

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 3:50:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

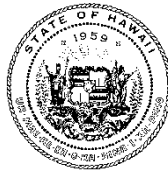
<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
daniel foley	Commission to Improve Standards of Conductone	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairman Tarnas and members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

As Chair of the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct (Commission), I support this bill that would increase public financing of elections for reasons stated in the Commission's December 1, 2022 Final Report, specifically found at page 32 of the Report.

Judge Daniel Foley (ret.)



STATE OF HAWAII  
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 30, 2023

TO: The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on H.B. No. 95, Relating to Partial Public Financing of Elections.**

Wednesday, February 1, 2023  
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.<sup>1</sup> The Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) supports this bill, with an amendment.

The purpose of this bill is to increase the amount of funds available to qualified candidates in Hawaii’s partial public financing program for all offices. The amounts of funds available in the program were last amended in 1995. This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) §11-425 by increasing the maximum amount of public funds available for all offices (except for trustee of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (“OHA”)) by fifty per cent. The bill increases the maximum amount of public funds available for a candidate for trustee of OHA from \$1,500 for the election period to ten per cent of the expenditure limit for each election established in HRS §11-423(d). The bill amends HRS §11-429(a) by increasing the amount of qualifying contributions required for a candidate for trustee of OHA from more than \$1,500 in the aggregate to more than \$5,000 in the aggregate. The bill also amends HRS §11-429(b) by increasing matching fund payments from \$1 for each \$1 of qualifying contributions in excess of the minimum qualifying contribution amounts to \$2 for each \$1 of excess qualifying contributions. The bill provides a downward adjustment of the minimum amounts of qualifying contributions for the office of prosecuting attorney for the city and county of Honolulu, and counties of Hawaii and Kauai, and for the office of county council for the county of Maui. The bill also establishes two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) positions in the campaign spending commission and appropriates funds.

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<sup>1</sup> The companion bill is S.B. No. 200.

For illustration, the maximum amount of public funds available to a candidate in Senate District 1 in 2022 was \$6,531 in the primary election and another \$6,531 in the general election. Under this bill, in the next election, the maximum amount of public funds available to a candidate in Senate District 1 would be \$10,816 in the primary election and \$10,816 in the general election. In 2022, the maximum amount of public funds available for a candidate for trustee of OHA was \$1,500 for the election year. Under this bill, the maximum amount of public funds available to a candidate for trustee of OHA would be \$17,227 in the primary election and \$17,227 in the general election.

The bill makes the downward adjustment of the minimum qualifying contributions for certain offices because it appears that publicly financed candidates for those offices were having a difficult time raising the minimum qualifying contributions.

The Commission requests that this committee pass this bill.

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 1:15:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gary Hooser	Pono Hawaii Initiative	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

Please accept this testimony in the positive spirit in which it is intended.

HB95 is woefully inadequate.

Hawaii deserves full public funding of elections as is now in place in Maine and Connecticut and is contained within HB967.

Please amend HB95 to reflect the contents of HB967.

The Democratic Party of Hawaii's official position is one of strong support for full publicly funded elections. I strongly encourage this committee to likewise support that position.

Gary Hooser

Executive Director

Pono Hawaii Initiative

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 8:14:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wast of Tax payer Moneys!!!!

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 12:18:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keith Neal	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This proposal will provide most candidates with less than 15% of the funds that they need to win elections. Requiring candidates to raise the other 85% from private interests is not a solution to our problem.

**Pass HB967 Instead**

HB967 establishes a fully funded campaign finance system, aka a clean election system. This system would provide all candidates who gather enough \$5 donations from their constituents with 100% of the funds they need to win an election. This would free candidates from needing to ask wealthy donors for money and would then only need to be responsible to the people in their district. This system was in place in 2010 and 2012 for Hawai'i County Council elections and currently exists statewide in Connecticut and Maine with much success.

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 12:43:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please replace HB95 with HB967.

I strongly support clean elections, but HB95 would not supply candidates with sufficient money to be competitive in an election. In order to win an election, candidates would still have to solicit contributions from private donors.

Please instead pass HB967, which would provide candidates with 100% of the money necessary to win an election.

Thank you.

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 1:11:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evan Weber	Our Hawai'i	Comments	In Person

Comments:

Ending pay-to-play corruption in our islands is of critical importance. Voters rank addressing government corruption as their number 3 top issue, only behind inflation and affordable housing. For young people and workign class people especially, the sense that our government works only for the wealthy and well connected is a leading cause of voter apathy and disengagement. To truly address this, we need to strike at the root, and get the corrosive influence of private money out of local politics at the place where it starts — our elections. Unfortunately, the bill before the committee today would not really contribute to that effort much at all.

Although HB95 does increase the amount of public funds available for candidates to use in their elections, it falls far short of providing them with enough money. Most candidates who might use this system would receive only 15% of what they need to win an election, based on publicly available data of past election winner expenditures. Many candidates would still end up soliciting wealthy donors to help fund their campaigns in order to be competitive and win.

In submittign this bill for consideration to you all, the Foley Commission itself acknowledged this shortcoming, stating:

"The Commission finds that publicly funded elections can help counter the repercussions of *Citizens United* because public funding expands the reach of many small donors and can relieve candidates of the need to rely on the support of special interest groups or large donors...

"The Commission further notes that **the increased amounts of partial public funding of elections proposed in this bill are intended as a floor, or minimum level. If fiscal resources are or become available, the Commission encourages the Legislature to be bold and devote additional fiscal resources to further the purpose of this bill and to seek additional permanent funding sources for future elections.**"

Well Committeemembers, I have some good news for you! Significant "fiscal resources" have in fact "become available." The state finds itself with a historic fiscal windfall, a surplus of \$2.6 billion from last year. What better use could it be put towards than ensuring that our government finally works for ka po'e, the people?

And there's more good news: there is a ready-to-go bill for fully publicly financed, 100% clean elections that would actually provide candidates with the funds they need to compete, and help get money out of our political system. That bill, HB967, being championed by Represenative Au Belatti and 19 other of your colleagues in this chamber, as well as Judiciary Chair Senator



Rhoads and 10 other Senators, is estimated to cost only .02% of the general budget. In other words, we could fund the program for 100 years or more using last year's surplus alone.

HB967 would provide participating candidates with 100% of the funds they need to win and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all. This system worked very well for Hawai'i County Council races in 2010 and 2012, and currently works very well statewide in Connecticut and Maine.

With that in mind, I am asking today that you replace the text of HB95 with the full text of HB967. There is no excuse to settle for a partial measure when we could do the full thing, and actually take a major step towards restoring public trust and ending the corrosive influence of big money on our politics.

Please take this opportunity to get money out of politics and finally ensure that our government doesn't just work for the wealthy and well-connected, but it finally works once more for ka po'e, ka maka'āinana — all of us.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 1:33:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Douglas	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

It's crucially important that this body does everything in its power to remove the influence money has on politics.

Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay-to-play behavior of our politicians needs to end now.

Although HB95 does increase the quantity of public funds available for candidates to use in their elections, it falls far short of providing them with enough money. Most candidates who might use this system would receive only 15% of what they need to win an election, based on publicly available data of past election winner expenditures. Whether this bill passes or not, many winning candidates would still end up soliciting wealthy donors to help fund their campaigns.

We can instead pass HB967, which would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, aka clean elections. HB967 would provide participating candidates with 100% of the funds they need to win and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all. This system worked very well for Hawai'i County Council races in 2010 and 2012 and currently works very well statewide in Connecticut and Maine. I am asking that you replace the text of HB95 with the full text of HB967.

Please take this opportunity to get money out of politics and give political power to the people!

If it were my bill I'd add a stipulation that candidates would no longer be able to post environmentally damaging signs up during election season. Enforced with fines.

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 1:41:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leilani Magee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Thanks but no thanks. instead I ask the committee members to amend the bill to reflect the contents of HB967 - which is a true publicly funded elections bill.**

**Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
Wednesday, February 1st, 2023 at 2:00pm**

**Conference Room 325, State Capitol  
RE: HB95 Relating to Partial Public Financing of Elections**

**Position: Comments**

Members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue. I ask that you amend this bill and replace its contents with the language contained in HB967. It's crucially important that we remove the impact money has on our elections, but unfortunately HB95 doesn't go far enough. We instead need a robust clean elections system that HB967 would provide.

