

Statement Before The
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRSThursday, February 4, 2021
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
Via Videoconferencein consideration of
SB 981
RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.

Chair SHIMABUKURO, Vice Chair KEOHOKALOLE, and Members of the Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 981, which would (1) change the maximum amount of public funds available to each candidate running for the Office of State Senator, State Representative, County Council, and the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to an unspecified per cent of the expenditure limit established for each election and (2) amend the amount each Office of Hawaiian Affairs candidate must raise in order to qualify for public funds.

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 by advocating for money in politics solutions that employ small-dollar donors to make an impact in campaigns and public financing of our elections.

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 981 to include in the slate of candidates running for public office the board of trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. The use of public funds by more people to run for public office should be encouraged and promoted.

Common Cause Hawaii also suggests that the percent of the expenditure limit be raised from 15% to increase the maximum amount of public funds available in each election to a candidate for the office of state senator, state representative, county council member, board of trustees of the office of Hawaiian affairs, and prosecuting attorney under SB 981. At the very least, the percent of the expenditure limit should not be lowered from 15%.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 981. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii