

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 1:15:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

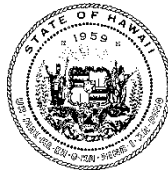
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Foley	Testifying for Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

As Chair of the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct, I support SB 1543 for the reasons stated in the Commission's December 1, 2022 Final Report to the House of Representatives, specifically at page 32 of the Report.

Mahalo, Judge Daniel Foley (ret.)



STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 21, 2023

TO: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Tony Baldomero, Associate Director for *TS*
Kristin Izumi-Nitao, Executive Director
Campaign Spending Commission

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 1543, SD1, Relating to Public Financing for
Candidates to Elected Office.**

Wednesday, February 22, 2023
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) supports the intent of this bill.

This bill establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices, appropriates \$30,000,000¹ to the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund, and appropriates \$200,000 to the Commission for two full-time temporary positions. The effective date of the bill has been changed to March 22, 2075, by the Senate Committee on Judiciary. However, the intent of the bill is to have the comprehensive system of public financing in place for the 2024 general election year. S.B. No. 1543, SD1 at page 4, lines 1-2.

The bill establishes the maximum amount of comprehensive public funds (“CPF Max”) for each office. The CPF Max ranges from a low of \$20,000 for candidates for the Board of Trustees for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (“OHA”) to a high of \$2,500,000 for candidates for Governor. However, as a percentage of the amounts spent by winners, or an average spent by winners, for office in recent elections, these amounts range from a very low of 49% (\$20,000/\$41,013.45) for candidates for OHA to a high of 133% (\$20,000/\$15,062.42) for

¹ Based upon the maximum amount of funding per office provided in the bill, \$30,000,000 will be enough to fund two candidates for each office.

candidates for Hawaii County Council. The Commission urges this Committee to increase the CPF Max for candidates for OHA to \$40,000 (97.5%).²

In order to qualify for comprehensive public funding, the bill establishes the minimum number of qualifying contributions each candidate must receive from registered voters residing within the respective district from which the candidate seeks nomination or election to office. It appears that the minimum number of qualifying contributions is equal to .25 percent of the CPF Max for each office. The Commission is still considering whether the minimum number of qualifying contributions for all offices is sufficient.

§11-H³ describes the obligations of certified candidates. In regard to the disposition of unexpended public funds, it appears that the bill does not address the return of unexpended funds for a certified candidate who is successful in the primary **and** general election. The Commission recommends that subsection (f) on page 24 of the bill be amended by adding the following sentence immediately after the first sentence of the subsection:

“If the certified candidate is successful in the general election, the certified candidate shall return all unexpended public funds received by the certified candidate under this subpart to the Hawaii election campaign fund within thirty days after the general election.”

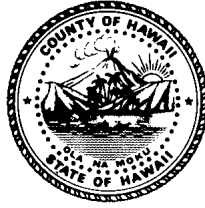
Finally, section 4 of this measure requires the Commission to submit a report to the Legislature in the 2024 session of the Commission’s findings and recommendations, including any proposed statutory amendments that may be necessary to implement the comprehensive public funding program. Because of this mandate and because the Commission will have to work on forms, make modifications of its electronic filing system, and train candidates, the Commission urges this Committee to begin the comprehensive public funding program with the 2026 general election. Consequently, on page 31, line 1 of the bill, “2024” needs to be replaced by “2026,” on page 32, line 15, “2024” needs to be replaced by “2026,” and on page 32, line 21, “2026” needs to be replaced by “2028.”

The Commission requests that this committee pass this measure with the described amendments.

² This will require a change in the minimum number of qualifying contributions for participating OHA candidates from 50 to 100 on page 13, lines 11-12. The Committee may also want to consider a slight upward adjustment for the CPF Max of \$2,300,000 (87%) for candidates for Honolulu Mayor and a slight downward adjustment for the CPF Max of \$25,000 (123%) for candidates for Kauai Prosecuting Attorney, \$20,000 (133%) for candidates for Hawaii County Council, \$30,000 (122%) for candidates for Kauai County Council, \$50,000 (124%) for candidates for House of Representatives, where the deviation from the average amount spent by winners of recent elections is more than ten percent.

³ S.B. No. 1543, SD1 at pages 22-25.

Jennifer Kagiwada
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272
jennifer.kagiwada@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: February 17, 2023
TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2
SUBJECT: SB 1543

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in strong support of SB 1543 to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates running for office in Hawai'i. Publicly funded elections are one of the best reforms we can make to our current election system to level the playing field for all candidates and get special interest money out of our campaigns.

SB 1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign and would ban them from receiving private donations. A partial public funding pilot system worked very well for Hawai'i County Council races in 2010 and 2012, and fully publicly funded elections programs currently work very well statewide in places like Connecticut and Maine.

We'd like to offer an additional amendment encouraging ALL candidates be subject to the same Campaign Spending Limits regardless of whether they opt in to participate in this program or not. As long as some candidates are subject to additional rules or restrictions regarding partial public funding and spending limits while other candidates are accepting large private donations with no spending limits, there will always be an imbalance that leaves the election process open to corruption and inequities.

SB 1543 is an opportunity to lessen the influence of money in politics, give political power to the people, and restore the people's trust in elections and the legislative process. 74% of the Hawai'i voting public favors enacting public financed elections and ending the influence of corporate and private donations. Public funding for elections is an effective way to engage voters and create participation for a greater diversity of new candidates to run for office. Please pass SB 1543. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Mahalo,

Jenn Kagiwada



Hawaii
Holding Power Accountable

To: Ways and Means Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members
From: Brodie Lockard, Common Cause Hawaii Board Member
Date: Friday, February 17, 2023

In strong support of SB1543

A reform like public financing has been due in Hawaii for many years. With last year's convictions of Senator J. Kalani English and Representative Ty Cullen for cash bribes, ethics in our state government has leapt to the front of the public's collective mind.

Some incumbents dislike public financing because they see it as a threat to their reelection. This is not necessarily the case. The 2012 Maine Policy Review found that "challengers are only more likely to win if they participate in MCEA [the 1996 Maine Clean Elections Act] and the incumbent does not. When incumbents accept public funding, they are actually more likely to win reelection" [1].

SB1543 is a fair bill. It includes every major state and county office, not singling out any one group for a trial, as some previous bills have done. After qualifying, candidates are "barred from soliciting, accepting, or using contributions from" anyone but voters in their districts. Violating the rules brings appropriate penalties, and thorough, regular reporting requirements should prevent abuse.

SB1543 is fiscally responsible. This year the state has plenty of money to fund the 2024 general election cycle. In the future, if funds are insufficient, the program will not be run for that cycle. Amounts will be adjusted with any change in the consumer price index.

Publicly-funded elections will make you and future elected officials better at your jobs. You can spend your time meeting with many constituents, not just a few large donors. Owning only your voters lets you take a principled stand on every issue. You can work on the needs of all voters, not just a few moneyed interests. And you can spend more time doing your real job.

To qualify for public financing, candidates must show a broad base of support in their community (something incumbents already have). That makes any lawmaker more effective and more respected.

Public financing will make your campaign easier. No one likes asking individuals for large sums of money. Public financing will free you from fundraisers and countless phone calls. And the steps required to qualify will help you get to know your constituents better, so you can better speak to their concerns.

It will improve the state legislature overall. Public financing has been shown to increase the diversity

of candidates, including women and people of color, and to encourage interaction between candidates and low- and moderate-income communities. Our elected officials will no longer be just career politicians or people who know the right people, but regular folks from all walks of life—nurses, veterans, small business owners, teachers. Candidates can spend more time on ideas and less time raising money that tends to commit them to special interests.

SB1543 will serve the people who elected you far better than the current system. One of the primary reasons for public funding is to avoid situations like Oahu's rail boondoggle, and the myriad more subtle ways voters' money is wasted. The role of special interests in government decision making will be greatly reduced; the voices of regular people amplified. This is one reason that rates of participation in Clean Election systems are high. They decrease real or apparent conflicts of interest for elected officials.

Public financing will restore faith in our elections and political system. After six years of questions about the integrity of our elections, Americans' confidence in voting needs a boost. Fraud in elections has always been extremely rare, but the corrupting influence of money in politics—real and perceived—continues to erode our confidence in the system.

Finally, it will improve Hawaii's political reputation. Thirteen states use some form of publicly-funded elections, as do 20 local governments [2]. Hawaii's partial public funding program is woefully out of date and underused. With Supreme Court decisions like *Citizens United* deforming our campaigns, a robust public funding system is long overdue. Following our recent passage of reforms like Vote by Mail and Automatic Voter Registration, passing public funding will arguably make Hawaii the most forward-looking state in the union in terms of elections.

SB1543 is a thorough, well-conceived bill with an array of benefits. Common Cause Hawaii strongly urges the Ways and Means Committee to pass it. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Brodie Lockard
Common Cause Hawaii Board Member

[1] <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1081&context=mpr>

[2] <https://www.commoncause.org/resource/the-for-the-people-act-in-the-states/>

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 10:01:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai women's caucus	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Money has too big of an impact on our elections and can lead to influencing our elected officials. This is clearly seen in the case of Hu Honua

We need clean elections where people without funding can still participate.

Voters support a publicly funded elections.

It's been done elsewhere and financially feasible

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 11:09:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Kioni Dudley	Testifying for The Friends of Makakilo	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As the president of the Friends of Makakilo, we very strongly support this bill as the one real hope of truly honest government.

Aloha no kakou, I am submitting this testimony in support of SB1543

Having confidence in our political system and persuading family members to exercise their right to vote is difficult when you feel your voice will not have an impact. When we see candidates who have raised considerably more money than the other lesser-known contenders it is hard for us to believe that this will be a fair election. This is the norm for a process that should give everyone a fair chance to be able to present their point of view.

There should be a way to even the field in restoring the confidence of the public in this democratic process. As it stands now, many of us feel that the lobbyists and supporters of candidates who seek to raise a significant sum for their opportunity to influence policies and important decisions for the people of Hawaii are corrupt and do not have the best interests of the public in mind.

SB1543 is an opportunity for our State and County government to be champions for the people who have entrusted our politicians with the care of our land, ocean, and people enacting policies, legislation and decisions that will decide the future for our keiki and mo'opuna. This bill will allow the public to make informed decisions based on a fair system of candidate messaging.

Please support this bill SB1543 and restore our faith in fair and honest government.

Ke Aloha Nunui,

Damien Kenison

Kauhako Ohana Association

501 c3 Community organization based in Ho'okena/Kauhakō, South Kona, Hawaii Island

<http://namamo9.wixsite.com/kauhakoohana>



Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB1543 SD1

Wednesday, February 22nd, 2023 10 a.m. Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee,

We support SB1543 SD1 which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai'i, to begin with the 2024 general election year.

It's crucially important that the legislature does everything in its power to remove the influence money has on politics. Candidates work for donations that create relationships that can cause corruption or the perception of it. Money is crucial to winning, for example 91% of candidates who outspend their opponent go on to win. Many elections are uncontested because potential candidates can't afford the high price tag. Furthermore the average house winner spends \$40,000 compared to only \$16,000 for the loser. Over half of all campaign donations in 2022 came from just 980 donors who each gave at least \$6,000.

Clean Elections will create a fairer system. Publicly financed elections will allow candidates to get support from their constituents rather than wealthy donors. As a result, elections will become more competitive with a more diverse set of candidates. Legislators will be free to act on behalf of voters without being concerned about what their donors think. Candidates will also be able to spend more time with constituents rather than fundraising. Furthermore, a system of fully publicly financed elections is supported by 74% of Hawai'i voters.

In addition to being good for our local democracy, the cost of this program is very small. At less than \$25 million, the program will cost less than 0.2% of the state budget. In fact, the state's current general funds balance of \$2.6 billion could pay for over 100 years of clean elections.