**We Need Money Out Of Politics Now**

The influence that money has on our elections needs to end. A system that requires candidates to raise private funds is simply legal bribery. If we want our government officials to act on behalf of its residents rather than those who fund their campaigns, we need to end the system as it stands.

Too many candidates are reliant on their donors to stay in office and an even larger number of potential candidates don't have the wealthy donor connections that are needed to win. This is a formula for uncompetitive elections and elected officials that respond to a few private interests rather than the public at large.

**HB95 Is Too Weak**

This proposal does not go far enough. The low funding amounts proposed in this bill would barely make a dent in the large amounts candidates actually need to win. Even if a candidate for State Representative received the maximum \$5,300 in public funds, they would still need to raise an additional \$34,000 in private funds in order to spend what the average House winner spends. This would not remove the connection or influence private donors have on our election cycle.

Even the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct says HB95 doesn't go far enough:

“the increased amounts of partial public funding of elections proposed in this bill are intended as a floor, or minimum level. If fiscal resources are or become available, the Commission encourages the Legislature to be bold and devote additional fiscal resources to further the purpose of this bill and to seek additional permanent funding sources for future elections.”

With a budget surplus of over \$2 billion, Hawaii has the fiscal resources to be bold and increase the amount available for public financing of candidates.

## It's Well Past Time for Clean Elections

In order to get money out of politics, we need to provide a pathway for candidates to win without private campaign donations. HB967 would do just that. HB967 would establish a clean elections program that would allow participating candidates to receive enough public funds to win their elections and ban them from receiving any private donations.

Hawai'i County Council races had a very successful clean elections program in 2010 and 2012. Both Connecticut and Maine have statewide clean elections programs that are hugely popular. Over 60% of all legislators in Maine participate in their clean elections program and receive no private donations. Connecticut's system was established as a response to their huge corruption scandals.

If we are serious about ending the corruptive practices that plague our state we need to establish a clean elections program now. Half measures like HB95 won't make a dent in the pay-to-play behavior that is rampant throughout Hawai'i.

Please amend this bill and replace its contents with the language that is included in HB967.

Mahalo,

Nate Hix  
808.469.8740

Seat	Average Spent by Winners (2012-2020 Elections)	Proposed Public Funding in HB95	Funding Gap in HB95	Public Funding w/ Clean Elections in HB967
Governor	\$2,529,656	\$323,010	\$2,206,646	\$2,500,000
LG	\$1,171,535	\$180,885	\$990,650	\$1,200,000
State Senator	\$93,209	\$10,853	\$82,356	\$100,000
State Representative	\$39,529	\$5,320	\$34,209	\$50,000
Hawai'i Mayor	\$355,669	\$39,345	\$316,324	\$360,000
Hawai'i Council	\$17,577	\$4,591	\$12,987	\$20,000
Honolulu Mayor	\$2,323,732	\$170,063	\$2,153,670	\$2,300,000
Honolulu Council	\$139,278	\$19,841	\$119,438	\$135,000
Kauai Mayor	\$375,692	\$15,276	\$360,416	\$350,000
Kauai Council	\$33,708	\$15,276	\$18,432	\$30,000
Maui Mayor	\$591,461	\$34,452	\$557,009	\$600,000
Maui Council	\$35,449	\$36,176	-\$727	\$30,000
OHA	\$30,633	\$17,227	\$13,406	\$20,000

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 1:54:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anjani Thomas	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I respectfully ask the committee to amend HB95 to reflect the contents of HB967 - which is a true publicly funded elections bill that I wholeheartedly endorse. Mahalo.**

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 1:55:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne ('Antu') Harvey	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

It is crucially important everything is done to remove the undue influence Big money has on politics.

Although HB95 would increase public funds available for candidates to use in their elections, it falls far short of providing them with enough money. Most candidates who might use this system would receive only 15% of what they need to win an election. Whether this bill passes or not, many winning candidates would still end up soliciting wealthy donors to help fund their campaigns.

