

Statement Before The
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

9:30 AM

Via Videoconference

in consideration of

SB 312**PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE HAWAII CONSTITUTION REGARDING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH.**

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

Common Cause Hawaii provides comments supporting the intent on SB 312, 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. If you have questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

SB-312

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 10:38:15 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/1/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Scott Smart	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am OPPOSED to SB312 SD1. The Hawaii State Constitution is not the place for "symbolic amendments" expressing disagreement with US Supreme Court decisions.