Publicly funded elections are already being successfully implemented locally and in other jurisdictions. Hawai'i Island County Council races had this program in 2010 and 2012. Connecticut and Maine have clean elections statewide which are both very popular and successful. Over 70% of Democratic legislators use this program in Maine. Connecticut's program was established to get money out of politics following large corruption scandals.



SB1543 SD1 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, 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 places like Connecticut and Maine.

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 Hawai'i's land and people first — not big money interests.

Please support SB1543 SD1! Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

February 20, 2023

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 22, 2023
10:00 am
Via Videoconference



RE: SB1543 SD1 Relating to Public Financing for Candidates to Elected Office (SUPPORT)

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran & Members of the Committee,

Chamber of Sustainable Commerce testifies in support of SB1543 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai'i and appropriates funds.

As small business owners who believe we can strengthen our economy without hurting employees, consumers, communities or the environment, we urge this committee to vote in favor of passing SB1543 SD1, because this bill brings us one step closer towards a democracy that serves small business owners, workers, and consumers – and one step away from the corrupt corporatocracy in which one must pay to play.

Luxury developers, defense contractors, big pharma, agri-chemical corporations and others give incumbent candidates who do their bidding the max allowable contributions; then they hire lobbyists who give max contributions to these same candidates; and then some of those unchallenged incumbents buy tickets to fundraisers for incumbents who have contested races. These max contributions quickly add up to a campaign war chest that is almost impossible to challenge.

Publicly financing campaigns, rooted in minimum number of qualified small dollar contributions, gives candidates who do not pander to monied interests, an opportunity to educate voters in their district that they are a viable candidate.

This bill offers just one step toward clean elections; the legislature should also make the following changes: cap the max allowable contribution at \$100 per donor per candidate and prohibit candidate campaigns from making contributions to other candidates' campaigns.

**Hawaii
Legislative
Council**

Maile Meyer
Na Mea Hawaii
Honolulu

Russel Rudderman
Island Naturals
Hilo / Kona

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Maui

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country Market
Kauai

Kim Coco Iwamoto
AQuA Rentals, LLC
Honolulu



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 22, 2022 10:00 AM Conference Room 211

In **SUPPORT** of **SB1543 SD1**: RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS SB1543 SD1**, which will help to relieve candidates of the need to fundraise from private entities, and thereby foster more rigorous discussion and refinement of candidates' policy platforms for the betterment of our islands and communities.

Our democratic system of governance is premised on the concept of an informed electorate choosing candidates whose policy priorities align with what their constituents care about the most. Unfortunately, the modern day costs of running a "viable" campaign often require candidates to expend considerable time and energy raising funds from private sources, rather than developing, debating, and refining campaign platforms, and engaging voters in this critical process.

Moreover, candidates must often solicit donations from private, corporate entities whose interests may be inherently narrower than those of the public at large. As a result, conflicts or perceived conflicts too often arise between policymaking that may be of particular benefit to certain classes of private entities, and the more comprehensive concerns of the broader community – including with regards to the environmental and cultural integrity, and the long-term livability, of our islands.

By providing for more meaningful public financing of campaigns for elected office, this measure would help us take a transformative step towards enabling our candidates and elected representatives more time to engage with their grassroots constituents during the campaign season; research, debate, and refine their campaign policy platforms; and thereby come into or return to office with a stronger and more comprehensive vision for policies that will ultimately benefit the public interest, as well as the public trust in our democratic system of governance.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** SB1543 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



150 Hamakua Drive #341
Kailua, HI 96734

(808) 224-0644
our-hawaii.org

Testimony in Support of SB1543

Submitted to the Senate Ways And Means Committee
by Evan Weber, Managing Director, Our Hawai'i, 2/20/223

Committee members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to speak before you today. On behalf of the 8,000+ supporters of Our Hawai'i, I stand in strong support for Senate Bill 1543, relating to public financing of candidates to elected office. Our supporters are local people — kama'āina and kānaka maoli, keiki and kūpuna, from Kailua to Kapolei to Kaua'i, Kohala, and every corner of our islands. They have joined our movement to fight for a Hawai'i that puts local people — not big money interests — first, because they are deeply worried about the direction of our islands and believe now is the time for change.

I, too, am worried. At 31, growing up here I was told that things would change if young people “just voted.” My whole life I have voted. The first opportunity I got. I have seen new governors, new legislators, new council-members, and what has happened in those 31 years? Median home prices are now over \$1 million, our rent is the highest in the nation, our water is poisoned, our islands are sinking, we are still dangerously dependent on imports of food and other goods, many of my friends can't afford to live here anymore, our teachers and schools are chronically under-funded, and there are more Native Hawaiians now living outside of Hawai'i than in our islands. As crisis after crisis mounts up, transformational action, frankly, fails to come from these halls. Why would my peers and people younger than me believe voting would make things change? We haven't seen it. Not in my lifetime.

Young people and working people aren't voting at higher rates because we're apathetic or don't care. It's because we're akamai; we're actually paying attention. We know that for too long, big money interests: luxury developers, big tourism, big agriculture, energy monopolies, military contractors, and the who's who of the wealthy and well-connected have held a stranglehold over our politics, drowning out the voices, values, and desires of the maka'āinana — the every day working people. Over half of all campaign donations in 2022 came from just 980 donors who gave at least \$6,000. This is a small group of people, maxing out to candidates and committee chairs during elections, to cash in on favors during legislative session and determine what bills live or die.

Our corruption and public trust in government crisis has reached a tipping point, too. After years of the FBI putting our officials in handcuffs, resignations, and scandals, [Hawai'i voters as a whole in this past election ranked government corruption as their number 3 top issue, only behind inflation and affordable housing, and 74% favor the adoption of a policy like SB1543 which would provide full public financing of elections and ban corporate and private donations.](#) Public trust is at an all time low. It's not time for band-aids, it's time for real solutions.

SB1543 is that. It's a historic opportunity to get big money out of our politics where it begins, in our elections, allow every day people an equal voice with the rich and powerful, and allow candidates to be beholden only to their voters, their constituents, their values, and their conscience. We know it works, we've seen it in places like Connecticut, Maine, and now Seattle. We know it's popular. In addition to the strong public support, the bill has the backing already of the state Democratic Party,



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(808) 224-0644
our-hawaii.org

current and former legislators from both the Republican and Democratic Parties, and was introduced by a historic 40% of legislators in both chambers. **We know we have the resources: the program would cost around .2% of the general budget and with our current surplus alone, could be funded for 100 years.**

We have the policy. We have the resources. We have the public desire for change. The only question is do we have the political will? That will be up to you to make it so. As you deliberate, know the public is watching.

Lastly, on a technical policy point, I'd like to attach for the record the request for an amendment to increase the amount of funding allotted in the legislation for Maui County Council Races. This past cycle on Maui County saw out of control spending by corporate, out of county, and even out of Hawai'i interests. Due to the [now very competitive nature](#) of the Maui County Council races, the costs of campaigning has increased in recent cycles. This cycle (see attached chart), the average winning amount was over \$58,000, with some candidates spending north of \$100,000. This, of course, does not even include the very robust and expensive [independent expenditures](#).

For all of these reasons, I want to advocate strongly for increasing the Maui Council allocation to at least \$60,000, if not more, for these county-wide races.

2022 Maui Council Winners

<i>Candidate name</i>	<i>Total expenditures</i>
Thomas Cook	\$138,105.55
Gabe Johnson	\$16,913.52
Tasha Kama	\$37,734.69
Tamara Paltin	\$13,037.14
Keani Rawlins-Fernandez	\$34,187.71
Shane Sinenci	\$18,602.79
Yuki Sugimura	\$69,186.32
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins	\$137,635.56
Total	\$465,403.28
Average	\$58,175.41
Median	\$35,961.20



To: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 10:00 am

In strong support of SB1543 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and WAM Committee members;

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **strongly supports SB1543 SD1** that establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawaii, to begin with the 2024 general election year. This measure also requires the Campaign Spending Commission to submit a progress and final report to the Legislature.

SB1543 SD1 will help restore the people's trust in government. With last year's convictions of Senator J. Kalani English and Representative Ty Cullen for cash bribes, it is clear that the legislature must do everything in its power to remove the influence that money has on our politics, including reforms like public financing. Public financing of elections is one of the most important ways to free our state political system from undue influence from corporations, businesses, and special interest groups. Three quarters of Hawaii voters support a system of fully publicly financed elections.

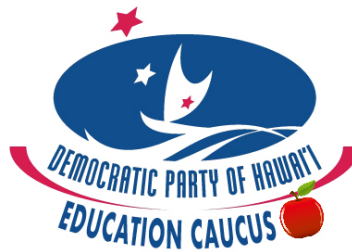
Public financing will make campaigning easier. No one likes asking individuals for large sums of money. Public financing will free candidates from fundraisers and countless phone calls. Reducing or even eliminating candidates' reliance on wealthy donors and the need to perpetually fundraise frees candidates and officials to spend more time with their constituents and to focus on the most pressing issues of their community, such as the impacts from the growing climate crisis. It also promotes public trust in officials and in government.

SB1543 SD1 would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all. This system worked very well for Hawaii County Council races in 2010 and 2012, and currently works very well statewide in places like Connecticut and Maine.

Please take this opportunity to get money out of politics. Pass SB1543 SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this important legislation.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



SENATE BILL 1543, SD1, RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE.

FEBRUARY 22, 2022 · SENATE WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. DONOVAN DELA CRUZ

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** SB 1543, SD1, relating to public financing for candidates to elected office, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai'i, to begin with the 2024 general election year; and requires the Campaign Spending Commission to submit a progress and final report to the Legislature.

Government should work for the public interest, not corporate interests.

In the 2010 and 2012 election cycles, the Hawai'i Island County Council ran a pilot program for comprehensive public funding. Similarly, Connecticut and Maine have instituted statewide clean elections programs, which have proven successful at increasing electoral participation and reducing candidates' reliance on private donations. Over 70 percent of Democratic legislators use public financing to fund their campaigns in Maine.

Hawai'i continues to be embroiled in public corruption scandals, following the bribery allegations that were levied against former Senate Majority Leader Kalani English and former State Representative Ty Cullen. Other public officials, such as employees at local permitting offices,

have also recently been ensnared in bribery scandals, in some cases with connections to Milton Choy, the lobbyist who was responsible for coordinating the bribery scheme that Sen. English and Rep. Cullen became a part of. These cases show that we have a moral crisis in our public institutions and must do all we can to restore integrity to government.

When candidates for public office are forced to rely on private donations to build relationships, those transactions can cause corruption or create the perception of it. Put simply, legislators are responsive to donors, since donors fund their campaigns. Money is crucial to winning. Roughly 91 percent of candidates who outspend their opponents win their elections.

Relatedly, many people choose not to run for public office because they can't afford the cost of a campaign, leaving many incumbents routinely uncontested in their reelection bids. Notably, the average winner of a State House seat in Hawai'i spends approximately \$40,000 on their campaign, compared to only \$16,000 for the losing candidate. Over half of all campaign donations in 2022 came from just 980 donors, each of whom contributed at least \$6,000 in candidate donations during the last election cycle.

At less than \$25 million, this bill will create an election system that is fair for our island home. Candidates will no longer be beholden to wealthy donors. Instead, they can receive support from their constituents. Elections, in turn, will become more competitive, preventing career politicians from being perpetually unchallenged if they fail to produce results that benefit their communities. Ultimately, this will lead to a situation in which our elections reflect the will of the people, not the wallets of the privileged.

Kris Coffield · Chairperson, DPH Education Caucus · (808) 679-7454 · kriscoffield@gmail.com



SB 1543, SD1, RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE.

FEBRUARY 22, 2023 · SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. DONOVAN DELA CRUZ

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: Imua Alliance supports SB 1543, SD1, relating to public financing for candidates to elected office, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai'i, to begin with the 2024 general election year; and requires the Campaign Spending Commission to submit a progress and final report to the Legislature.