We can instead pass HB967, which would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, aka clean elections. HB967 would provide participating candidates with 100% of the funds they need to win and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all. This system worked very well for Hawai'i County Council races in 2010 and 2012 and currently works very well statewide in Connecticut and Maine. **I am asking that you replace the text of HB95 with the full text of HB967.**

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Thank you for your service.

Anne ('Antu') Harvey

Hōlualoa | 96725

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 1:57:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terez Amato Lindsey	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Committee Members,*

*It's crucially important that this body does everything in its power to remove the influence money has on politics. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay to play behavior of our politicians needs to end now.*

*Although HB95 does increase the amount of public funds available for candidates to use in their elections, it falls far short of providing them with enough money. Most candidates who might use this system would receive only 15% of what they need to win an election, based on publicly available data of past election winner expenditures. Whether this bill passes or not, many winning candidates would still end up soliciting wealthy donors to help fund their campaigns.*

*We can instead pass HB967, which would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, aka clean elections. HB967 would provide participating candidates with 100% of the funds they need to win and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all. This system worked very well for Hawai'i County Council races in 2010 and 2012, and currently works very well statewide in Connecticut and Maine. I am asking that you replace the text of HB95 with the full text of HB967.*

*Please take this opportunity to get money out of politics and give political power to the people!*

Winning publicly financed elections is the single biggest thing we could do to end pay-to-play corruption in our politics and start building a Hawai'i that puts kama'āina and kānaka maoli first — not big money interests.





# HAWAII WORKERS CENTER

LATE \*Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

Defending and Respecting the workers of  
Hawai'i

(508) 967-5377  
hawaiiworkerscenter@gmail.com  
hawaiiworkerscenter.org

February 1, 2023

Hawaii House of Representatives  
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Executive  
Committee of the  
Board

Rev. Sam Domingo  
Board Chair

Mary Ochs  
Vice President

Dr. Arcelita Imasa  
Secretary

John Witeck  
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Justin Jansen

Marites Uy

Leyton Torda

Robyn Conboy

Co-Executive  
Directors

Tony Doroño

Sergio Alcubilla III,  
Esq.

RE: Comments for H.B. 95

Dear Chair Rep. Tarna, Vice-Chair Rep. Takayama, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

The Hawaii Workers Center envisions a Hawaii in which all workers are empowered to exercise their right to organize for their social, economic and political well-being. It is a resource of information, education, training and organizing for Hawaii's workers.

The Hawaii Workers Center would like to offer the following comments on H.B. 95:

1. We need to get money out of politics. The influence of money in politics puts our working class communities at a disadvantage when it comes to ensuring their voices are heard. More often than not, the interests of large donors connected to corporate interests drown out the voices of our working class.

2. H.B. 95 is a step in the right direction but is not the bold, large step we need to level the playing field. Candidates for office who represent the voices of workers and not corporate interests are often at a disadvantage when supporters do not have the large financial resources needed to support their candidate. H.B. 95 will still require candidates to seek the majority of their support from the private sector.

3. Support H.B. 967 instead if we are serious about cleaning up the undue influence of money in politics. H.B. 967 takes the bold step we need for a 100% fully funded campaign finance system.

Big money in politics and the appearances of impropriety in government are major issues for Hawaii's residents. The impact is truly felt by our working class families, whose interests are often overshadowed by corporate interests and those with the deep financial pockets to substantially donate to candidates.

Please consider supporting H.B. 967 as introduced by Rep. Au Bellati instead and finally help level the playing field for our working families.

Sincerely,

Sergio J. Alcubilla  
Executive Director

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 2:09:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Matson	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,*

*As a former candidate who ran for State House twice on partial public funding I am very familiar with this program and appreciate it's purpose and intent. From what I understand this bill is attempting to make the process more equitable, but overall I think it misses the mark. As you all are well aware, based on ongoing public perception and recent corruption/financial scandals it's crucially important that this body does everything in its power to remove the influence money has on politics. For almost two decades now I have advocated for "clean election/public financing" reforms that will potentially be the reform to end all reforms in creating a truly PEOPLE POWERED electorate.*

*Although HB95 does increase the amount of public funds available for candidates to use in their elections, it falls far short of providing them with enough money. Most candidates who might use this system would receive only 15% of what they need to win an election, based on publicly available data of past election winner expenditures. Not only is that not enough funding, but as the process itself is so cumbersome, it's not enough of an incentive to really transform our system. Whether this bill passes or not, many candidates would still end up soliciting wealthy donors to help fund their campaigns.*

*We can instead pass HB967, which would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, aka clean elections. HB967 would provide participating candidates with 100% of the funds they need to win and would ban them from receiving any additional private donations at all. This system worked very well for Hawai'i County Council races in 2010 and 2012 under their public funding pilot program, and currently works very well statewide in Connecticut and Maine. I am asking that you instead consider and pass HB967. This reform is long overdue and would be a huge step in restoring public trust in our political systems and creating elections where EVERYONE has an equal opportunity to focus on their messaging and community rather than campaign promises tied to wealthy and*

*corporate donors and endless fundraising. Imagine if you never needed to fundraise or solicit for donations again! Imagine how much more you would be able to accomplish and what values and projects you could actually focus on and prioritize!*

*Please take this opportunity to get money out of politics and give political power to the people!*

*Mahalo nui for your time,*

*Shannon Matson*

*Hawai'i Island Resident*

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 2:27:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Ching	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Committee Members,*

*It's crucially important that this body does everything in its power to remove the influence money has on politics. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay-to-play behavior of our politicians needs to end now.*

*Although HB95 does increase the quantity of public funds available for candidates to use in their elections, it falls far short of providing them with enough money. Most candidates who might use this system would receive only 15% of what they need to win an election, based on publicly available data of past election winner expenditures. Whether this bill passes or not, many winning candidates would still end up soliciting wealthy donors to help fund their campaigns.*

*We can instead pass HB967, which would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, aka clean elections. HB967 would provide participating candidates with 100% of the funds they need to win and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all. This system worked very well for Hawai'i County Council races in 2010 and 2012 and currently works very well statewide in Connecticut and Maine. I am asking that you replace the text of HB95 with the full text of HB967.*

*Please take this opportunity to get money out of politics and give political power to the people!*

*Mahalo,*

*Jennifer Ching*

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 2:41:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
karolle t. bidgood	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is not strong enough. Please schedule a hearing for HB967.

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 2:51:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill doesn't go far enough. Please amend this bill to reflect the intent of HB967

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 3:18:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill would only mildly expand our current partially-publicly financed elections system and not go far enough to remove the influence of private big money donations in our elections.

The Foley Commission recommendations, in their own words, say this the proposal: "The increased amounts of partial public funding of elections proposed in this bill are intended as a floor, or minimum level. If fiscal resources are or become available, the Commission encourages the Legislature to be bold and devote additional fiscal resources to further the purpose of this bill and to seek additional permanent funding sources for future elections."

Please amend HB95 to replace its contents with those found HB967 which is a much better bill that accomplishes what we need to do to move away from bought-and-paid-for elections.

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 3:41:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaleopono Norris	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. When the problem and its solution is so clear, why keep batting around the bush with incomplete partial "solutions" that don't go to the root of the problem? HB967 supports FULL PUBLIC FUNDING OF ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, and ought to receive precedence over HB95!



**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 3:48:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary True	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please completely replace HB95 with HB967, Rep. Au Belatti's "Clean Elections" bill.

Thank you, Mary True, Pepeekeo

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 3:53:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sue Cowing	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This measure is better than nothing, but it is not the true public election funding bill we need. Please amend it to be more in line with HB987, which is.

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 4:17:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Committee Members,*

*It's crucially important that this body does everything in its power to remove the influence money has on politics. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay to play behavior of our politicians needs to end now.*

*Although HB95 does increase the amount of public funds available for candidates to use in their elections, it falls far short of providing them with enough money. Most candidates who might use this system would receive only 15% of what they need to win an election, based on publicly available data of past election winner expenditures. Whether this bill passes or not, many winning candidates would still end up soliciting wealthy donors to help fund their campaigns.*

*We can instead pass HB967, which would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, aka clean elections. HB967 would provide participating candidates with 100% of the funds they need to win and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all. This system worked very well for Hawai'i County Council races in 2010 and 2012, and currently works very well statewide in Connecticut and Maine. I am asking that you replace the text of HB95 with the full text of HB967.*

*Please take this opportunity to get money out of politics and give political power to the people!*

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 4:21:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joyce Baker	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

It's crucially important that this body does everything in its power to remove the influence money has on politics. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay-to-play behavior of our politicians needs to end now.

Although HB95 does increase the amount of public funds available for candidates to use in their elections, it falls far short of providing them with enough money. Most candidates who might use this system would receive only 15% of what they need to win an election, based on publicly available data of past election winner expenditures. Whether this bill passes or not, many winning candidates would still end up soliciting wealthy donors to help fund their campaigns. We can instead pass HB967, which would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, aka clean elections. HB967 would provide participating candidates with 100% of the funds they need to win and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all. This system worked very well for Hawai'i County Council races in 2010 and 2012, and currently works very well statewide in Connecticut and Maine. I am asking that you replace the text of HB95 with the full text of HB967.

Please take this opportunity to get money out of politics and give political power to the people!

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 5:43:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alani Tyrol Bagcal	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama and members of the committee,

My name is Alani and I am submitting comments on HB 95. I urge the committee to please replace the text of this bill with the language in HB 967 which is the clean elections bill and would provide full public financing of elections and ban all private donations from participants. A House candidate needs \$40k to win a race, but would only get \$5k under HB 95.

We deserve clean elections and a Hawai'i that puts kama'āina and kānaka maoli — not big money interests — first. The language in HB 967 would help get private money out of politics and end pay-to-play corruption. The influence that money has over our politics must come to an end.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill,

Alani Bagcal

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 5:50:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bruce L Hultgren	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While this (HB 95) is better than nothing, FULL public funding of elections (as in HB967) would be far superior. It is imperative that our small, geographically seperated and culturally diverse state get the money and financial influence out of the election process.

Thank you,

Bruce Hultgren

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 8:14:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel very strongly about public funding of elections. Before I lived in Hawaii, I lived in Maine, which had just started public funding of candidates. My friend, who could not have afforded to run for office easily got sufficient support to qualify for public funding and went on to become a state representative. It works! However, this bill does not do enough. Please include the wording in SB1543 and HB967, in order to do it right!

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 8:28:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Committee Members,

It's crucially important that this body does everything in its power to remove the influence money has on politics. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay to play behavior of our politicians needs to end now.

Although HB95 does increase the amount of public funds available for candidates to use in their elections, it falls far short of providing them with enough money. Most candidates who might use this system would receive only 15% of what they need to win an election, based on publicly available data of past election winner expenditures. Whether this bill passes or not, many winning candidates would still end up soliciting wealthy donors to help fund their campaigns.

We can instead pass HB967, which would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, aka clean elections. HB967 would provide participating candidates with 100% of the funds they need to win and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all. This system worked very well for Hawai'i County Council races in 2010 and 2012, and currently works very well statewide in Connecticut and Maine. I am asking that you replace the text of HB95 with the full text of HB967.

Please take this opportunity to get money out of politics and give political power to the people!

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo



**HB-95**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 8:56:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cory Harden	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please amend this bill with the contents of HB 967, a far stronger bill.

mahalo, Cory Harden

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:23:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
H Richard Burson	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

It's crucially important that this body does everything in its power to remove the influence money has on politics. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay-to-play behavior of our politicians needs to end now.

Although HB95 does increase the amount of public funds available for candidates to use in their elections, it falls far short of providing them with enough money. Most candidates who might use this system would receive only 15% of what they need to win an election, based on publicly available data of past election winner expenditures. Whether this bill passes or not, many winning candidates would still end up soliciting wealthy donors to help fund their campaigns. We can instead pass HB967, which would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, aka clean elections. HB967 would provide participating candidates with 100% of the funds they need to win and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all. This system worked very well for Hawai'i County Council races in 2010 and 2012, and currently works very well statewide in Connecticut and Maine. I am asking that you replace the text of HB95 with the full text of HB967.

Please take this opportunity to get money out of politics and give political power to the people!

