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STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 15, 2022

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

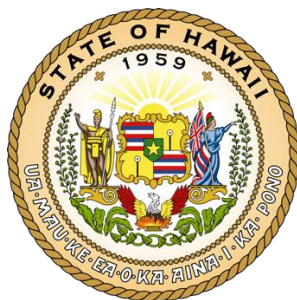
FROM: Kristin Izumi-Nitao, Executive Director
Campaign Spending Commission KEI

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

Thursday, February 17, 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 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

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, 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
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Thursday, February 17, 2022

9:30 AM

Via Videoconference

in consideration of

SB 2300**RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE.**

Chair RHOADS, Vice Chair KEOHOKALOLE, and Members of the Senate Judiciary 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.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii



To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hearing Date/Time: February 17, 2022 9:00 AM
Re: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2300

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokolole, 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 11 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: 2/16/2022 5:37:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/17/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sarah Hague	Testifying for Vote Mama Foundation	Support	Yes

Comments:

Good morning!

My name is Sarah Hague - I'm the Political Director of Vote Mama Foundation and here to speak on behalf of the organization 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.

15 states have now passed legislation allowing the use of Campaign Funds for Childcare - we hope Hawaii will become the 16th.

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

Thank you.



Great Wāhine Run
GREATWAHINERUN.ORG

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Statement Before The
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Thursday, February 17, 2022

9:30am

Via Videoconference

in consideration of

SB 2300

RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Aloha e Chair RHOADS, Vice Chair KEOHOKALOLE, and Members of the Senate Judiciary 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 senate, 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 \$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.

LATE



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 office holder 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: 2/13/2022 2:18:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/17/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brett Kulbis	Testifying for Honolulu County Republican Party	Oppose	No

Comments:

Honolulu County Republican Party OPPOSES this bill.

If a candidate cannot not figure this out without unethically using campaign funds then they should have thought twice about running. What's next, allowing candidates to claim their home electrical bills. Please ask the CSC if this is an issue, how many candidates have been fined for illegally claiming this expenditure on the reports.

With the current corruption case involving former Senator English, is your self-awareness so blind that you would even consider hearing this bill in committee at this time.



Monday, February 14, 2022

Relating to Campaign Finance
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports SB2300 Relating to Campaign Finance**. This measure would allow candidates seeking office to use campaigns funds to offset the cost of childcare and vital household dependent care costs under certain conditions.

This measure is essential to make sure that we are creating a system that encourages and empowers all candidates to run. Historically women have been the primary caretakers in families. If we hope to have more gender representation, we need to allow candidates to use campaign funds for necessary childcare. No one interested in public office should be impeded from running or serving because of the costs of childcare.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to **vote in favor of SB2300**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Gary Hooser
Executive Director
Pono Hawai'i Initiative



empowering women since 1881

of Hawaii

To: JDC Committee
Hearing: 2/17/22.. 9:30am
State Capital
Re: Strong Support for Bill SB 2300
Aloha

Members of AAUW of Hawaii thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2300.

1. Running for office is a full time job without pay.
2. The cost of dependent care in Hawaii is high, and at a time cost prohibitive for candidates that carry caretaker responsibilities.
3. The Federal Election Commission has already ruled in favor of campaign funds for childcare costs.
4. The public should not be deprived of necessary leadership and mothers and families should not be punished.

The AAUW of Hawaii is an all volunteer, statewide chapter of a national organization and is made up of 6 branches (Hilo, Honolulu, Kauai, Kona, Maui and Windward Oahu). Our mission is to advance gender equality for equal opportunity in education, at workplace for economic security and in leadership.

Thank you
Rosemarie Muller - AAUW of Hawaii Public Policy



Hawaii
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: Senator Rhoads, Chair
Senator Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: **SB 2300- Relating to campaign finance**
9:30 AM, February 17, 2022

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, 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.¹ 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.² 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.³

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

¹ 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>

² 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/>

³ 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>

SB-2300

Submitted on: 2/12/2022 6:22:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/17/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha JDC Chair and Committee,

Several states have granted candidates to use political funds for child care and care for one's dependents. More states should follow this because more women could run for political office. This is a very good thing because it broadens our political representatives (instead of having privileged old white men).

