

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 312, SD1
PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE HAWAII CONSTITUTION REGARDING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

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

Common Cause Hawaii provides comments supporting the intent of SB 312, SD1, which proposes a constitutional amendment to provide that freedom of speech does not include the expenditure of money to influence elections.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening our representative democracy -- one that works for everyone equally and not just the wealthy special few.

The 2010 *Citizens United* decision allowed corporations and special interest groups to spend unlimited amounts to influence elections, giving them an unprecedented and dangerous amount of influence over decisions that should be left to individual voters.

To counter this harmful imbalance in our political system, Common Cause supports sensible limits on political spending, via a U.S. constitutional amendment to permit the federal government and states to enact, and robust public financing of elections.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments supporting the intent of SB 312, SD1. If you have questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii