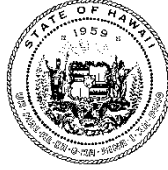


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STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 15, 2021

TO: The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
House Committee on Government Reform

The Honorable Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair
House Committee on Government Reform

Members of the House Committee on Government Reform

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 597, SD 2, Relating to Campaign Finance**

Wednesday, March 17, 2021
10:00 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 offers 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 expenses of a candidate committee in a new paragraph (9). The Commission recommends that the bill be amended by adding a definition of “vital household dependent care” in subparagraph (D) or combining such a definition with the definition of “child care” already contained in subparagraph (D).

Hawaii
Holding Power Accountable

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
Wednesday, March 17, 2021
10:00 AM
Via Videoconference and Conference Room 309

in consideration of
SB 597, SD2
RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE.

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

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 597, SD2 which allows candidates seeking election to use campaign funds for child and vital household dependent care costs under certain conditions.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening democracy through improving our campaign finance system with laws that amplify the voices of everyday Americans.

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' childcare or dependent family care. A growing number of candidates and good governance organizations are pushing state legislatures and elections commissions 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 597, SD2. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii



Young Progressives Demanding Action
P.O. Box 11105
Honolulu, HI 96828

March 13, 2021

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
RE: Testimony in support of SB597 SD2

Dear Representatives,

Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA) stands in **strong support** of SB597 SD2, which would allow candidates seeking election to use campaign funds for child and vital household dependent care costs under certain conditions.

Democracy is supposed to be about equal access to government, to politics and to the public sphere. The more accessible something is, the more it is democratized. It is therefore vital to the very health of our democracy itself to ensure that citizens with children, and especially women, are not disenfranchised from the political process (and therefore from government) due to the prohibitive nature of campaigning.

I have personally witnessed how difficult it is to keep up with bills for candidates who are—for example—single moms running because they care deeply about the future of their children. Working a full time job at the same time as campaigning is basically impossible. This places a limit on who is able to run for office, skewing our political class disproportionately toward the wealthy. That's not an accurate representation of who we, the people, are.

We need more single moms, and working class folks in general, in government. We need more diversity of life experience in our decision-making bodies so that the decisions that get made are truly reflective of the community, its needs and its values. Please support this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Will Caron
Board President & Secretary, 2020–2021
action@ypdahawaii.org

SB-597-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 7:05:43 AM

Testimony for GVR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Younghi Overly	AAUW of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

The members of AAUW of Hawaii thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support for S.B. 597 SD2, which would allow candidates seeking election to use campaign funds for child care costs under certain conditions. Parenthood and caregiving for one's dependents should not be a barrier to running for a political office.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawaii is a state-wide organization made up of six branches (Hilo, Honolulu, Kauai, Kona, Maui, and Windward Oahu), and over 3800 members and supporters statewide. As advocates for gender equity, AAUW of Hawaii promotes the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons.

Younghee Overly, Public Policy Chair, AAUW of Hawaii

SB-597-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 1:07:26 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

I fully support SB 597 SD 2.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

SB-597-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 6:31:09 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Morgan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB597 because it would allow more women, minority, and low income people to run for office. Thus it would improve our legislature by increasing diversity. Please support SB597 and remove barriers that prevent many qualified people from running for office.

SB-597-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 2:47:22 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear GVR committee,

- We understand 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' childcare or dependent family care.
- A growing number of candidates and good governance organizations are pushing state legislatures and elections commissions 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.
- SB 597, SD2 will allow more women, minority, and low-income candidates run for office and have elected officials more fully reflected the faces of all Americans.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

SB-597-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 4:35:07 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

Please support SB597 SD2.

I believe 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' childcare or dependent family care.

A growing number of candidates and good governance organizations are pushing state legislatures and elections commissions 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.

SB 597, SD2 will allow more women, minority, and low-income candidates run for office and have elected officials more fully reflected the faces of all Americans.

Thank you for taking the time to review this issue. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this issue.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

SB-597-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 12:09:11 AM

Testimony for GVR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward B Hanel Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Like SB405, this bill has the laudable goal of expanding participation in Hawaii elections. Concur with Common Cause Hawaii comments. Support passage of SB597 SD2.

SB-597-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 6:21:51 PM

Testimony for GVR on 3/17/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laurie boyle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support sb597 for the simple reason that elections should be open to any candidate, regardless of income status, and should be allowed to use funds for child or elder care while on the trail.

Mahalo for your attention.