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:24:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kate Paine	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Bill is gut / replace of HB 967.

Don't pocket-line. Do what's correct for necessary systemic change.

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:11:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Crawford	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**thanks but no thanks the committee should instead amend the bill to reflect the contents of HB967 - which is a true publicly funded elections bill.**

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:55:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephanie Sachs	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is close but not enough. No thanks. Please amend to reflect the contents of HB967.

Thank you,

Stephanie Sachs

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:30:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Stayton	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Committee Members,*

*It's crucially important that this body does everything in its power to remove the influence money has on politics. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay to play behavior of our politicians needs to end now.*

*Although HB95 does increase the amount of public funds available for candidates to use in their elections, it falls far short of providing them with enough money. Most candidates who might use this system would receive only 15% of what they need to win an election, based on publicly available data of past election winner expenditures. Whether this bill passes or not, many winning candidates would still end up soliciting wealthy donors to help fund their campaigns.*

*We can instead pass HB967, which would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, aka clean elections. HB967 would provide participating candidates with 100% of the funds they need to win and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all. This system worked very well for Hawai'i County Council races in 2010 and 2012, and currently works very well statewide in Connecticut and Maine. I am asking that you replace the text of HB95 with the full text of HB967.*

*Please take this opportunity to get money out of politics and give political power to the people!*

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:44:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Linda Andersen	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I am in favor of removing big money from Hawaii's election process.

HB95 does not provide adequate support to candidates. HB967 does.

Please pass HB967 to level the playing field. Sincerely,

Linda Andersen

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:20:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Shizuma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in opposition of HB95 as written.

I believe the wording of this bill should be amended to the wording in HB967.

HB967 is written with the intent to have clean elections, instead of having candidates "bought" by big corporations or wealthy businessmen. The public is well aware and sees the connections between those who funded an elected official's campaign to the benefits they receive from said elected official.

HB95 does not improve the transparency of elections, nor does it prevent an elected official from being "bought" by wealthy corporations and businessmen. We need clean elections with caps on the amount of donations a person can receive, and HB967 does that, capping the "seed funds" at \$5000, after which, the remaining campaign funds is provided by public funds. HB967 is an ideal bill and the wording should be included in HB95 if it is to be passed.



**HB-95**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:04:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Gambino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Committee Members,*

*It's crucially important that this body does everything in its power to remove the influence money has on politics. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay to play behavior of our politicians needs to end now.*

*Although HB95 does increase the amount of public funds available for candidates to use in their elections, it falls far short of providing them with enough money. Most candidates who might use this system would receive only 15% of what they need to win an election, based on publicly available data of past election winner expenditures. Whether this bill passes or not, many winning candidates would still end up soliciting wealthy donors to help fund their campaigns.*

*We can instead pass HB967, which would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, aka clean elections. HB967 would provide participating candidates with 100% of the funds they need to win and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all. This system worked very well for Hawai'i County Council races in 2010 and 2012, and currently works very well statewide in Connecticut and Maine. I am asking that you replace the text of HB95 with the full text of HB967.*

*Please take this opportunity to get money out of politics and give political power to the people!*

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:33:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zack Stoddard	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Reducing the influence of private money in politics is so central to reform efforts to bring about social, economic, and environmental justice. These goals simply cannot be achieved if monied interests retain control of our policymaking process. That's why It is crucial that we get publicly funded elections right. HB967 provides for true publicly funded elections, similar to what they have in Maine. For the sake of the have-nots - those of us who are most in need and who have become jaded by policies that constantly ignore us - please amend this bill to reflect HB967.**

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:42:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marion McHenry	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While I glad that this body is hearing bills for publicly finded elections, this bill not a good one. Please amend this bill to reflect HB967 which is a true publicly finded elections bill.

Mahalo

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:05:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jim Cooper	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMENTS ONLY. Please do not pass this bill as it stands, but amend the bill to reflect the contents of HB967 which is a true publicly funded elections bill.

Thank you,

Jim Cooper

**HB-95**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 6:00:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anita Trubitt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am totally in favor of this measure and urge you to pass it!

Anita Trubitt

520 Papalani St. - Kailua 96734