funds toward any "dependent care" costs incurred as a result of running for office.

As members of the house, you understand better than most that running for office is a full-time job without pay. If we consider the economic realities for the majority of working families, we realize that without codifying campaign funds for "dependent care" we're eliminating the viability of many qualified candidates, incumbents, and exemplary leaders in our community simply because they carry the duties that come with family. We believe this is too high of an opportunity cost for Hawai'i citizens to bear.

The cost for caretaking in Hawai'i is cost-prohibitive for candidates that provide for dependents. An estimated 33.5% of all households had at least one child living in it, and an estimated 32.5% of households had at least one person 65 or older living in it. (DBEDT, 2018) Across the state of Hawaii, the average adult day-care cost is \$1,625, assisted living is \$5,375, and at-home health aide is \$5,720 (Genworth's Cost of Care, 2021). Additionally, Hawai'i families pay an average of \$700 to nearly \$2,000 per month for child care (PBS, 2019). Imagine the unseen burden of multi-generational households.



Furthermore, this measure brings our state in alignment with the Federal Elections Commission's official stance that funds may be used for childcare when "those expenses are incurred as a direct result of campaign or officeholder activity" (Federal Elections Commission, 2019). 15 states have already passed similar legislation, and 12 more have bills under consideration (Vote Mama, 2021).

We are advocating for an election process that acknowledges the economic realities in Hawai'i and how this may be preventing critical future leaders from pursuing a career in the public sector. We would like to see our state's unique "family values" recognized in our elections process. We humbly ask for your support for SB 2300.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration,

Jasmine Slovak  
Founder, Policy Lead  
**Great Wāhine Run**

**SB-2300**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 12:28:47 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Committee on Government Reform,

I support SB2300. Please pass SB2300 in order to increase the number of women running for office by permitting candidates to use campaign funds to cover childcare and eldercare.

Half of our population in Hawaii is female. It is important that our government leadership reflects this gender breakdown in our state.

Women who are interested in running for office should not be punished for being mothers without family and friends who are unable to provide free childcare. It would be impossible for a working mother to organize and run a campaign without childcare assistance. Working mothers understand what our communities and families need from our government.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2300. I appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Caroline Kunitake

**SB-2300**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 1:48:49 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Azuma Chrupaluk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please define those conditions well.

**SB-2300**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 2:12:42 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support!

Here's an example of the benefits for "everyone" possible when women are more fully represented.

"This is what a nation run by women looks like  
Opinion by Naomi Moriyama and William Doyle"

Updated 2:36 PM ET, Tue March 8, 2022

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/08/opinions/international-womens-day-finland-sanna-marin-moriyama-doyle/index.html>

Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-2300**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 4:22:50 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit a testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2300 which would allow candidates seeking election to use campaign funds for child care and vital household dependent care costs under certain conditions. Without codifying use of campaign funds for dependent care, we are eliminating the viability of many leaders with children or kupuna to care for from running for office. The economic realities for the majority of working families would prevent them from running for office.

**SB-2300**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 4:23:02 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tamara Swift	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.



**SB-2300**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 4:36:19 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nikki-Ann Yee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2300 relating to campaign finance that allows candidates seeking office to use campaign funds to offset the cost of childcare and vital household dependent care costs. We need proportional representation from working-class, caretakers in our government leadership if legislators and advocates are to successfully prioritize and pass policies that protect and secure rights of our working-class population. This measure promotes more equal access in the running for office and removes barriers to political office.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

**SB-2300**

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 9:03:26 AM

Testimony for GVR on 3/16/2022 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Becky Gardner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: