

**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

February 18, 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 KE

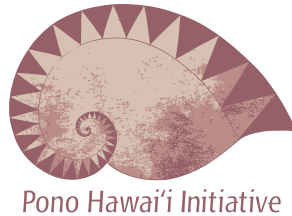
SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 555, Relating to Campaign Fundraising  
(Proposed S.D. 1)**

Tuesday, February 22, 2022  
09:30 a.m., Via Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission ("Commission") supports this bill.

This measure amends Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") §11-342 by adding a new subsection that prohibits legislators or persons acting on their behalf to hold a fundraiser during any regular or special legislative session. This amendment will prevent corruption or the appearance of corruption. The Commission recommends that this Committee consider amending the bill to apply to all elected office holders.

The Commission urges this Committee to pass this measure.



Tuesday, February 22, 2022

Relating to Campaign Fundraising  
Testifying in Strong Support with Amendments

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) is testifying in **strong support with suggested amendments to SB555 Proposed SD1.**

Please consider strengthening and amending the Proposed SD1 similar to the Virginia state law which prohibits not just the holding of fundraisers but bans the “solicitation or acceptance” of campaign contributions during the session.

(c) During any regular session or special session including any extension of any regular session or special session and any recess days, holidays, and weekends, no legislator, or a person employed by or acting on behalf of a legislator, **shall solicit or accept any campaign contribution.**

Currently, 28 states place restrictions on giving and receiving campaign contributions during the legislative session.

**Va. Code § 24.2-940.** No member of the General Assembly or statewide official shall solicit or accept a contribution from any person or political committee on and after the first day of a regular session of the General Assembly through adjournment sine die of that session.

<https://www.ilga.gov/joint/Documents/Articles%20from%20the%20National%20Conference%20of%20State%20Legislatures%20-%20States%20that%20Prohibit%20Campaign%20Contributions%20During%20Legislative%20Sessions.pdf>

Thank you again for moving this important legislation forward and I respectfully request your positive consideration of the above amendment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Gary Hooser  
Executive Director  
Pono Hawai'i Initiative

Statement Before The  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

9:30 AM

Via Videoconference

in consideration of  
**SB 555, PROPOSED SD1**  
**RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING.**

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

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 555, proposed SD1, which prohibits legislators and employees and persons acting on behalf of legislators from holding any fundraiser during a regular legislative session or special session.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening our representative democracy through improving governmental ethics, transparency, and accountability.

Banning fundraising during session is one small necessary measure to restoring trust (or establishing) trust in the State legislative process. Common Cause Hawaii also suggests prohibiting legislators, during session, regular or special, from receiving contributions or depositing or using any contribution of money that was not deposited prior to the legislative session. This committee should also consider applying the prohibition to every statewide elected position.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 555, proposed SD1. Many more measures are needed in addition to SB 555, proposed SD1 to restore the public trust, such as public funding of elections. 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

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 12:20:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Russell Ruderman	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Senators,

i support SB 555 and I thank Senator Ihara for introducing it. It's seems familiar, as if I've seen it before! Maybe its time has come.

The legislature has lost the public's trust as never before. This small step of banning fundraising during session is the least that can be done to begin to restore it.

Quite literally, the least that can be done.

This is not all that's needed but it's a step in the right direction.

I plan to testify by Zoom at the hearing.  
Mahalo

Russell E. Ruderman

Chair Karl Rhoads  
Vice-Chair Jarret Keohokalole  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Tuesday, February 22, 2022  
9:30 a.m.  
Testify in Person Via Videoconferencing



RE: **SB555** Relating to Campaign Fundraising - **URGE TO STRENGTHEN**

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keohokalole & Committee Members,

90% of readers who responded to the Honolulu Star-Advertiser’s online poll regarding the recent “pay-to-play” corruption scandal in the Legislature felt it was the “Tip of the iceberg; not as rare as we hope.” The Star-Advertiser’s editorial board suggested “banning political fundraisers, and the inevitable influence-peddling during legislative sessions.”

SB555 attempts to do just that; however, the Hawaii Legislative Council of the Chamber of Sustainable Commerce urges this Committee to tighten the language of the bill and strengthen its impact. The current proposed draft of SB555 merely goes through the motions of reform, while leaving the door wide open for “pay-to-play” corruption and influence-peddling to continue.

Limiting the prohibited activity to “fundraising” is not enough; we urge you to also prohibit legislators from “soliciting campaign contributions” and, most importantly, “accepting any contributions during legislative session.”

If you enact SB555 in its current proposed form, one of your more wily colleagues could send out letters and email blasts at critical points during the legislative session to alert their supporters that while legislators are not permitted to hold “fundraisers”, invested parties are welcome to hand-deliver or mail-in a check — or simply click that embedded “donate” button.

Other states have already figured out that hallow reforms offer hallow returns. According to a recent white-paper produced by the National Conference of State Legislatures, there are many states that impose a “prohibition/restriction on *any* contributions during session”.

Here are a few of those states listed in that NCSL white-paper:

Georgia: Ga. Code § 21-5-35. No member of the General Assembly, public officer elected statewide, or campaign committee of either shall **accept** a contribution during a legislative session.

<b>Hawaii Legislative Council</b>	Kim Coco Iwamoto AQuA Rentals, LLC Honolulu	Elle Cochran Maui Surfboards Maui	Russel Rudderman Island Naturals Hilo / Kona	Joell Edwards Wainiha Country Market Kauai	Maile Meyer Na Mea Hawaii Honolulu
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Nevada: Nev. Rev. Stat. §§ 294A.300, 294.310. It is unlawful for a member of the legislature, the lieutenant governor or the governor to **solicit or accept** any monetary contributions for any political purpose during the period beginning 30 days before a regular session of the legislature and ending 30 days after the final adjournment of a regular session.

Tennessee: Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-10-310. A member of the General Assembly may not **solicit or accept** contributions from the convening of the General Assembly's regular annual session to the earlier of May 15 or the conclusion of the annual session. Tenn. Code Ann. § 3-6-108(i).

Texas: V.T.C.A., Election Code § 253.034, Texas Ethics Commission Rule § 22.11. During a period beginning on the 30th day before the date a regular session convenes and continuing through sine die adjournment, neither a person nor a PAC may make a political contribution to a statewide officeholder or a member of the legislature, and such persons shall **not accept** a political contribution during this period.

Utah: Utah Code §36-11-305. It is unlawful for **any person**, lobbyist, principal or political committee to **make contributions** to members of the legislature or the governor or to a campaign committee of such a person during a legislative session.

Virginia: Va. Code § 24.2-940. No member of the General Assembly or statewide official shall **solicit or accept** a contribution from any person or political committee on and after the first day of a regular session of the General Assembly through adjournment sine die of that session.

Washington: RCW § 42.17.710. Contributions may **not be solicited or accepted** by statewide elected officials or state legislators during the period from 30 days before until 30 days after the regular session of the Legislature. Contributions are prohibited during any special legislative session.

SB555 appears to be the legislature's first direct anti-corruption reform bill in this new age of enlightenment. Let it demonstrate the commitment and rigor of those moral legislators who will stand with voters and businesses focused on closing corruption-friendly loopholes that have widened over time. **Please strengthen the language of SB555 to prohibit fundraising, soliciting and accepting campaign contributions by legislators, or their representatives, during legislative session.**

**C H A M B E R                      O F                      S U S T A I N A B L E                      C O M M E R C E**

<b>Hawaii</b>	Kim Coco Iwamoto	Elle Cochran	Russel Rudderman	Joell Edwards	Maile Meyer
<b>Legislative</b>	AQuA Rentals, LLC	Maui Surfboards	Island Naturals	Wainiha Country Market	Na Mea Hawaii
<b>Council</b>	Honolulu	Maui	Hilo / Kona	Kauai	Honolulu

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / [kat.caphi@gmail.com](mailto:kat.caphi@gmail.com)



## COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

9:30 AM

## **SB 555 SD1 - STRONG SUPPORT BANNING FUNDRAISERS BY LEGISLATORS DURING SESSION(S)**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the more than 4,052 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that 1,111 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad -- thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons is in strong support of the proposed SD1 of SB 555 and we mahalo the committee for hearing this important measure. The proposed draft of this bill bans fundraisers during sessions. We very much appreciate the clarity of the language.

(c) During any regular session or special session including any extension of any regular session or proposed session and any recess days, holidays, and weekends, no legislator, or a person employed by or acting on behalf of a legislator, shall hold a fundraiser.

Twenty-eight states place restrictions on giving and receiving campaign contributions during the legislative session<sup>1</sup>. In some states, the ban applies only to contributions by lobbyists, principals and/or political committees; while other states have a general ban on contributions.

We urge the committee to pass SB 555 SD1 to demonstrate to the community that the legislature hears our pleas for ethical change. Banning fundraisers during sessions is a good first step.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

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<sup>1</sup> States that Prohibit Campaign Contributions During Legislative Sessions, National Conference of State Legislatures, April 2006.

<https://www.ilga.gov/joint/Documents/Articles%20from%20the%20National%20Conference%20of%20State%20Legislatures%20-%20States%20that%20Prohibit%20Campaign%20Contributions%20During%20Legislative%20Sessions.pdf>

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 11:51:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Scott Foster	Testifying for Hawaii Advocates For Consumer Rights	Support	No

Comments:

Strong support.



**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 11:53:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Neil Frazer	Testifying for Frazer-Frantz Family Hui	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Judiciary Committee Members,

This is to express my family's (four adults) strong support for SB555.

We also agree strongly with Gary Hooser's suggestion that the bill be amended to ban the solicitation or acceptance of campaign contributions at any time during the session.

Mahalo for your unselfish service to the people of Hawaii.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 12:45:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Marilyn Yamamoto	Testifying for Hawaii Family Advocacy Team	Support	No

Comments:

Senator Rhoads,

How disappointing that there is a need for this bill. **STRONGLY SUPPORT.**

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 1:30:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Melinda Carroll	Testifying for When We Shine Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

This past week, [Two legislators have pled guilty and admitted to taking bribes](#) here in Hawai‘i. As the investigation unfolds in the weeks and months ahead, others will no doubt follow.