Government should work for the public interest, not corporate interests.

In the 2010 and 2012 election cycles, the Hawai'i Island County Council ran a pilot program for comprehensive public funding. Similarly, Connecticut and Maine have instituted statewide clean elections programs, which have proven successful at increasing electoral participation and reducing candidates' reliance on private donations. Over 70 percent of Democratic legislators use public financing to fund their campaigns in Maine.

Hawai'i continues to be embroiled in public corruption scandals, following the bribery allegations that were levied against former Senate Majority Leader Kalani English and former State Representative Ty Cullen. Other public officials, such as employees at local permitting offices, have also recently been ensnared in bribery scandals, in some cases with connections to Milton

Choy, the lobbyist who was responsible for coordinating the bribery scheme that Sen. English and Rep. Cullen became a part of. These cases show that we have a moral crisis in our public institutions and must do all we can to restore integrity to government.

When candidates for public office are forced to rely on private donations to build relationships, those transactions can cause corruption or create the perception of it. Put simply, legislators are responsive to donors, since donors fund their campaigns. Money is crucial to winning. Roughly 91 percent of candidates who outspend their opponents win their elections.

Relatedly, many people choose not to run for public office because they can't afford the cost of a campaign, leaving many incumbents routinely uncontested in their reelection bids. Notably, the average winner of a State House seat in Hawai'i spends approximately \$40,000 on their campaign, compared to only \$16,000 for the losing candidate. Over half of all campaign donations in 2022 came from just 980 donors, each of whom contributed at least \$6,000 in candidate donations during the last election cycle.

At less than \$25 million, this bill will create an election system that is fair for our island home. Candidates will no longer be beholden to wealthy donors. Instead, they can receive support from their constituents. Elections, in turn, will become more competitive, preventing career politicians from being perpetually unchallenged if they fail to produce results that benefit their communities. Ultimately, this will lead to a situation in which our elections reflect the will of the people, not the wallets of the privileged.

Kris Coffield · Executive Director, Imua Alliance · (808) 679-7454 · kris@imuaalliance.org



Committee on Ways and Means
Chair DelaCruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 10 AM Room 211 & Videoconference
SB1543 SD1 — RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO
ELECTIVE OFFICE

TESTIMONY

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

Chair DelaCruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports SB1543 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawaii, beginning with the 2024 general election year; requires the Campaign Spending Commission (CSC) to submit progress and final reports to the Legislature; and appropriates funds.

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that methods of financing political campaigns should enhance political equality for all citizens; protect representative democracy from being distorted by big spending in election campaigns; ensure the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections; enable candidates to compete equitably for public office; ensure that candidates have sufficient funds to communicate their messages to the public; and combat corruption and undue influence in government.

Delegates and voters in the 1978 Constitutional Convention in Hawaii realized the importance of this concept, resulting in the creation of the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund and Hawaii's partial public funding option. Below is a quote from the Convention during the discussion of the HECF:

“ . . . if we think these tremendous sums being spent [on elections], these tremendous sums being contributed, **are not sums for which we are going to ultimately pay** because of poor government . . . and because of undue influence . . . we are fooling ourselves.” -Delegate Naomi Campbell during the 1978 Constitutional Convention.

Who funds privately funded elections? Wealthy businesses and individuals. Over half of all Hawaii campaign donations in 2022 came from just 980 donors who each gave at least \$6,000¹. (The sources of campaign contributions changed markedly in Connecticut legislative races after implementation of full public funding. In 2018, 99% of campaign funds used by legislative candidates came from individuals, in sharp contrast to preprogram practices when less than half of the contributions made to political candidates came from individuals.²)

Why could this be a problem? **The affluent have different priorities:** 68 percent of the general public believes politicians ought to see to it that everyone who wants to work can find a job, while only 19 percent of the wealthy believe the same; the general public is twice as likely to support raising the minimum wage high enough to keep families out of poverty as affluent respondents; a majority of Americans think that wealth should be taxed at the same rate as work, but the wealthiest 20% of Americans, who are most likely to make substantial contributions to political campaigns, are those most likely to profit from low taxes on capital gains.³

The broader public is short-changed by policies which may be influenced by wealthy business interests. Publicly funded elections let the voting public have more influence on political decisions, **as is widely appreciated by voters.** A survey of Hawaii voters in 2022 showed that 74% of the Hawai'i voting public would be more likely to support a candidate who refused campaign donations from out-of-state developers, major landowners, hotel conglomerates, and energy companies and 70 percent of voters were more likely to support a candidate who refused donations from lobbyists and corporate PACs.⁴ When large contributions are made by business interests, it's likely that the **customers of those businesses indirectly pay, in higher prices, for these contributions.** Again, the **public pays for the costs of privately funded**

election campaigns. When candidates are funded by the public, politicians are free to make decisions based on the merit of ideas, not biased, consciously or not, by consideration of who gave or will give money to their election campaigns.

Connecticut's Citizen's Elections program (CEP) shows how **full public funding can repay its cost:** "For many years, environmentalists tried to expand the bottle bill recycling program..., but the powerful beverage industry and its paid lobbyists were able to stop every effort at reform because they gave thousands of dollars to legislators. This year (2016), the legislature—with three-quarters of members having participated in the CEP—voted to expand the bottle bill. We also voted to reclaim millions of dollars' worth of unclaimed bottle deposits, which takes approximately \$25 million a year out of the pockets of the beverage industry and puts that money into the general fund where it belongs. This alone recoups more money than the CEP costs".²

Instead of fundraising, candidates can spend more time talking to their constituents or analyzing and discussing solutions to Hawaii's problems as quoted by CT state legislators.²

SB1543 SD1 will support a more diverse field of candidates. Currently people without wealth or wealthy families and friends, who may be politically akamai and interested in running for office, often feel (probably rightly) that they will not be able to conduct winning campaigns, since 90% of races in nationally and in Hawaii are won by the candidate who spends most in an election contest.

These campaign finance objectives, which I believe are widely shared, lead directly to recommending full and realistic public financing of election campaigns and supporting SB1543 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Citations

¹ Analysis of CSC database on contributions to 2022 elections

² Rotman, B.A. & Nightingale, L. Amplifying Small-dollar Donors in the *Citizens United* Era: Connecticut's Citizen's Elections Program Shifted the Balance of Power to the People. Common Cause Education Fund, 2017

³ Callahan, D. & Mijin Cha, J. Stacked Deck: How the Dominance of Politics by the Affluent & Business Undermines Economic Mobility in America. Demos, Feb. 2013:

⁴ Hawaii Voter Candidate Preference Memo. Data for Progress, 2023

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 7:26:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Hooser	Testifying for Pono Hawaii Initiative	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair and Members,

Please pass SB1543 as a "clean" measure, amended to correct the defective date. Leaving the date as is, weakens the likelihood of its ultimate passage and almost ensures it will go to Conference Committee.

SB1543 is a well-written measure modeled after programs that are already in place and working well in other states.

Please give this critically important bill your serious consideration and enthusiastic support by passing it out clean and strong.

Mahalo,

Gary Hooser

Executive Director - Pono Hawaii Initiative

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:12:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Testifying for Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 5,000 members and supporter statewide, we stand in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB1543 a bill that would implement a clean election system in Hawai'i statewide.

We Need Money Out of Politics Currently all legislators depend on private donors to fund their election campaigns. These private donors have their own interests and oftentimes those interests are at odds with what's best for Hawai'i and its people. Of the more than \$20 million of campaign money that was donated in Hawai'i during the 2022 election cycle, over half of it came from less than 1,000 donors. This is an extreme consolidation of political power and it is why you see policies like raising the minimum wage and affordable housing that have over 80% support from the public die year after year.

Time for Clean Elections, the state can establish a fully publicly funded campaign system where candidates for office don't have to rely on wealthy private donors. They can instead choose to get small \$5 donations from everyday people in their district and once they hit a certain number of supporters the state will provide them with enough funds to run their campaign.

This publicly funded campaign system, aka clean elections, was in place for Hawai'i County Council races in 2010 and 2012 and it was very successful. Connecticut and Maine currently have clean election systems statewide where its used by well over half of all legislators. Getting clean elections statewide in Hawai'i can free our politicians from the corrupting influence of wealthy donors and give political power back to the people where it belongs!

Please pass SB1543.

Mahalo for your kind attention,

Dave Mulinix, Cofounder & Hawaii Statewide Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii

Feb 21, 2023

Aloha Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of Global HOPE (Hawaii Organization for Peace and the Environment), a registered independent student organization at UH Hilo, in favor of comprehensive public funding for candidates for political office (SB 1543). Global HOPE students supported Hawaii County's Clean Elections Pilot Program of 2010-2012. Based on the experience of the pilot program, we believe that if SB 1543 becomes law, elected officials who may be skeptical of publicly funded elections will realize that they would rather spend their time meeting with their constituents and discussing community issues than hustling for donations.

By passing SB 1543, not only will the playing field for political candidates be leveled, but a more secure trust between voters and representatives can be fostered. There is a responsibility for candidates to abide by the terms set by the people, which is often muddled by the interests of wealthy lobbyists who shift priorities from creating effective policies to having their favors granted. If Hawaii transitioned to public funding, which would alleviate this issue, candidates would no longer have to rely on or act according to outside, greedy influences.

As college students, it often feels as if we are not heard or taken seriously. A recent statistical analysis of US government policy by political scientists Martin Gilens and Benjamin Page confirmed that while the policy preferences of economics and organized groups representing business interests have a substantial impact on what bills become law, the policy preferences of ordinary American citizens have no measurable influence. We hope that our political participation can push the collective voice, but the privatization of elections makes this nearly impossible. The youth's faith in the current political system has eroded and measures need to be taken to reach a state of true democratic process. Gilens and Page have argued that public funding is an excellent way to reduce the corrupting effect of private money. We believe that the cost of clean elections is a small price to pay for the larger humanitarian, environmental, and social problems that result when candidates are sold to the highest bidder. It is necessary for the protection of our planet and the next generation that are forced to live in the less than favorable conditions set by lawmakers.

Sincerely,
Adelie del Rosario
President, Global HOPE



LGF CONSULTING
HAWAII

February 21, 2023

Hawai'i State Senate Ways and Means Committee

Aloha Committee Members:

It's crucially important that this body does everything in its power to remove the influence money has on our politics. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay-to-play behavior of our politicians needs to end now. Money in politics holds back progress on all the issues important to local working families: from affordable housing, to cost of living, to protecting our environment, and more. SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, 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 places like Connecticut and Maine. Partial public financing is not enough. As long as candidates need to rely on private donations to get elected, there will always be the risk of corruption or the perception of it.

This is an opportunity to lessen the influence of money in politics, give political power to the people, and restore the people's trust in this body and in you all. All of these things are badly needed. 74% of the Hawai'i voting public favors enacting public financed elections and ending the influence of corporate and private donations.

That's because we know that it's 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, local people, first — not big money interests.

Please, do the right thing.

Mahalo,

Lori Ferrin
Owner and Director of Employment Program Development

Lori Ferrin
lgfconsultinghawaii@gmail.com
64-5308 Iokua Pl. #A, Kamuela, HI 96743
808.854.9629



HAWAII WORKERS CENTER

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LATE

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February 20, 2023

Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

RE: Strong Support for S.B. 1543 S.D. 1 RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR
CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE

Dear Chair Sen. Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Sen. Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee
on Ways and Means:

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 low-wage and
immigrant workers.

The Hawaii Workers Center stands in strong support for S.B. 1543 to set up a system of fully
publicly financed "clean" elections.

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.

Candidates and elected officials 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. S.B. 1543 will create a much fairer system and
helps level the playing field for our working class residents. 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.