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 is 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).

Mahalo,

tlaloc tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

SB-2300

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 12:27:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/17/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michele Mitsumori	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Ensuring a broad and more accurate representation by those in political office is essential to good governance that benefits the interests of all and not simply the powerful few. While we celebrate our children and seniors, the expenses of parenthood and care for one's dependents often pose a barrier to political office.

One solution to this unnecessary obstacle is to allow candidates to use campaign funds to defray the costs of a candidates' care for children of dependent family members. A growing number of candidates and good governance organizations are pushing state legislatures and elections commissions to adopt such a proposal, which effectively encourages more women and low-income candidates to run for office.

Using campaign funds for childcare has ample precedent. It was adopted by New York and Utah in 2019, and has been administratively allowed in Connecticut, Kansas and Texas. Further, regulations that expressly allow campaign funds to be spent on both childcare and dependent care will help keep campaign finance models modernized and reflect the evolving and diverse models of 'ohana here in the 21st Century. This bill is much needed.

SB-2300

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 8:22:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/17/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

No Money for Home Use!!

SB-2300

Submitted on: 2/13/2022 9:38:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/17/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Donna Ambrose	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Several states already allow candidates to spend campaign funds on child and dependent care. Women in particular face obstacles to running for office when raising children or taking care of aging parents. Passing this bill will help more women and low-income candidates seek public office. Mahalo.

SB-2300

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 6:45:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/17/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
David Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

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 is also administratively allowed in Connecticut, Kansas, and Texas.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill.

SB-2300

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 12:42:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/17/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This would encourage more women and low-income candidates to run for office by clearing a restrictive financial barrier to offices for parents and caregivers. A more diverse selection of candidates would be more representative.

SB-2300

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 5:03:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/17/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ashley Galacgac	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass SB2300. Historically, women carry many responsibilities in caring for their keiki and elders. By addressing this barrier, we may have the best candidates who intimately understand the needs of our communities. We urge you to support the equitable opportunity for women to serve in office by permitting candidates to use campaign funds to cover childcare and eldercare. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-2300

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 6:11:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/17/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	No

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: 2/14/2022 8:57:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/17/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
John Bickel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have known a number of female candidates who struggled to pay for childcare so they could campaign. This bill would make it more fair.

LATE

SB-2300

Submitted on: 2/16/2022 10:59:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/17/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Charles Jonsson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I would like to voice my strong support for SB2300. Access to elected office should never be conditioned upon a person's level of wealth or income. In the past, the United States limited voting rights and the right to stand for election to people who held a minimum level of income and/or property, and although we have officially abolished those requirements, the unfortunate reality is that holding office is de facto limited to those with the financial means to pursue those positions.

Running for office takes a lot of time and a lot of effort, which means that candidates must take at least some time off from their day-job in order to run an effective campaign. For working people who cannot afford to take time off from work because they have young children or because they are in charge of caring for an elderly relative, this means that they are effectively barred from participating fully with our democracy. SB2300 would help alleviate this somewhat by allowing candidates with limited finances to use campaign funds to provide for their dependents while the campaign is ongoing. In my view, this is a perfectly reasonable use of campaign money.

Public office should be open to every eligible person. If you agree with that sentiment, then you must vote to advance SB2300.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony,

Charles Jonsson

Chinatown

LATE

SB-2300

Submitted on: 2/16/2022 11:10:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/17/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nadia Alves	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I'm writing you today to express my support for SB2300. I think that it's important that our government is reflective of the people that it represents. We need more working-class people in office, we need more women in office, and we need more mothers in office. I believe that SB2300 would make it easier for candidates like that to take the plunge and run for office.

I respectfully ask you to support this bill.

Mahalo for your attention in this matter,

Nadia Alves

Chinatown