**28 states (but not Hawai‘i) presently ban legislators from campaign fundraising during the legislative session.**

In Hawai‘i it’s perfectly legal for a legislator, perhaps the Chair of a Committee that’s preparing to decide whether to pass or kill a bill, to solicit campaign contributions from the industry or group who might be impacted by that very same bill.

In addition, please consider amending the bill to not just ban fundraisers held during the session, but **ban the solicitation or acceptance of campaign contributions during the session.**

**Mahalo for your consideration,**

**Melinda caroll**



Committee on Judiciary  
Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole

Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 9:30 am, Videoconference  
SB555, proposed SD1 — RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCING

TESTIMONY

Beppie Shapiro, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports the proposed SB555 SD1, which prohibits fundraising by legislators or persons working for the legislator or on their behalf, during legislative sessions.**

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should combat corruption and undue influence in government. The League believes that political corruption includes among others, the following: 1) A candidate or officeholder agrees to vote or work in favor of a donor's interests in exchange for a campaign contribution; 2) an officeholder or staff gives greater access to donors.

Fundraisers during legislative sessions appear to create opportunities for 1) above, since the legislative agenda is open to action by legislators, whether to introduce or put desired wording into legislation, schedule specific bills for hearings (or not), and of course vote on specific bills which are in the interest of contributors. Further, fundraisers by their nature violate 2) above, since they provide opportunities for direct interaction between contributors and legislators which are not available to the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

League of Women Voters of Hawaii  
P.O. Box 235026 ♦ Honolulu, HI 96823  
Voicemail 808.377.6727 ♦ [my.lww.org/hawaii](http://my.lww.org/hawaii) ♦ [voters@lwwhi.org](mailto:voters@lwwhi.org)

League of Women Voters of Hawaii  
P.O. Box 235026 ♦ Honolulu, HI 96823  
Voicemail 808.377.6727 ♦ [my.lwv.org/hawaii](http://my.lwv.org/hawaii) ♦ voters@lwvhi.org

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 6:40:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
John & Rita Shockley	Testifying for FREE ACCESS COALITION	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

With the heavy cloud of suspicion regarding public servants it is imperative that our law-makers regain the trust of the public they represent. This Bill will be a large step in that direction. We note there is not companion bill in the House of Reps. That is distressing. If lawmakers cannot police themselves, we will once again rely on the Federal Government to step in to stem blatant corruption.

We urge this body to support SB555 and make it law. The voting public is watching. Don't disappoint them!

Mahalo for your time.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 8:14:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Joseph Kohn MD	Testifying for We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly Support SB555

We Must End Corruption Everywhere.

[www.WeAreOne.cc](http://www.WeAreOne.cc)

**LATE**



**Senate Committee on Judiciary**

Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022, 9:30a.m.

**Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action Supports: SB555**

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) I am submitting testimony in support of SB555.

SB555 requires a notice of intent for all campaign fundraisers held by incumbent legislators or candidates for legislative office during a regular or special session of the legislature regardless of price or suggested contribution amount.

HAPA supports this measure and all attempts to make our government more accountable, transparent, open and representative of the people.

We are well aware of, and concerned about, the growing apathy and lack of participation in government process due to lack of faith and trust in government functioning and process not being for special interests. Banning fundraising during session is one small necessary measure to start to restore trust in the State legislative process.

Fundraising during the legislative session gives the appearance of quid pro quo and this must end. Hawai'i would not be the first US state by any measure to do this. There are at least 28 states that prohibit fundraising during legislative sessions.<sup>1</sup>

Please pass SB555 and help take measures to restore faith in our democracy.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick'.

Anne Frederick  
Executive Director

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.ilga.gov/joint/Documents/Articles%20from%20the%20National%20Conference%20of%20State%20Legislatures%20-%20States%20that%20Prohibit%20Campaign%20Contributions%20During%20Legislative%20Sessions.pdf>



**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 7:32:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lila Mower	Testifying for Kokua Council	Support	No

Comments:

I am Lila Mower, president of Kokua Council, one of Hawaii's oldest advocacy groups. Kokua Council is concerned about policies and practices which can impact the well-being of seniors and our community.

Kokua Council supports this measure.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/17/2022 5:07:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I strongly support the passage of SB 555, SD 1 this legislative session. This is a step in the right direction - one of many steps to demonstrate the legislature is serious in gaining back the public's trust.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 555, SD 1.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 11:37:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lorna Holmes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write in strong support of SB555, a very good first step in combating corruption in the legislature. Please pass and implement this measure quickly.

Mahalo for your attention,

Lorna Holmes Honolulu 96817

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 11:38:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Katie Benioni	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 11:41:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Tony Radmilovich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support!

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 11:42:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Catherine H Sophian	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill and recommend amending it to make it more comprehensive. It should **ban the solicitation or acceptance of ANY campaign contributions during the session**, not just the holding of fundraisers. Corruption in this state has gone on far too long and become far too deeply enmeshed in our governments' operations. It is not only damaging people's faith in government but undermining our ability to respond effectively to the very serious problems we face as a state. The time for corrective action is NOW. Thank you.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 11:44:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Haydn Huntley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please ban the solicitation or acceptance of campaign contributions during the legislative session.

To do anything else is too close to legalizing bribes.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 11:45:13 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Forest Frizzell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I stand in strong support of this amendment. In addition, please consider amending the bill to not just ban fundraisers held during the session, but ban the solicitation or acceptance of campaign contributions during the session.



**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 11:46:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Laura Gerwitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I want to express my strong support of SB555.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 11:47:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Clair Mason	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

My name is Clair Mason and I am testifying in strong support of SB555. I urge you to pass this piece of legislation, especially given the recent corruption within the capitol walls. This is one small way to gain the public trust back. Please pass SB555.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Clair Mason

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 11:51:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB 555. Would you please **amend the bill to not just ban fundraisers held during the session, but ban the solicitation or acceptance of campaign contributions during the session.**

Democracy depends on the integrity of our Leaders.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 11:53:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kathleen Douglas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support passage of SB 555 to ban fundraisers during the legislative session and I would suggest further amendment to ban the solicitation or acceptance of campaign contributions during the legislative session.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 11:57:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Shanna Dean	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

I strongly support SB222 to ban fundraisers held during the session, and also recommend **banning the solicitation or acceptance of campaign contributions during the session.**

**Shanna Dean DVM**

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 11:59:38 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

This critical action must be taken now. It is way overdue as only highlighted by the recent guilty pleas of two key politicians. The average citizen can be pushed out of the legislative system by those with special interests and deep pockets. Please take this very positive response to help level the playing field in our legislative process. Thank you

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 12:11:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
David Dinner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Why is this even an issue. No state in its right mind would allow contributions during sessions. Come to think of it, we shouldn't even have contributions at all...but at least this.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 12:15:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Linda Rich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying in support of this bill .The recent disclosure of corruption within the Legislature shows the importance of protecting the integrity of the legislative process.

**28 states (but not Hawai'i) presently ban legislators from campaign fundraising during the legislative session.**

In Hawai'i it's perfectly legal for a legislator, perhaps the Chair of a Committee that's preparing to decide whether to pass or kill a bill, to solicit campaign contributions from the industry or group who might be impacted by that very same bill.

Please pass this bill and help insure a more just and equitable legislative process.

Mahalo

Linda Rich



**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 12:21:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Dennis O'Shea	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB555.

Bribery disguised as "campaign contributions" is still bribery and costs us all more than money.

It costs us our democracy.

It's time for Hawaii to address this issue.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 12:22:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

No fund raising while Legislature is in session.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 12:35:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Bob Grossmann	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support the proposed measure to ban fundraisers and, furthermore, **ban all forms of solicitation of campaign contributions during a legislative session.**

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 12:36:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Dave Kisor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Campaign fund raising can be a major bone of contention. This should have happened years ago.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 12:37:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
TOM DIGRAZIA	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Very strong support!

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 12:37:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB555, but ask the committee to amend the bill to not just ban fundraisers held during the session, but also to ban the solicitation or acceptance of campaign contributions **during the session**. Doing that is too close to bribery.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 12:44:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Julie Yuen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee on the Judiciary:

I strongly support SB555, and support amending the bill to also ban solicitation or acceptance of campaign contributions during the legislative session. These would be rules that would apply to everyone and would contribute to an atmosphere of fairness and reduce influence of special interest money on legislation. It is past time for legislation of this kind.

Sincerely,

Julie Yuen

1008 Kahoia St

Hilo HI 96720

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 12:56:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Erick Peter Ehrhorn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As you probably know two legislatures have pleaded guilty to taking bribes. While defining what is a bribe may not be the easiest thing to define, the fact is our politicians are for sale. Want to influence legislation, attend a fundraiser and leave off an envelope of love. Such fundraisers are most effective during the legislative session which is why they should be prohibited. Actually they should all be prohibited and replaced by public financing. But this bill only covers fundraisers during the legislative session. It is a start but oh so much more needs to be done to eliminate corruption..

Please support SB555 and in the future work to eliminate all fundraising and get public financing of elections passed. We will always have corruption when politicians have to solicit big bucks to get elected.

Aloha,

Peter Ehrhorn

254 Kahaa St .

Kailua, Hi 96734



**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 12:57:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Larry Alfrey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair of the Judiciary Committee has scheduled [SB555](#) introduced by Senator Les Ihara, banning campaign fundraisers during the legislative session.

**I strongly STRONG SUPPORT this bill. Hawaii must stop it's corrupted system.**

In addition, I would ask you to consider amending the bill to not just ban fundraisers held during the session, but **ban the solicitation or acceptance of campaign contributions during the session.**

Sincerely,

Larry Alfrey

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 12:58:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
denise woods	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY support SB555. Hawaii has been an embarrassment when it comes to political corruption and measures must be taken to address this.

It is deplorable that in Hawai'i it's perfectly legal for a legislator, perhaps the Chair of a Committee that's preparing to decide whether to pass or kill a bill, to solicit campaign contributions from the industry or group who might be impacted by that very same bill. This is corruption. This must be stopped.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 1:01:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Thayne Taylor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

In Hawai‘i it’s perfectly legal for a legislator, perhaps the Chair of a Committee that’s preparing to decide whether to pass or kill a bill, to solicit campaign contributions from the industry or group who might be impacted by that very same bill. This, by clear common sense is wrong. This is why I strongly encourage all legislators to support and pass SB555 and pave the way to end political corruption in Hawaii.

Thank you for your time,

Thayne Taylor

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 1:05:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Judith Perino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB555 and would encourage that no fund raising at all be allowed during the legislative session to remove all possibilities of undue influence by any or all contributors.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 1:10:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mary True	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB555. Corruption is obviously alive and well in Hawaii and your constituents need some protection from "the best government money can buy" or, at least, to shine a more focused light on it.

Mahalo, Mary True, Pepekeo

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Members of Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Hearing on SB 555, Proposed SD1, Relating to Campaign Fundraising

On Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 9:30 am, by teleconference

Testimony of Josephine Chang in Strong Support of SB 555, Proposed Draft SD1,  
with further suggestions

Thank you, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Judiciary for this opportunity to testify on SB 555, Proposed Draft SD1, that would help to lessen the opportunities for corruption at the legislature by prohibiting fundraisers during legislative sessions. I am deeply concerned, even outraged, about the recent public revelations of outright, blatant corruption by trusted legislators and am glad that this fundraising amendment has been immediately proposed. I would like to request also that this bill also prohibit the solicitation, discussion, or acceptance of campaign contributions during legislative sessions. I ask that you all vote to adopt SB 555, Proposed Draft SD1, and also the suggestion here to strengthen it. This bill does not solve the problem of corruption in our legislative process – more action is needed - but it is a significant step to address this problem.

Aloha and Mahalo,

Josephine Chang

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 1:20:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lanning Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In addition to strong support of this bill, In addition, please amend the bill to not just ban fundraisers held during the session, but ban the solicitation or acceptance of campaign contributions during the session.

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I support the intent of SB555, but think it should go beyond banning fund raisers during any legislative session. The bill should add language that bans the solicitation or acceptance of **ANY** campaign contributions during the session. This should have already been state law even before the recent events involving bribery of elected officials!

Please do the right thing and add this language to the bill!

Mahalo & Aloha\_\_\_William R. Higa from Hilo



**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 3:11:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Midori Marcia Sue Trent	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe strongly in the first line written in the bill indicating possible diminished trust in lawmakers who engage in any reference to contributions to legislators during the legislative session, even in smallest amounts. Trust in our legislators is paramount to a solid democratic society.

Thank you for your consideration

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 3:53:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senator Karl Rhoads and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPRT** of SB555.

This is an issue that needs immediate attention in order for the people of Hawaii to retain faith and confidence in their elected representatives.

In addition, please consider amending the bill to not just ban fundraisers held during the session, but **ban the solicitation or acceptance of campaign contributions during the session.**

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Aloha,

Susan Stayton

Lawai, Kauai, HI

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 4:23:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Stromg support!

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 5:15:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Erik Horsley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 4:44:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Roger Walraven	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I stand to support SB555, to reduce the unacceptable level of corruption that results from our current campaign funding habits. For far too long, the practice of "you scratch my back and I will scratch yours" has reigned unfairly, causing the will of the people to go unheard and ignored. Big business or Private business should have no part in the influencing of honest and forthright governance. Pass SB 555 and take a small, but important step in the right direction, to regain the confidence and trust of the People of Hawaii.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 5:38:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mahealani Aki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Dear Mr. Chairman,**

**My name is Mahealani Aki, and I am a student attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa. In my Honors leadership course, we discussed the issue of corruption in our local government. In light of current events, the need for action against receiving large payouts during legislative sessions is urgent. We need a solution that holds people in leadership positions accountable for dishonest behaviors and fraudulent acts. I believe that banning campaign fundraisers during the legislative session will help combat corruption and hold accountable those we entrust to lead us. As a student, I am concerned that bribery in our justice system will create unstable living and working environments in the future. Therefore, I urge the committee to support SB 555 and take action against the pressing issue of corruption in our local government.**

**Thank you for hearing my concerns,**

**Mahealani**

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 5:59:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mary K Ochs	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support!

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 6:08:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Valerie Barnes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This measure is absolutely necessary to stop the type of corruption we've so recently seen. In fact, no Reps or Sens should accept any campaign contributions during the Legislative session. Please amend this measure before passing it.

Mahalo.



**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 7:18:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Chris Mentzel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong support for this bill!

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 6:01:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Stephenie Blakemore	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass the bill and keep government i n Hawaii honest.Equity of voice should not be overwhelmed by greed and wealth.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 2:57:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Amita Schmidt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of SB555. Pplease consider suggesting the committee amend the bill to not just ban fundraisers held during the session, but **also ban the solicitation or acceptance** of campaign contributions during the session. Mahalo

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 6:27:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I also suggest banning solicitation or acceptance of campaign contributions during the session.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 6:32:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Susan Gailey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this Bill. Bribery is NOT the way to run our government!

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 7:39:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I do not support the bill in its current form. I am in strong support of SB555 proposed draft. I believe the bill should call for banning fundraising, solicitation or acceptance of campaign contributions during the legislative session. Passage of such a bill would go a long way to assuring integrity in the legislative process.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 8:28:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mark A. Koppel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Legislators

My name is Mark Koppel, POBox 283, Hakalau

I am writing in strong support of SB555.

It is outrageous that legislators can raise money while you are in session. It looks really bad, and is an open invitation to corruption, as we recently saw.

This is a no-brainer. Let's vote against corruption.

Mahalo

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 9:41:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Pamela Waiolena	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**I fully support SB555SD1, the proposed bill within SB555. Our governments, national, state and local have become so corrupted by monetary contributions by lobbyists and organized groups that we cannot trust our legislators to represent US, THE PEOPLE vs representing those who are crossing their palms with money or making hefty contributions to their campaigns or giving other substantial "perks" to the legislator.**

**This USED TO BE a government OF, BY and FOR THE PEOPLE, but it has become of, by and for the rich, a sad truth that creates an atmosphere so full of distrust that most people don't even bother to vote anymore OUT OF PURE DISGUST for the money that exchanges hands that we do not see and have no way of knowing.**

**SB555 SD1 proposes an END to campaign donations and contributions while the legislator is in session and I heartily support this measure as a means to help stop "behind the door" contributions made to ensure a vote is cast in favor of the donor. It is time ....actually way past time for this practice to end.**

**PLEASE SUPPORT and PASS SB555 SD1 this coming week when the vote is taken. Also remember that we can see and many of us do check to see how votes are cast allowing us to choose more wisely when legislators come up for re-election or others come up to be elected. This bill SB555 SD1 addresses this problem and allows a turn around of this atrocious energy that has been going on far too long.**

**Mahalo nui loa for your vote to support the passage of this bill SB555 SD1!**



**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 10:47:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly Suport!

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 6:18:13 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
David Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Banning fundraising during the legislative session is one small necessary measure to restoring trust (or establishing) trust in the State legislative process.

Fundraising during session gives the appearance of quid pro quo and this must end.

There are at least 28 states that prohibit fundraising during sessions.

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

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 11:31:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha JDC Chair and Committee,

Lets join the 28 other states that ban fundraising during the legislative session. These states don't want to look like they are bribing our state congress. Passing SB555 will ban fundraising in Hawaii during session, this will eliminate the apparent perception that our legislature is for sale. SB555 will bring integrity into our legislature.

Mahalo,

tlaloc tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 11:56:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Diann Karin Lynn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support my Senator's submitted legislation, including the ["Proposed Draft"](#) that changes the language making it much more robust. We need change NOW.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 12:15:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Eileen McKee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support the passage of the proposed draft for SB555, pertaining to fundraising during the legislative session.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Eileen McKee

Kihei

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 12:41:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Tom Tatum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB555 proposed draft.

I would also suggest the committee ban fundraisers held during the session as well as **ban the solicitation or acceptance of campaign contributions during the session.**

**Tom Tatum**

**Kailua Kona, HI**

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 1:28:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
David Lemon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm writing in strong support of SB555 and the proposed draft that improves it. Now is the time to remove any appearance of conflicting interests (much less corruption) in our government. SB555 is a clear and simple mechanism to accomplish this, and should not be difficult to observe. Please move it forward quickly.

Mahalo!

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 2:16:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly suggest the committee amend the bill to not just ban fundraisers held during the session, but **ban the solicitation or acceptance of campaign contributions during the session.**



**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 4:46:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Elizabeth Kent	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 555. I support the intent of this bill and think it will help to build trust and confidence in government.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 2:30:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Michal Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB555 because it will provide the public more information about campaign fundraisers during legislative sessions.

This bill does not go far enough, however, as I think all fundraisers should be prohibited during legislative sessions. Further, the solicitation and acceptance of campaign contributions should also be prohibited during legislative sessions. As recent news reports indicate, there is too much governmental corruption in the State. The bans I am recommending would reduce this problem.

Thank you.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 5:29:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
len pepper	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in sxtrong support of the proposed draft.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 7:41:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Barbara Polk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am in strong support of SB555 SB1, which would eliminate fund raising by legislators during the legislative session. This step would eliminate a practice which is widely viewed by the public as legalized corruption, and would help improve the image of the legislature. It would be more effective if it limited fundraisers for both legislators and candidates that are held outside their legislative districts, and I urge that amendment.

In any case, I urge you to pass SB555 SB1.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 5:59:21 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Bruce Corker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support SB555. Please put an end to "pay to play" legislative politics in this state. In addition to banning fundraisers during the legislative session, please also ban the solicitation and acceptance of campaign contributions during the session.

Respectively submitted,

Bruce Corker

Holualoa, Hawaii County

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 6:35:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Rexann Dubiel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Trust in governing officials is vital to democracy.

Honest representatives are critical to faith in government.

Please, pass this bill.

It's too easy to be swayed, just look at English and Cullen.

They are the tip of the iceberg.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 9:20:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
John Fitzpatrick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Senators,

After hearing the news that my former corrupt senator English took illegal bribes to introduce and kill bills I strongly support SB555. It closes the door for senators and representatives to pass bills in exchange for legal campaign contributions. Many states throughout the country already inacted measures similar to this.

Pass this bill and prevent legal bribery from happening at the legislature.

Mahalo,

Fitz

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 9:42:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Judith Flanders	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Judith Flanders and I am a resident of the Big island. I strongly support the SB555 proposed draft banning campaign fundraising during the Legislative session. Futhermore, I encourage the Committee to **ban the solicitation or acceptance of campaign contributions during the session.**

**SB555 is absolutely necessary to protect Democracy and strengthen the effort to clean up the political loopholes which contribute to and encourage corruption of fair representation.**

With respect,

**Judith**



**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 2:23:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
C. Kauai Lucas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, Senators Acasio, Favella, Gabbard, Kim, and Lee:**

**Congratulations to Sen. Gabbard and Sen. Ihara for introducing this important measure presciently last session. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of SB555.**

**Please amend the bill to ban not only fundraisers held during the session, but also ban the solicitation or acceptance of campaign contributions during the session outright.**

**Nationally 28 states (but not Hawai'i) presently ban legislators from campaign fundraising during legislative sessions.**

**Hawai'i's legislative session is only four months, this is not a great ask. It will free legislators to concentrate on lawmaking.**

**Demonstrating earnestly Hawaii's legislators are not pay-to-play is critical in this election year. SB555 will make a substantive difference.**

**As a 7 session staff veteran at the capitol, the last couple of weeks have been demoralizing. Tuesday, February 8th was the worst. I wanted to go home and take a shower after listening to the US Attorney describe the actions of Rep Cullen and Sen. English.**

**Forty-five members of the House of Representatives have recently introduced HR9 an ethics reform bill, which is getting a lot of media push. A Resolution is simply insufficient at this point.**

**Please pass SB555 with an amendment to ban the solicitation or acceptance of campaign contributions during the session.**

**me ka pono,**

**Kaui Lucas**

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:24:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ramona Hussey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senator Karl Rhoas and Committee Members,

I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB555 which would ban fundraisers during Legislative session. This measure is in bare minimum of what is needed to prevent corruption in our Legislature. In addition, I understand that a proposal has been made to also ban any solicitations or acceptance of contributions during Legislative Session. These measures would do a great deal to clean up the perception AND reality of our Legislatures being on the take. Voters deserve no less.

Thank you for your consideration of what the voters want and need.

Ramona Hussey

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 5:06:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Madolin Wells	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm writing to express my **STRONG SUPPORT** to ban political fundraising during the legislative session. The work of Hawai'i Senators is to serve the needs of their constituents. This work is impeded if they are busy fundraising simultaneously. But above all, there is too much money in politics. It has a corrosive effect on the body when those called to serve witness the unfair advantage of the well-connected. It compromises the ability of our leaders to maintain integrity in the face of such double standards. Bribery and subverting the will of the people is the result. I urge Senators to **PASS SB555**.

Mahalo,

Madolin Wells

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 6:49:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Louise Morris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. No way should legislators be able to accept contributions related to a bill in progress. Obviously unethical. Too bad we have to legistale it.....

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 8:21:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and members of the Committee,

My name is Carolyn Eaton and I strongly support this bill with its amendment, SD1. The people of Hawaii should no longer have their legislators distracted by fund raising during the annual convening of the brief, extremely busy sessions. Communication between constituents and law makers is extremely important. It must be conducted with transparency and in service of the common good. Mahalo for hearing and considering my point of view.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 9:31:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kathy Shimata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

I believe that fundraising has no legitimate purpose during the session. I would like to believe that you are focused on the peoples' business rather than raising money. Please consider pausing fundraising while you are in session.

Mahalo,

Kathy Shimata

Honolulu 96822

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 11:13:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Dale A. Head	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Sunday 20 February 2022 [sunnymakaha@yahoo.com]

***Aloha Senate Committee on Judiciary:***

I am offering ***Strong Support for SB555***

Campaign finance 'reform' is a term spoken for decades. This Bill is a moderate start, a small step. We should move in the direction of Public Funding instead of private and corporate donations for politicians, in my opinion. If that were to happen, a candidate could promise and campaign on a platform of not owing a 'favor' for viewed as being 'indebted' to donors and special interests. While that has happened in different loacations, rarely, don't know if it made a difference but is very appealing.

At my age, 73, having heard the term Campaign Reform so often over many years, well, don't expect it to happen. Even so, I favor this Bill as the 'Public Good' is not widely enough embraced.