If we are serious about cleaning up the undue influence of money in politics. S.B. 1543 takes
the bold step we need for a 100% fully funded campaign finance system. It is a major step in
the right direction to ensure that democracy works for all of us, not just those at the top.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 1543 to finally give
workers a chance against anti-worker, big-money interests in politics.

Sincerely,

Sergio J. Alcubilla
Executive Director

Executive
Committee of the
Board

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Board Chair

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Vice President

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Tony Doroño

Sergio Alcubilla III,
Esq.



LATE

Inspiring Hope, Changing Lives

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Connect via email: info@hopeserviceshawaii.org

HOPE Help Line: 808-935-3050

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1543: RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE

TO: Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and Members
FROM: Brandee Menino, CEO, Hope Services Hawai'i, Inc.
Hearing: WAM on 02-22-23, 10:00AM

Aloha,

My name is Brandee Menino and I am the CEO of Hope Services Hawai'i, which is Hawai'i Island's largest nonprofit homeless services provider. We are pleased to support SB1543, which would establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai'i.

Our team uses evidence-based practices to help our neighbors avoid and overcome homelessness, and we achieve above-average results in helping people get housed and stay housed. However, as a non-governmental organization, we cannot change the laws that have led to the status quo. While federal, state, and local governments all bear some level of responsibility, today this committee has an opportunity to address the root of the problem, in a real and meaningful way. **When donors who profit by displacing local people are no longer needed to win an election, we can expect to see a pivot toward compassionate, equitable, and cost-effective housing policy.**

Good housing policy will come from legislators who aren't under immense pressure to fundraise. Good homelessness policy will come from legislators who can prioritize their community over their campaign.

We reached out to Representative Ambureen Rana, who was elected to the Maine State Legislature in 2022, to ask about her experience with public financing. This is what she had to say:

"I was publicly financed and it's the only way it was possible for me to run, as a working class person. It goes a long way in removing barriers to allow young people to run for office, and people of color. As a 28 year old, first generation American, this made it possible for me."

Please pass SB1543, so that people like Representative Rana have a chance to serve as policymakers in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui,

Brandee Menino,
Chief Executive Office

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
357 Waianuenue Avenue
Hilo, HI 96720
phone: (808) 935-3050
fax: (808) 935-3794

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Chief Executive Officer
Brandee Menino

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2023 6:06:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is definitely worth a try. It's obvious to all that our current method of financing elections stinks.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2023 7:06:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I heartly support. It's about time.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 10:10:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David McCluskey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Day, my name is David McCluskey, a former 6 term Connecticut State Representative and one of the members of then-Governor Rell's Campaign Finance Reform Working Group. I am honored to testify in support of your Senate Bill 1543 concerning Public Financing For Candidates To Elected Office.

In 2005, Connecticut became the first state in the nation where legislative incumbents passed a full public financing law that applies to their own political campaigns. Every state has unique legislative and political environments and I am not here to tell you to simply adopt Connecticut's Public Financing law. However, I am testifying that our system works. It has significantly reduced the influence of large moneyed interests in our legislative deliberations and it has made our elections more democratic by having more competition in our primaries and elections.

Since the 1800s, Connecticut has been called the land of steady habits. Change continues to be very hard in my state and asking legislators who know how to get reelected under the existing rules to adopt new campaign financing rules was particularly tough. But we were successful after a lot of struggle both inside and outside our State Capitol. Hawai'i can and should enact public financing of elections to improve the credibility of the legislative process for your state residents and to free legislators from the increasingly chaotic and escalating rush to raise funds.

In Connecticut, candidates must raise small to moderate amounts from residents in the towns they represent. Once they reach the necessary number of in-district contributions and the necessary dollar amount, the state provides them with a reasonable amount to campaign. This process is heavily regulated by the State Elections Enforcement Commission to prevent fraud and abuse. Asking your family, friends and neighbors for reasonable contributions is actually very liberating. I am not burdening them multiple times in a campaign for more and more money. Instead of spending an enormous amount of time raising dollars, I can spend it talking to voters.

Since Public Financing has been adopted, there has not been wholesale ouster of incumbents as was feared. Yes, some incumbents do lose in primaries and general elections, but mostly because they are no longer in touch with their voters, a policy issue or an economic situation, NOT because their opponent was publically funded. Yes, our system can punish incumbent complacency, but their opponent is equally funded, no more, no less. Incumbents still have the advantage in elections if they are doing their job and are talking to their constituents.

In terms of legislative deliberations, incumbents can now vote their convictions and without having to worry about being punished in re-election campaigns by well-healed lobbyists and interest groups who used to provide the lion's share of campaign dollars. Again, this is very liberating to most incumbents and has, in my opinion, significantly improved policy outcomes for Connecticut residents.

In conclusion, I strongly urge Hawai'i to adopt public financing for its state legislative races.

David McCluskey

Former Deputy Speaker/CT State Representative 20th District & a Former Vice President of the Greater Hartford Labor Council

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 11:33:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom a Kanaka Maoli.

I'm writing in SUPPORT of SB1543 SD1.

me ke aloha 'āina,
Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 11:42:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kilihea Inaba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

As is evident, big money, thus corruption, plays a critical role in the power of politics here in Hawaii. Money in politics holds back progress on all the issues important to local working families: from affordable housing, to cost of living, to protecting our environment, food security, and more.

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, 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 places like Connecticut and Maine. Partial public financing is not enough. As long as candidates need to rely on private donations to get elected, there will always be the risk of corruption or the perception of it. This is just one of the issues that will be addressed through bill 1543.

This is an opportunity to lessen the influence of money in politics, give political power to the people, and restore the people's trust in this body and in you all. All of these things are badly needed. 74% of the Hawai'i voting public favors enacting public financed elections and ending the influence of corporate and private donations. Please support what is necessary to reconstructing Hawaii into a place where local people- kanaka and non-kanaka alike- can receive what is pono for them and their families.

Me ka haahaa,

Kilihea Inaba

Kaloko, Kona, Hawaii

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 11:58:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Crawford	Individual	Support	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 our politics. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay-to-play behavior of our politicians needs to end now. Money in politics holds back progress on all the issues important to local working families: from affordable housing, to cost of living, to protecting our environment, and more.

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, 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 places like Connecticut and Maine. Partial public financing is not enough. As long as candidates need to rely on private donations to get elected, there will always be the risk of corruption or the perception of it.

This is an opportunity to lessen the influence of money in politics, give political power to the people, and restore the people's trust in this body and in you all. All of these things are badly needed. 74% of the Hawai'i voting public favors enacting public financed elections and ending the influence of corporate and private donations.

That's because we know that it's 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, local people, first — not big money interests. Please, do the right thing. Mahalo.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 12:00:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary True	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1543. The best government money can buy has not worked out well for our state. Let's try something different.

Mahalo, Mary True, Pepeekeo

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 12:12:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
len pepper	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel strongly that this is the right time and the right issue about getting big money out of elections.

PLEASE support SB1543..

If you are unable or unwilling to do so, Please send me an explanation:

lennardpepper@gmail.com or 1352 Olino St. Honolulu, HI 96818

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 12:36:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

First let me acknowledge that this letter borrows language suggested by Clean Elections Hawaii, so you will probably receive multiple letters with the same wording, but I 100% agree with it!

This is a VERY high priority for me as a voter!

It's crucially important that this body does everything in its power to remove the influence money has on our politics. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay-to-play behavior of our politicians needs to end now. Money in politics holds back progress on all the issues important to local working families: from affordable housing, to cost of living, to protecting our environment, and more.

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, 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 places like Connecticut and Maine. Partial public financing is not enough. As long as candidates need to rely on private donations to get elected, there will always be the risk of corruption or the perception of it.

This is an opportunity to lessen the influence of money in politics, give political power to the people, and restore the people's trust in this body and in you all. All of these things are badly needed. 74% of the Hawai'i voting public favors enacting public financed elections and ending the influence of corporate and private donations.

That's because we know that it's 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, local people, first — not big money interests. Please do the right thing.

Mahalo.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 1:06:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anita Trubitt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In view of the serious corruption cases last year, it is more essential than ever to pass this bill. Our democracy depends fully on clean elections and I am asking that you, our elected officials, fight for the passage of this critically important bill.

Aloha,

Anita Trubitt

Kailua, HI

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 1:07:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Gerwitz	Individual	Support	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 our politics. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay-to-play behavior of our politicians needs to end now. Money in politics holds back progress on all the issues important to local working families: from affordable housing, to cost of living, to protecting our environment, and more.

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, 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 places like Connecticut and Maine. Partial public financing is not enough. As long as candidates need to rely on private donations to get elected, there will always be the risk of corruption or the perception of it.

This is an opportunity to lessen the influence of money in politics, give political power to the people, and restore the people's trust in this body and in you all. All of these things are badly needed. 74% of the Hawai'i voting public favors enacting public financed elections and ending the influence of corporate and private donations.

That's because we know that it's 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, local people, first — not big money interests. Please, do the right thing.

Mahalo.

Laura Gerwitz

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 2:12:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please please please help us remove the power of big money in politics! This is so foundational for any policies relating to social, environmental, and economic justice.

This system worked very well for Hawai'i County Council races in 2010 and 2012, and currently works very well statewide in places like Connecticut and Maine. Partial public financing is not enough. As long as candidates need to rely on private donations to get elected, there will always be the risk of corruption or the perception of it.

This is an opportunity to lessen the influence of money in politics, give political power to the people, and restore the people's trust in this body and in you all. All of these things are badly needed. 74% of the Hawai'i voting public favors enacting public financed elections and ending the influence of corporate and private donations.

That's because we know that it's 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, local people, first — not big money interests. Please, do the right thing. Mahalo.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 2:19:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee members,

As a candidate who has run for State office twice now through the partial public funding program I write you in **STRONG** support of this bill. Publicly funded elections are the single biggest and most impactful reform I can imagine to help restore trust in government, encourage voter participation and level the playing field for all candidates. As someone who witnessed the success of the partial public funding program for Hawai'i County, I am excited to see efforts being made to strengthen and support expansion of this program. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Shannon Matson

Hawaii Island Resident

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 2:28:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Sutherland	Individual	Support	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 our politics. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay-to-play behavior of our politicians needs to end now. Money in politics holds back progress on all the issues important to local working families: from affordable housing, to cost of living, to protecting our environment, and more.

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, 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 places like Connecticut and Maine. Partial public financing is not enough. As long as candidates need to rely on private donations to get elected, there will always be the risk of corruption or the perception of it.

This is an opportunity to lessen the influence of money in politics, give political power to the people, and restore the people's trust in this body and in you all. All of these things are badly needed. 74% of the Hawai'i voting public favors enacting public financed elections and ending the influence of corporate and private donations.

That's because we know that it's 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, local people, first — not big money interests. Please, do the right thing.

Mahalo,

Scott Sutherland

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 3:09:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Iwanicki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Tom Iwanicki and I am writing in strong support of this legislation. The issue of money in politics is one of the greatest threats to democracy and challenges of our time. This legislation is a critical step toward making Hawai'i a more just and democratic society.

The rich have an outsized influence in the current political arena. That has left hardworking, local people to pick up crumbs meanwhile rich and out-of-state interests benefit tremendously. This has to change.

I urge you to support this legislation and put local people over big money.

Mahalo nui,

Tom

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 3:14:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strongly support for SB1543.

The Big Island's Clean Elections Program of 2010 and 2012 was very popular and a great success. Even initial detractors of the program acknowledged that it was better to meet with their constituents about issues rather than time spent fund-raising.

SB1543 as proposed establishes a more citizen concentric elections and a more citizen focused government SB1543.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Neal

Waimea

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 3:47:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth Hirsch, MD, PhD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support this bill, in order to further the goal of cleaner elections here in Hawaii.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2023 3:51:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Douglas	Individual	Support	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 our politics. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay-to-play behavior of our politicians needs to end now. Money in politics holds back progress on all the issues important to local working families: from affordable housing, to cost of living, to protecting our environment, and more.

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, 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 places like Connecticut and Maine. Partial public financing is not enough. As long as candidates need to rely on private donations to get elected, there will always be the risk of corruption or the perception of it.

This is an opportunity to lessen the influence of money in politics, give political power to the people, and restore the people's trust in this body and in you all. All of these things are badly needed. 74% of the Hawai'i voting public favors enacting public financed elections and ending the influence of corporate and private donations.

That's because we know that it's 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, local people, first — not big money interests. Please, do the right thing. Mahalo.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 7:54:13 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danelle Guion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Please support SB1543, because it's about time for YOU all to put people over big money.

The pay-to-play actions of politicians needs to end now. Money in politics, or BRIBERY, holds back progress on all the issues important to local working families, from affordable housing, to cost of living, to protecting our environment, and more. WE WANT CLEAN ELECTIONS!

Restore the people's trust in this body and in you all because 74% of the Hawai'i voting public favors enacting publicly financed elections, and ending the influence of corporate and private donations.

It's the single biggest thing YOU could do. Thank you from All of Us.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 8:16:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marjorie Bonar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Election finance activity has come to the point of overshadowing the real work of those elected. Public financing levels the field and sweeps away the perception, or reality, of bias.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 8:19:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Luksic	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Public financing only for public positions is a long overdue necessity to help abate corruption. Please move this forward.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 8:25:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Reynolds	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Money now has a huge impact on elections

- Candidates must actively seek donations that create relationships that can cause corruption or the perception of it.
- Legislators listen to donors, since they fund their campaigns.
- Money is crucial to winning. 91% of candidates who outspend their opponent go on to win.
- Many elections are uncontested because potential candidates can't afford the high price tag.

Point #2 - Clean Elections creates a fairer system

- Candidates will spend more time with constituents rather than fundraising.
- Elections will be more competitive with a more diverse set of candidates.
- Legislators will be free to make decisions without concern as to what their donors think.
- 74% of Hawai'i voters support full publicly financed elections.

Point #3 Cost of this program is small

- At less than \$25 million, a \$3 visitor fee or cannabis legalization would generate more than enough to pay for it.
- Legislators who aren't beholden to donors can save costs elsewhere in the budget.

Point #4 We aren't reinventing the wheel

- Big Island County Council races had a similar program in 2010 and 2012.
- Connecticut and Maine have clean elections statewide which are both popular and successful.
- Over 70% of Democratic legislators use this program in Maine.

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 8:43:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roger Walraven	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Those Honorable Persons Elected By The People of Hawaii,

Please stand for the elimination of private interests groups' influence in our elections and support SB 1543, in its entirety. Help bring Hawaii out of the Plantation Era and into the Twenty-First Century.

Thank you for your consideration

Roger WALRAVEN

808-645-6942

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 9:14:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judie Hoepner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's urgent that we money out of politics. this bill would make that happen.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 9:31:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1543. Back when I lived in Maine public financing of elections had just begun. A good friend who could not have afforded the cost of running for state representative was able to garner sufficient \$5 donations to qualify, ran for office and won. That is how it should be - not making money be a deciding factor in an election. Please support this bill as a beginning to getting money out of Hawaii politics!

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 9:41:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandra Stokes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I support SB1543. It must pass! We must clean up our election process. This is a small start yet it is a beginning. Please pass SB1543. Sincerely, Sandra Stokes

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 9:44:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TOM DIGRAZIA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 1543 SD1. We need to remove dark money from our elections and place all political candidates on an equal and transparent public footing. Please pass this important legislation for our democracy.

Mahalo nui loa!

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 9:46:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chet Gardiner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have personal experience of Public Financing of Elections working on independent and 3rd party campaigns in Arizona. The People of Arizona passed a Clean Elections Initiative (in a more enlightened time in their history) which allowed other, marginalized voices to challenge the one party system (with two heads) and open up the discussion to important topics.

I urge you to do the same. Public Financing of elections is a GIANT step toward have a real democracy instead of a sham one.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 9:53:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Heartfield PhD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote yes on this bill. This is critical since Money now has a huge impact on elections.

- Legislators listen to donors, since they fund their campaigns. Clean Elections creates a fairer system.
- 74% of Hawai'i voters support full publicly financed elections.
- At less than \$25 million, a \$3 visitor fee or cannabis legalization would generate more than enough to pay for it.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 9:53:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tony Radmilovich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Passing into law, 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.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 10:04:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darlene	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want candidates who are not bought and paid for by special interests. This bill offers a step in that direction.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 10:05:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Perry J. White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Elections in Hawaii have become far too much a matter of money rather than a choice between competing ideas. It is time, actually way past time, for that to change. This Bill is a step in the right direction, and despite whatever imperfections it may contain it is time to take that step rather than maintaining the status quo. Please consider the broad public interest and support this measure with your affirmative vote. Your children and grandchildren will repay you with their aloha.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 10:06:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

No surprises \$\$\$ buys influence and excludes many candidates because they can't compete w/ the incumbent etc..

Then there's the time spent fun raising instead of the people work. Plus the \$\$\$ influence instead of the working for the People .

- At less than \$25 million, a \$3 visitor fee or cannabis legalization would generate more than enough to pay for it.
- Legislators who aren't beholden to donors can save costs elsewhere in the budget
- Over 70% of Democratic legislators use this program in Maine.

Let's give this some serious consideration among ALL members !!!

JN Makawao

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 10:06:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Robison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members:

I live in Hilo In our state, money now has too large an influence on elections. Candidates must actively seek donations that create relationships that can cause corruption or the perception of it. Public funding of elections would create a fairer system. Candidates will spend more time with constituents rather than fundraising. Moreover, 74% of Hawai'i voters support full publicly financed elections.

Big Island County Council races had a similar program in 2010 and 2012.

Please pass SB1543 and help to renew public trust in government.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 10:13:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Insillio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Yes I am in favor of passing SB1543,I believe it will benefit both the public,and the candidates.We need a level playing field,for all!This is the way to go,to keep special interest groups out of our politics.Thank You Ann Insillio

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 10:19:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacy Moke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a fabulous way to make elections fair and keep money out of it. Passing this is the pono thing to do.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 10:20:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please, please, pass this extremely important bill! At every level monetary corruption has polluted the political environments of the whole world. Passing this bill could make Hawai'i a model of how it could be without such pollution. Do we not want our entire environment to be pristine?

I believe we all really do.

Mahalo

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 10:24:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB 1543. Don't think voters believe there were only two politicians involved in bribes. It's OBVIOUS by the rampant amount of permits granted to what should be illegal projects, government jobs awarded to suspect contractors doing subpar work, positions filled by family members and friends with no experience, and controversial bills passed or failed that we are long overdue for clean elections.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 10:35:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Forman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 10:36:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** this measure for public financing of campaigns that agree to abide by campaign funding and expenditure guidelines! Please pass this bill!

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 10:36:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chester Mazurowski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the passing of bill SB1543 into law. This is an extremely important issue to me. I have lived on Kauai for the past 19 years and vote.

Mahalo,

Chester Mazurowski

5358 Makaloa St

Kapaa HI 96746

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 10:39:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Kisor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In all levels of governance many of the best candidates don't have the money to compete with millionaires. We'll have to pay a little more for it, but we shouldn't keep electing big business. Lobbyists draft legislation, wine and dine amenable legislators to get their industry what they want. When geothermal wrote Acct 97, they convinced the legislature to sign it and by the time it passed, some Senators didn't realize the implications of what they'd signed, but since the only location suffering from PGV's hydrogen sulfide leaks was Puna Makai, most of the legislature couldn't have cared less. If a wealthy community were affected, the state would have snapped to attention, but never for the gang of punatics. Old reputations die hard!

When Russell Ruderman didn't vote for the choo choo train tax, he was told Puna wouldn't get any more capitol improvements that weren't already allocated for ten years. Who says politics isn't about revenge? This is why I support public funding, so we won't get stuck with with such pettiness. Especially since the continent has begun migrating to this island and started clogging our aging and obsolete infrastructure.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 10:41:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Swenson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB1543

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 10:54:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Clean Elections creates a fairer system

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 10:59:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madolin Wells	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Nothing could be more important than getting the money out of politics. That is how corruption has taken hold. We need a fair system that will serve the needs of the people and the 'aina, not predatory corporatism.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 11:18:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha WAM Chair, Vice Chair, & Committee,

I support SB1543 because it "Establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai'i". Money has ruled our brand of politics since our foundinf fathers. However **Citizens United brought the BIG BUCKS out to SWAY!!** BIG BUCKS has been flexing its ugly biceps. SB1543 is a good way to keep BIG BUCKS at bay.

In the US methods of publicly funded election legislation have been adopted in 17 states that include: Colorado, Maine, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Maryland, Michigan, Arizona, North Carolina, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, and Massachusetts.

Point #1 - Money now has a huge impact on elections

- Candidates must actively seek donations that create relationships that can cause corruption or the perception of it.
- Legislators listen to donors, since they fund their campaigns.
- Money is crucial to winning. 91% of candidates who outspend their opponent go on to win.
- Many elections are uncontested because potential candidates can't afford the high price tag.

Point #2 - Clean Elections creates a fairer system

- Candidates will spend more time with constituents rather than fundraising.
- Elections will be more competitive with a more diverse set of candidates.
- Legislators will be free to make decisions without concern as to what their donors think.
- 74% of Hawai'i voters support full publicly financed elections.

Point #3 Cost of this program is small

- At less than \$25 million, a \$3 visitor fee or cannabis legalization would generate more than enough to pay for it.
- Legislators who aren't beholden to donors can save costs elsewhere in the budget.

Point #4 We aren't reinventing the wheel

- Big Island County Council races had a similar program in 2010 and 2012.
- Connecticut and Maine have clean elections statewide which are both popular and successful.
- Over 70% of Democratic legislators use this program in Maine.

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all.

Passing into law, 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. Please take the action.

SB1543 is a no-brainer! **Publicly funded elections** have been called the reform that makes all other reforms possible. Lets DO THIS!

Mahalo for your consideration,

tlaloc tokuda

Kailua Kona HI 96740

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 11:33:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Pizzitola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree with and/or support the following:

Point #1 - Money now has a huge impact on elections

- Candidates must actively seek donations that create relationships that can cause corruption or the perception of it.
- Legislators listen to donors, since they fund their campaigns.
- Money is crucial to winning. 91% of candidates who outspend their opponent go on to win.
- Many elections are uncontested because potential candidates can't afford the high price tag.

Point #2 - Clean Elections creates a fairer system

- Candidates will spend more time with constituents rather than fundraising.
- Elections will be more competitive with a more diverse set of candidates.
- Legislators will be free to make decisions without concern as to what their donors think.
- 74% of Hawai'i voters support full publicly financed elections.

Point #3 Cost of this program is small

- At less than \$25 million, a \$3 visitor fee or cannabis legalization would generate more than enough to pay for it.
- Legislators who aren't beholden to donors can save costs elsewhere in the budget.

Point #4 We aren't reinventing the wheel

- Big Island County Council races had a similar program in 2010 and 2012.
- Connecticut and Maine have clean elections statewide which are both popular and successful.
- Over 70% of Democratic legislators use this program in Maine.

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all.

Passing into law, 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.

Please do the right thing for our hard hit democracy.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 11:33:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mele Stokesberry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Money now has a huge impact on elections, and now candidates are having to seek large donations with groups and individuals the create relationships causing actual corruption or at least the perception of it.

Clean Elections creates a fairer system in which elected officials can spend more time on real issues and with their constituents, rather than fundraising. A much more diverse set of candidates can take part in elections, and when elected, they'll be free to make decisions without concern as to what a donor thinks, and if they'll donate again. It is said that 74% of Hawai'i voters support full publicly financed elections.

It works in other states. And, a \$3 visitor tax would pay for it. Please support this!

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 11:38:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roger Epstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is essential to our democracy. Ever since the Supreme Court allowed unlimited cash contributions, our elections became totally dependent on money, and big money now dominates everything. Let's free our legislators from the money requirements that forces them to consider donors in making their decisions. It's not fair to the legislators or our community to make raising and taking money the key to being elected.

The time is now to get this done. Hawaii is suffering from many problems that can't be properly addressed when our legislators have to spend their time and be in anyway beholden to big money.

Mahalo nui loa for considering my opinion.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 11:38:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Dinner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There are many important issues on the agenda this you for the Legislature. Nothing rivals the importance of SB 1543. If we don't get our political system cleaned up, resolution of our other issues is an impossible dream. But this bill is apoewerful step in the right direction. Please vote to pass SB 1543!

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 11:40:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ramona Hussey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members.

I STRONGLY support SB1543 to provide for public financing of our elections.

Voters are well aware that money for campaigns are the biggest factor in who can even run for office. The resulting corruption, stagnation of progress, and real change fails and distrubs everyone. So many people, especially young people give up on making a difference. If for NO OTHER reason than encouraging young people who care about their future, this Legislature should pass legislation for public financing of elections.

I urge you to pass this out of your Committee.

Thank you,

Ramona Hussey

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 11:46:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doorae Shin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of SB1543, which makes publicly-funded elections more accessible to candidates. This program is an effective way to strengthen integrity in our elections, campaigns, and elected officials. I strongly support this measure.

Mahalo,
Doorae

**Testimony to the Thirty-Second Legislature, 2023 Regular Session
Senate Committee on Judiciary**

By
Colin D. Moore, Ph.D.

Senate Bill No. 1543, SD1 Relating to Public Financing for Candidates to Elected Office

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

I am Colin Moore, a political scientist and professor at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I strongly support SB 1543, SD1. It follows the successful “clean elections” model of public campaign financing currently used in the states of Arizona, Maine, and Connecticut.

In the United States, politics costs money. To raise sufficient funds, candidates rely on wealthy donors and organized interests for support – and this can invite corruption and distort public policy. Challengers often struggle to raise funds because they lack the name recognition and access to networks that benefit incumbents. Over the past decade, an average of 90% of incumbents were reelected during each election cycle in Hawai‘i.

Public financing can solve this problem by providing challengers with sufficient resources to run competitive campaigns. More competitive elections often lead to stronger voter mobilization and communication efforts – and this reduces ballot “roll off,” which is the tendency of voters to leave ballots blank for less-visible legislative and municipal races. Furthermore, public financing eliminates the need to raise private funds, allowing candidates to spend more time connecting with voters and discussing public policy. This is good for candidates and good for citizens.

A large body of research in political science indicates that generous public campaign financing programs can increase electoral competition, contribute to greater diversity among candidates and donors, and encourage more contact between office-seekers and voters.

For these reasons, I urge you to support SB 1543, SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 11:53:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Parker	Individual	Support	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 our politics. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i as we have seen so clearly this last year. Money in politics holds back progress on all the issues important to local working families: from affordable housing, to cost of living, to protecting our environment, and so much more.

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, 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 places like Connecticut and Maine. Partial public financing is not enough. As long as candidates need to rely on private donations to get elected, there will always be the risk of corruption or the perception of it.

This bill is an opportunity to lessen the influence of money in politics, give political power to the people, and restore the people's trust in this body and in you all. All of these things are badly needed. 74% of the Hawai'i voting public favors enacting public financed elections and ending the influence of corporate and private donations. That's because we know that it's 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, local people, first — not big money interests. Please, do the right thing. Mahalo. Lisa Parker, Kapaa, Kauai.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 11:59:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith Brock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill would cut down on corruption associated with big money donors and would level the playing field for candidates who are ignored simply because they don't have the wherewithal to compete. We need to take the influence of money out of politics and allow those who have the qualifications to have a chance. Our government needs to return to the integrity of those who run it, not those who raises the most money.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 12:17:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB1543, which will establish public financing for elections. It's time to take big money out of Hawaii's politics and make us a true democracy.

Thank you.

Jane E Arnold

1763 Iwi Way, Apt D

Honolulu HI 96816

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 12:22:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dean R. Liskum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1543.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 12:23:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I respectfully ask that you support SB1543 which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for your attention and courtesy.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 1:13:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda L Jenks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly in favor of SB1543 as I feel it will get money out of our politics, and help to clean up the corruption and influence peddling that has occurred. Show us that the process can be fair, and start with this bill. Thank you.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 1:18:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pamela Elders	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in favor of SB1542 for the following reasons:

--Huge amounts of money are needed to campaign, which makes fundraising ability a critical skill set of any successful campaigner. Power equals money.

--Fundraising large amounts of money from special interest groups or rich individuals is a necessity. Whether the candidate admits it or not, such donations are not made without expectations. Corruption or the perception of it, undermines everyone's faith in the democratic process.

--The huge amounts of money and constant fundraising discourage many who might otherwise consider running for public office.

--Fundraising takes valuable time away from a representative's constituency.

--Successful public funding of elections must apply to all candidates. It doesn't work if it's voluntary. The same rules should apply to all--that's fair.

--This is a low-cost improvement with a big payoff. Low-hanging fruit, if you will: a simple way to remove the core cause of voter distrust in their elected officials. Candidates won't have to lie about whether their donors influence their decisions. They will be able to act more independently and judge an issue on its merits. The public won't have to worry about dark money.

I urge you to vote in favor of cleaner elections. It's a no-brainer. Vote in favor of candidates finding their power in the people, not in big-money donors.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 2:12:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Palmer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Clearly B1543 is an effective way to prevent further corruption, in many ways, as a disincentive to the candidate to appease his/her wealthy donors.

Also great candidates simply can't afford to compete with wealthy unfit, fallacious individuals.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 2:23:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dale A. Head	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Ways & Means Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz & Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

I strongly **SUPPORT** this Bill as it will undercut if not eliminate the problem of ‘Dark Money’ fueling and corrupting our Legislature.

In the past few years I tried repeatedly to get our Legislature to reverse the harmful and anti-democratic problem of truncated, conditional, voting rights imposed upon Home Owners Association (HOAs) members in their own elections, at the urging of property management company agents who make donations to lawmakers, out of public view. This assault on Equal Protection occurred in **2005** under Governor Linda Lingle. It is a dreadful scheme which runs afoul of the Equal Protection Clause in the 14th Amendment of our US Constitution. While it could and perhaps should be overturned in a federal court, the perpetrators who caused it were our own state Legislators. Little shame in ‘Mudville’. I am quite surprised this Bill surfaced. It is only a few decades overdue.

Please pass SB1543 SD1 as the Public is fed up with corruption.

Respectfully, Dale Arthur Head [dale.head@aol.com] Saturday 18 February 2023

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 2:28:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please count me as adamantly supporting SB1543.

Mahalo and Aloha, Nancy A. Martin

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 2:32:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Matthews	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is essential to get money out of politics. I fully support this bill. There is too much corruption in Maui, as is shown by the recent convictions of members of the government in Hawaii.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 2:32:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Moran	Testifying for Kihei Community Assoc (KCA)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Senators.

We stand in support of this measure. We continue to see evidence of corruption, & many in our community question how much more has not been uncovered. Measures like this may well lessen undue financial influence and help to sway the community toward more confidence in the process. Please support this

Mahalo

Mike Moran for KCA

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 2:48:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorenn Walker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We support this measure to completely finance political campaigns in Hawai'i. Our organization's work to find ways for the public to access justice depends largely on what law makers decide. Law makers cannot help being pressured by donor interests over the interests of public. This makes a vast difference in the quality of their decisions benefiting the public that affect our state.

Please vote yes to this bill and help our lawmakers (yourselves) enact laws that are in the best interests of the public, and not donors.

If you have any questions about this testimony please contace Lorenn Walker
lorenn@hawaii.edu.

Mahalo for you public service.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 2:57:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martha E. Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please make fully funded publicly financed elections happen in Hawaii.

This will enable more candidates with the ability to run for office.

It may also lower the cost of running for office, a benefit for voters and candidates.

I am a resident voter of Kahului, Maui and want to make elections less expensive.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 3:01:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Weiss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support publicly financed elections. Taking money out of the elections would make elections more fair and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 3:03:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara L. George	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT WHOLEHEARTEDLY!! TIME TO GET MONEY OUT OF ELECTIONS AND ENSURE THAT ALL CANDIDATES START FROM A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 3:16:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Puanani Rogers	Testifying for Hui Aloha `Aina Women's Patriotic League	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

My name is Puanani Rogers, 83 years old and born, raised and still live in the the ahupua`a o Kealia, Kaua`i.

I am testifying in strong support of SB 1543. It is a wise and beneficial measure that will serve our people who run for elections well.

Mahalo for your strong support as well.

Puanani Rogers

4702 Mailihuna Road, Kapa`a, HI 96746

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 3:23:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dean Cail	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for considering Campaign finance reforms. Perhaps this local legislation will spread to national politics, where it is badly needed. I started supporting Common Cause 25 years ago, and their hopes have not yet succeeded. We are bombarded by requests for money because BIG MONEY can usually get any candidate they want simply by spending more!

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 3:30:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB 1543 because it would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all.

This is especially important to me because in the last few elections donations from the continent have been excessive in attempting influence our elections and I believe this will grow into an even larger problem.

This is not new solution. We've seen it work. Please support this bill

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 3:40:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Morin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee members,

I SUPPORT SB1543 SD1.

Sincerely,

Noel Morin - Hilo

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 4:25:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna Myers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please lets get the money out of politics. It will eventually save us money to keep our candidates from fundraising efforts. I like the plan as outlined and presented.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 4:25:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Wilkie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing to ask that you do everything in your power to pass SB1543.

The people of Hawai‘i deserve to have their best interests represented by their elected officials. Private, big-money influence over election campaigns prevent that from happening. Reliance on private donors for campaign funding engenders a corrupt system of governance that disenfranchises the people it is meant to serve. SB1543 would be an enormous step forward to rectify that.

This bill will level the playing field for candidates who are not indebted to narrow private interests. It is crucial that elections be fully—not partially—funded by the public. Without this bill's passage, we will only continue to see pay-to-play corruption run rampant at the highest levels of our state government.

In practice, private campaign contributions amount to bribes. They oblige the politicians that receive them to their donors, privileging those donors over the electorate. This is no secret: 74% of the Hawai‘i voting public wants elections to be fully publicly funded.

This bill is the single biggest step that could be taken toward providing local people with a state government that truly represents them. Please do all you can to ensure its passage. The public demands it and it is the right thing to do.

Me ke aloha,
David Wilkie

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 4:40:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Witeck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senators, it is clear that big money has played a distorting role in our elections. It decides who gets how much media publicity based on what a candidate can afford. It affects mailings and the production of print materials--letters, brochures, postcards, etc. it clearly helps decide who gets more votes and is elected. Many potential candidates are dissuaded from running due to the high costs of a campaign.

Clean elections in which donations are not permitted will allow elections to be more competitive and more based on the ideas and merits of the candidate--not on how much money they raise or how large the donations given to them.

The costs of public financing is minimal, perhaps \$25 million by one estimate--only .2% of the state budget. The benefits would be enormous. Some county council races already have public financing without private donations. Some states--Maine and Connecticut have clean, donation-free elections. It's time Hawaii get on board and implement this idea by passing this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony.

John Witeck

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 4:53:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lourdes Scheibert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1543

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 4:56:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg and Pat Farstrup	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote to support SB1543 SD1 and take this opportunity to get money out of Hawai'i politics and give political power to our people!

providing for publicly financed elections is the single biggest thing you could help 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.

Kū i ka pono!

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 5:02:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Maitino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in FULL support of SB1543. Publicly funded elections needs to be enacted now. Corruption is rampant, in the news weekly. Many candidates have an unfair advantage and can outspend potentially excellent candidates. Time spent fundraising could be better spent on learning about the issues, and getting to know their constituents. Legislators can make decisions based on what is best, not on what their highest donors want them to do.

74% of Hawai'i voters overwhelming support publicly financed elections. Isn't it finally time to do the right thing and support SB1543?

Thank you,

Maria Maitino

Kilauea, HI

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 5:25:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1543 because it works to keep big money and corruption out of politics within our state. SB 1543 would enable candidates to focus on the actual needs of their constituents, kama'āina and kānaka maoli first vs. being beholden to corporations, developers, and others funding their campaign.

When candidates are left to actively seek donations, this can create relationships that can cause corruption or the perception of it. Money now has a big impact on elections and this can lead to corruption and, at the very least, unfair influence and bias. Legislators are forced to listen to donors because they fund their campaigns.

Statistics show that money is crucial to winning. 91% of candidates who outspend their opponent go on to win. And the result is candidates who owe their donors something. Also, many potential candidates can't afford the high price tag to run and many elections are uncontested. There should be an even playing field for running for office.

So clean up elections in Hawaii. Ban candidates from receiving any private donations at all. Allow legislators to be free to make decisions without concern as to what their donors think.

Mahalo for considering my views.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 5:54:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariana Monasi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for continuing to hear this bill and move it through the legislative process.

As a person that is highly involved in intersectional movement work, I always hear and often feel that we can't make a big difference because laws are created to keep us in our place.

by passing this into law, we would be expanding the access of regular passionate people to run for office. It would not be exclusively for the elite and well-connected.

please help more people feel connected and involved with politica for a future that truly feels representative with increased efficacy.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 6:21:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This plan might allow lawmakers to represent their constituents. It's worth a try. This system has gotten so corrupt - I fear chaos brewing among the disenfranchised. If Washington DC will have to pay millions to maintain full-time security for elected government and their families - we would do well to quell the frustration and anger by eliminating the need to ignore everyone but the lobbyists. This program could end the pretence of submitting a Bill for a constituent and then not even support it. That's very annoying and disrespectful.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 6:30:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorna Holmes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Passing this bill is extremely important to combat corruption. Please help the people of Hawaii by supporting it. Here's how Clean Elections will create a fairer system:

- **Candidates can get support from their constituents rather than wealthy donors.**
- **Elections will become more competitive with a more diverse set of candidates.**
- **Legislators will be free to act on behalf of voters without being concerned about what their donors think.**
- **Candidates can spend more time with constituents rather than fundraising.**
- **A system of fully publicly financed elections is supported by 74% of Hawai'i voters.**
- **Mahalo for your support. Lorna Holmes, Honolulu 96817**

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 6:44:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John & Rita Shockley	Testifying for FREE ACCESS COALITION	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition supports leveling the financial playing field for any political candidate. This Bill is one step in that direction.

We hope in fairness that the Legislature will support this important measure.

Mahalo for your time and hopefully, your kokua.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 6:57:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
R A Culbertson	Individual	Support	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 our politics. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay-to-play behavior of our politicians needs to end now.

Here in Hawai'i County several races in 2010 and 2012, set a template for what works. It's time to expand this option statewide.

This is an opportunity to lessen the influence of money in politics, return political power to the people, and restore the people's trust in this body and in you all.

Please, do the right thing.

Mahalo!

R A Culbertson

Honokaa

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 6:57:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear WAM Chair and Committee Members,

Money now has a huge impact on elections and influence peddling in the legislature. Even when most residents support issues like protecting our precious reef creatures, the legislature committee chairs continue to table bills with a number of exemptions due to special interest influence.

- Under our current system Candidates must actively seek donations that create relationships that can cause corruption or the perception of it as in the above example.
- Legislators listen to donors, since they fund their campaigns.
- Money is crucial to winning. 91% of candidates who outspend their opponent go on to win.
- Many elections are uncontested because potential candidates can't afford the high price tag.

Clean Elections creates a fairer system:

- Candidates will spend more time with constituents rather than fundraising.
- Elections will be more competitive with a more diverse set of candidates.
- Legislators will be free to make decisions without concern as to what their donors think.
- 74% of Hawai'i voters support full publicly financed elections.

Furthermore the Cost of this program is small:

- At less than \$25 million Legislators who aren't beholden to donors can save costs elsewhere in the budget.

We aren't reinventing the wheel

- Big Island County Council races had a similar program in 2010 and 2012.
- Connecticut and Maine have clean elections statewide which are both popular and successful.
- Over 70% of Democratic legislators use this program in Maine.

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all.

Passing into law, 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. Please take the action. This has been a priority of mine for decades. Without it ordinary citizens will retreat as their voices are ignored.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this proposal,

Diane Ware a resident from Ka'u Moku not some unidentified person from out of state. 99-7815
Kapoha Volcano 96785

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 7:08:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary K Ochs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1543 which will ensure parity in who can run for public office and will help ensure integrity and independence amongst all those who seek and hold office.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Mary Ochs

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 7:33:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moses Thrasher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Passing SB1543 into law is the single biggest thing we can do to insure that we have clean elections in Hawaii. It will bring an end to the current system of "Pay-to-Play" corruption in our politics, where legislators do the bidding of their wealthy and corporate donors rather than attend to the concerns of their constituents. It would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all. Start building a Hawai'i that puts kama'āina and kānaka maoli first — not big money interests. Please take action and pass this bill.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 9:24:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey Mermel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators: I write IN SUPPORT of SB1543.....I believe passage of this bill will help TAKE BIG MONEY OUT of our elections..

SO many people are disgusted how big money interests can badly influence our legislators.

Similar legislation in Connecticut and Maine has proven successful.

Let's give it a GO here in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your serious consideration of this important bill.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2023 10:44:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert H Stiver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Passing into law publicly financed elections is the single biggest thing we can and must do to end pay-to-play corruption in our politics! I support SB 1543 unreservedly!

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran

Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Wednesday, February 22, 2023
10:00 AM

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1543 SD1 RELATING TO PUBLIC
FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, Members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means,

My name is Jun Shin. I am a graduate of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and a member of the Hawai‘i State Youth Commission, testifying as an individual in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB1543 SD1**, Relating to Public Financing for Candidates to Elected Office.

This bill is crucial because it would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding that they would need to run an effective campaign, 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 places like Connecticut and Maine. Partial public financing is not enough. As long as candidates need to rely on private donations to get elected, there will always be the risk of corruption or the perception of it. Money shouldn’t be a barrier to stepping up to serve and money should not have even the potential to cloud your decision-making while doing the work of the people.

It’s already difficult to participate in politics as a working person since daily survival is your main priority. But even if you aren’t directly participating in politics, working people can see its impacts in their working conditions, pay, whether their kids' school has a lot of teachers and supplies, whether you can actually find a place to live, whether you can retire, etc. When you don’t see life getting better despite who you vote for or go the extra mile to even give some money or put up signs for, and you see the wealthy and multinational profiteers use their money to have their way, you give up on politics.

By taking the need for major fundraising out of commission, SB1543 both encourages and pressures candidates to bring it back to their constituencies and actually get buy-in/support from regular people, which includes going to meetings and events in order to share why they are running for office and what their plans are if elected. So in conclusion, **PASS Senate Bill 1543**

SD1 out of your committee. Take this opportunity to get money out of politics and give political power back to the people!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,

State House District 23 | State Senate District 12

Cell: 808-255-6663

Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 6:31:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tawn Keeney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

Senators,

This may be the most important bill before legislature this session. It is the bill by which this session at least will be judged. Over and Over legislature fails the people of Hawaii. It is so obvious to those people that the influence of money must be removed from the law making process, that the good of Hawaii's citizens, decided by rational consideration uninfluenced by moneyed interests, must be the foundation of the rule of law. Do not fail us again. SB1543 must provide the foundation for the transition to a legislature that is rightfully respected by the people of Hawaii. Vote 'yes' on this measure.

Tawn Keeney MD

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 7:30:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Polk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have just read through the testimony for this hearing as of Sunday morning. It is clear that almost all believe that legislators are corrupt. Whether that is true or not, that perception has contributed to an embarrassingly low voter turnout in Hawaii elections for years, as well as the lack of competition for many offices.

Passing SB1543 will help correct that perception, as well as opening the possibility for more candidates to run for office.

Publicly funded elections will also save elected officials from the endless task of raising campaign funds, giving them more time to get to know their constituents, as well as to focus on the endless demands of their positions.

Please pass SB1543.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 8:19:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Grover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Passing into law, publicly financed elections is the single biggest thing we could do to end pay-to-play corruption.

This is not a difficult decision, and 74% of Hawai'i voters support full publicly financed elections.

- Candidates will spend more time with constituents rather than fundraising.
- Elections will be more competitive with a more diverse set of candidates.
- Legislators will be free to make decisions without concern as to what their donors think.

I encourage you to vote in support of this measure and insure that it passes unencumbered.

Regards,

Matt Grover

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 9:00:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Fitzpatrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I support SB 1543 because publically funded elections is how we make the voice of the people more powerful than the voice of wealthy campaign contributions. Let's take the power back after the disastrous citizens united decision and put power in the peoples hands.

The supreme court ruled that money is speech. But speech is not equal when there is such wealth inequalities. We need to level the political playing field.

Please pass SB 1543 and get out from under the thumb of powerful campaign contributors.

Mahalo,
Fitz

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 9:32:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	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 our politics. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay-to-play behavior of our politicians needs to end now. Money in politics holds back progress on all the issues important to local working families: from affordable housing, to cost of living, to protecting our environment, and more.

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, 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 places like Connecticut and Maine. Partial public financing is not enough. As long as candidates need to rely on private donations to get elected, there will always be the risk of corruption or the perception of it.

This is an opportunity to lessen the influence of money in politics, give political power to the people, and restore the people's trust in this body and in you all. All of these things are badly needed. 74% of the Hawai'i voting public favors enacting public financed elections and ending the influence of corporate and private donations.

That's because we know that it's 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, local people, first — not big money interests. Please, do the right thing.

Mahalo,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, Hi 96717

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 9:41:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William R. Higa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please adopt this bill that will strengthen democracy in our state politics! Mahalo & Aloha!

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 10:22:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Puppione	Individual	Support	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. Money in politics holds back progress on all the issues important to local working families: from affordable housing, to cost of living, to protecting our environment, and more.

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, 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 places like Connecticut and Maine.

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'aina and kānaka maoli first — not big money interests.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 10:50:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilyn Yamamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee members,

I fully SUPPORT SB1543.

Our state needs clean elections!

That will reduce corruption due to the obligation to the donor.

That will allow candidates to focus on issues rather than fundraising

That will allow legislators to make decisions without concern of what donors may think

That will cost the state little while huge savings can be achieved in legislation.

That will make both elections and legislation fairer.

Marilyn Yamamoto

Hawaii Coalition for Child Protective Reform

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 11:07:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce L Hultgren	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly encourage the passage of this bill.

Public funding of elections will help greatly in getting big money out of politics in our State. Hawaii is a small state, and there is incredible variation in the relativ assets of its' people.

The wishes of the majority are often ignored due to the donations of the wealth and powerful, to the detriment of the Aina, our citizens and especially our keiki.

Please pass this bill as a start to cleaning up money in politics.

Thank you,

Bruce L Hultgren

Kailua

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 11:34:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Kimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 1:08:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank DeGiacomo	Individual	Support	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 our politics. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay-to-play behavior of our politicians needs to end now. Money in politics holds back progress on all the issues important to local working families: from affordable housing, to cost of living, to protecting our environment, and more.