Respectfully, ***Dale A. Head*** [\(808\) 836-1016](tel:8088361016) Home or [\(808\) 228-8508](tel:8082288508) Cell/Text



**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 6:58:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Dr Marion Ceruti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill, but I strongly support the related draft version found here:

[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2022/bills/SB555\\_SD1\\_PROPOSED\\_.HTM](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2022/bills/SB555_SD1_PROPOSED_.HTM)

Something meaningful has to be done to demonstrate to the voters that their government is serious about curbing corruption.

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:41:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I know this is late testimony but I wanted to show my **STRONG SUPPORT** for SB 255.

Former Senator English was my district's Senator and it makes me sick to learn about him accepting bribery money in exchange for affecting legislation. I'm afraid that this goes on far too much in Hawai'i. It must **STOP**.

Mahalo,

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:57:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

Please approve this bill. Our campaign finance system is seriously broken in the US. This bill is a step in the right direction, to ban campaign fundraisers during legislative session. It would be even better if it's amended to include any form of fundraising during legislative session. We need steps to provide both the appearance and the reality of truth in politics, and not allowing campaign contributions to be misused to buy votes.

**LATE**

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:52:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Susan Dursin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB555, which would ban fundraising during the legislative session. Legislators should devote their full attention to the session, which, after all, compresses an immense amount of work and study into a short four months. Their primary goal should be to produce legislation which benefits the people of Hawai`i, not to be re-elected.

The public turns a jaundiced eye toward fund raising, and recent events have shown there is some cause for distrust. Many states have banned fundraising while their legislatures are in session. Now is the time for Hawai`i to join those states.

**LATE**

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 11:02:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
E. Ieina Funakoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am e.ileina funakoshi writing in support of this bill and humbly ask for your favorable consideration in passing this bill out of committee.

With so much negative publicity of our legislative body, this would be a positive move to show the public that our legislature does look to improve themselves.

**LATE**

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 11:28:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I strongly support this measure to reduce corruption of our government officials. I live on the Big Island and we have experienced corruption here. A recent mayoral candidate who ran on a promise of "transparency " recently was indicated for fraud.

Let's start with campaign fundraising. Mahalo for your support in passing this measure. We the people of Hawai'i deserve representation that is honest.

Diane Ware, 99-7815 Kapoha Pl. Volcano Hi 96785

**LATE**

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 11:37:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Barbara J. Service	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and committee members!

Please approve SB555, relating to campaign finance. The bill seeks to prohibit fund-raising during the legislative session. This would avoid the perceived impropriety that could result from pressure on legislators based upon campaign contributions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Barbara J. Service. MSW (ret.)

Kupuna Advocate and advocate for fair and transparent government

**LATE**

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 1:12:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Momi Ventura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Alohamai, My Name Is Momi Ventura of Kihei, Maui. I need to say I've learned volumes of Hawaiian history during my 50 plus years on Maui, that Makena was deemed "Too full of Ancient Hawaiian sites" to develop. All of The Hawaiian people were kicked off their ancestral lands by a&b, castle & cook, dole and speckles of Paia, Maui plus. The Hawaiian people welcomed to their homeland to the foreigners the idea's of "Leasing Hawaiian Lands." that Viral Greed increased and overtime The Hawaiian communities lost their ancestral homes, language and cultural values. This illegal act continues with Hawaii government of today. Stop the Greed for tourist pleasure at the cost of killing everything that is Left by Ancient Hawaiian People.



**LATE**

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 1:24:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Michele Mitsumori	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Committee Members,

I support SB555, Relating to Campaign Fundraising, which prohibits fundraising during session.

Because fundraising during session gives the appearance of quid pro quo and erodes the public's trust in the legislative process, it must end. There are already at least 28 states that prohibit fundraising during sessions. Please pass this bill and let Hawai`i become the 29th state.

Thank you.

**LATE**

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 3:06:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Meredith Buck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly Support SB555, especially the Proposed Draft which strengthens the language of this bill.

Knowing that representatives can currently take bribes while in office undermines all the trust I might have had in them to put my community's interests first. Please pass SB55 with the revisions proposed in the current draft so that we can put an end to this and build back trust between representatives and their communities. Mahalo for your time !

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 4:36:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
John Witeck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There should be a ban on political campaign fundraising during a legislative session. I always found it intensely insulting and bordering on criminal to be asked to buy a ticket to a legislator's fundraiser when I went to call on him or her or staff members at the representative's or senator's office. This practice is unethical and should be illegal! Pass a tough version of SB555, please. Corruption must be rooted out of our legislative offices and corridors!

John Witeck, Honolulu, Hawai'i

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 6:46:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 555 RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING.

IN ADDITION, CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING SHOULD BE BANNED!

**LATE**

**SB-555**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:13:13 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Michael Golojuch Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I support the intent of SB 555. But it would be great that if all sitting legislators also refused to accept campaign donations during the legislative session as well. I am not sure that is something that can be written into law.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.