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, 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 places like Connecticut and Maine. Partial public financing is not enough. As long as candidates need to rely on private donations to get elected, there will always be the risk of corruption or the perception of it.

This is an opportunity to lessen the influence of money in politics, give political power to the people, and restore the people's trust in this body and in you all. All of these things are badly needed. 74% of the Hawai'i voting public favors enacting public financed elections and ending the influence of corporate and private donations.

That's because we know that it's 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, local people, first — not big money interests. Please, do the right thing. Mahalo.

Frank DeGiacomo

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 1:34:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support.

I think this is the least we can do to begin restoration of an electoral system based on one person, one vote, rather than one dollar, one vote.

Mahalo!

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 1:41:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin Sage	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is important for the corruption of Hawaii State to be stopped. As a concerned citizen it appears that most agencies are under the influence of bribes and big money politics. This needs to stop to return democracy to the people and for the people.

Mahalo

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 2:17:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Senators,

Please support SB1543 SD1. This is a very important step in making our political system in Hawaii work for the people, not for the corporations and moneyed interests. Other states have done this, so we can follow in their footsteps.

Let's clean up our elections.

Regards,

Susan, Retired, Lawai, HI

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 2:39:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Corker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members—

I strongly support SB1543 and a system of publicly funded elections.

The current system fosters corruption and undermines democracy.

Please enact SB1543 and move Hawaii toward honest, transparent and clean elections.

Thank you,

Bruce Corker

Holualoa, Hawaii County

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 4:07:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Motter Anne Snell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

loha 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. Money in politics holds back progress on all the issues important to local working families: affordable housing, cost of living, protecting our environment, and more.

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign and would ban them from receiving any private donations. This system worked very well for Hawai'i County Council races in 2010 and 2012 and currently works very well statewide in places like Connecticut and Maine.

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.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 6:38:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Berrett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo! The day has finally come for statewide public funding of elections in Hawaii. Please add my voice to the “ayes” for SB1543 SD1 with the following considerations.

To give this legislative effort the appropriate funding priority and greatest chance of success, I believe we must include the following considerations if not already addressed.

1. - An Even Playing Field - **All candidates** running in Hawaii elections **must be a “comprehensive publicly-funded candidate”** or abide within those same campaign funding ceiling limits. **No exceptions.**

2. - No Excuses - **Publicly Funded Election rules for all candidates CANNOT be abandoned due to inadequate funding.** We simply must work within our means, get creative on reducing costs and funding for that election cycle. Seek ideas from the citizenry as needed.

3. - Cheaters Lose - **Candidates who over spend shall be DISQUALIFIED from the election process and the election results may be overturned.** Simple monetary fines for overspending may not be an adequate deterrent for close elections. Only a predetermined factor for reasonable accounting errors may be tolerated.

4. - Correct the Typo? - §11-N Section 10. “This Act shall take effect on **March 22, 2075**” ?? Surely this is a typo or a formality of the process I am not familiar with? Effective start date must be well prior to the 2024 election cycle.

Thank you for your efforts.

Richard Berrett

Kauai

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 8:32:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support this bill.

Mahalo,

Elizabeth Hansen, Hakalau HI 96710

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 9:02:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
NICOLE CRISTOBAL	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Publicly funded elections can help our democratic system be more equitable by supporting access to campaigning for a more diverse range of people.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 9:07:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support this bill.

Mahalo,

Rodger Hansen, Hakalau HI 96710

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 9:49:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Shimata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In my opinion, Citizens United was the most serious threat to democracy in my lifetime. If hidden campaign donations are allowed to flood elections, at least we should support unbought candidates. Please support SB1543.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2023 10:21:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support this bill. I have been wishing for something like this for national politics but knew it would have to start at the state level. In my ideal world there would also be a state run website devoted to elections only where each candidate has an equal platform to post pertinent information about themselves, their policies, their record and history if they have already and everything is fact checked by an independent board. There would be a short window to campaign and there would be none of the usual dirty/negative political ads on television or radio. There could still be televised debates, forums, whatever - that is part of this new system - and all candidates get their time to speak. That would be available to watch on the site as well. This would enable the voters to just get the facts and none of the other BS. It would also ensure that our already elected officials spend their time doing their job and not trying to get elected.

Thank you for reading this,

Karen Johnson

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 5:02:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Ching	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee.

I strongly support SB1543, SD1. Public funding of elections is the reform that makes all other reforms possible.

Public funding of elections will restore trust in government. As the former head of Hawaii Clean Elections (HICLEAN), I am pleased to see the support for this bill. If passed, the bill will strengthen our democracy and will increase the number and diversity of candidates for elected office.

Please pass SB1543, SD1. Mahalo nui.

Randy Ching

Honolulu

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 6:53:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica Stone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Comittee Members and mahalo for receiving my testimony in support of SB1543.

I believe removing big money and and the strings that come attached from our local elections will give a platform for us all, including historically underserved and underrepresented communities, to elect leaders free from corporate interest and control. Time for change!

Please support this bill.

In gratitude,

Monica Stone, 96740

Committee on Ways and Means

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 10:00 a.m. & Videoconference

SB1543 SD1 - RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES
TO ELECTED OFFICE

TESTIMONY- Janet Mason, Honolulu

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

I strongly support this measure, which would **establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawaii, beginning with the 2024 general election year.**

Public funding for candidates, not political parties, should be available for all State and County elective offices in both the primary and general elections. This is probably the most important step Hawaii could take to restore the public's trust that elected officials are making decisions without undue influence from the private sector.

The measure does require that candidates receive tangible financial support from voters in their district, which is an appropriate check on the viability of the person's candidacy. Nevertheless, an appropriation of \$30 million deposited into the Hawaii election campaign fund is called for in fiscal year 2023-2024. The measure then appropriates \$200 thousand from this fund for fiscal year 2023-24 and \$200 thousand for fiscal year 2024-25 to prepare for elections taking place in 2024. I defer to the Campaign Spending Commission on the adequacy of these amounts.

It is my sincere hope that the spending limits for elective offices described in the bill will be accepted by potential candidates. Hawaii is searching for a "sweet spot," where candidates find the limits adequate, but taxpayers are not overly burdened. Other states like Maine have successfully taken the plunge, so Hawaii can learn from their success.

The U.S. Supreme Court in its "Citizens United," ruling has already decided that spending limits are unconstitutional unless candidates accept public funding. Let's try a different path here in Hawaii - a public financing program that helps reduce the escalating cost of campaigns, eliminating the reliance on big contributions from wealthy donors. Let's also make it likely that qualified first-time candidates without wealth or access to wealth could be more confident about paying for campaign expenses.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 9:36:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Sue Shepherd	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please respect life and it's nature by voting NO on SB1543. Having lived in Hawaii 32 years our family eats 2 or three papaya at least every day at breakfast. **I have always thrown the seeds and bits to the corner of the yard for all birds. Minahs, doves, finches cardinals and sometimes chickens, turkeys and pheasants show up too. After all we humans take from nature this ritual lets me give back directly. It's good karma and respect for life. How much chicken have you eatten in a life time with out a thought of appreciation? All of you. This is a shame. Where are our priorities? The are greater laws to enact now and you surely know what they are.**

Thank You for you Good Service

Donna Sue Shepherd

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 9:45:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elaine Wender	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this critical legislation to get money out of politics.

Elaine Wender

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 9:57:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Ways & Means Committee Chair DeLa Cruz and Committee Members,

Please support this Bill. I strongly do.

It's crucially important that this body does everything in its power to remove the influence money has on politics, overwhelming the voices and influence of individual community members and residents. Winning publicly financed elections is the single biggest thing we could do to end pay-to-play manipulation in our politics and start building a Hawai'i that puts kama'āina and kānaka maoli first, not big money interests.

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, aka clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, 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 places like Connecticut and Maine.

I am asking you to take this opportunity to get money out of politics and give political power to the people!

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Anne ('Antu') Harvey
96725

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 10:38:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Harmon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Congressmen,

I ask that much of the money be taken out of our state politics. The claims of SB1543 does just that. Over 70% of Democratic legislators use this very program in Maine. this measure has much reduced the need for money to receive political gain. This reform makes all other reforms possible.

Thank,

Linda Harmon

Hanapepe, Kauai

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 10:38:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB1543 SD1 would set up a system of fully publicly-financed elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all. This system worked very well for the Hawai'i County Council races in 2010 and 2012, and currently works very well statewide in places like Connecticut and Maine.

It's crucially important that this body does everything in its power to remove the influence money has on politics. Corruption is growing problem that won't simply go away on its own. Please take this opportunity to get money out of politics and help get our democracy back on track. Mahalo!

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 11:17:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Langan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the passage of SB1543 to reform campaign financing. It is long overdue to level the financial playing field for political candidates running for office.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 11:28:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dyson Chee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Senators, thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB1543.

Sincerely,

Dyson Chee

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 1:17:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nako'o Warrington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please pass SB 1543.

Mahalo.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 1:32:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Garland	Individual	Support	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. Money in politics holds back progress on all the issues important to local working families: affordable housing, cost of living, protecting our environment, and more.

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign and would ban them from receiving any private donations. This system worked very well for Hawai'i County Council races in 2010 and 2012 and currently works very well statewide in places like Connecticut and Maine.

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. Mahalo,

Emily Garland, 96720

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 1:38:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kate Paine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Only hope for educating the electorate in order to participate in gvmnt.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 2:32:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joyce Baker	Individual	Support	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 our politics. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay-to-play behavior of our politicians needs to end now. Money in politics holds back progress on all the issues important to local working families: from affordable housing, to cost of living, to protecting our environment, and more.

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, 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 places like Connecticut and Maine. Partial public financing is not enough. As long as candidates need to rely on private donations to get elected, there will always be the risk of corruption or the perception of it.

This is an opportunity to lessen the influence of money in politics, give political power to the people, and restore the people's trust in this body and in you all. All of these things are badly needed. 74% of the Hawai'i voting public favors enacting public financed elections and ending the influence of corporate and private donations.

That's because we know that it's 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, local people, first — not big money interests. Please, do the right thing. Mahalo.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 2:35:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Orr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to clean up campaign finance. Integrity and democracy begin here. I am asking you to support SB1543; it's time has come. Thank you.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 2:37:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I strongly support SB1543. This levels the playing field. Takes potential political pressure off of candidates shoulders with out the influence of donors contributors..

This is no brainer...allowing potential new candidates to run without needing to find funding. Legislators can make decions without concern as to what their "donors" think.

Thank you for your time. Let's do this!

Regards,

Pamela Burrell, Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 3:06:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 3:11:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Dylan Ramos, I was born and raised in Hawai'i, and I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB1543. This measure is not a cure-all, but it is a strong, important step toward a better, healthier democratic process.

Mahalo,

Dylan Ramos

96816

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 4:17:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joe Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong support of SB1543 SD1 and all of the recommendations put forward by the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct.

Joe Wilson

North Shore O'ahu

House District 47 / Senate District 23

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 4:22:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Boscole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support SB1543 SD1

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 4:29:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald "Ron" Reilly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am in full support of SB1543 to establish public financing for Hawaii elections.

Money now has a huge impact on elections and many elections are uncontested because potential candidates can't afford the high price tag.

Passing into law, publicly financed elections is the single biggest thing we could do to end pay-to-play corruption in our politics.

Thank you for your consideration, Ron Reilly

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 4:34:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Geoff Wall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1543.

Passing into law, 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. Please take the action.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 4:36:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly support this bill.

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly-financed elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all. This system worked very well for the Hawai'i County Council races in 2010 and 2012, and currently works very well statewide in places like Connecticut and Maine.

It's crucially important that this body does everything in its power to remove the influence money has on politics. Corruption is growing problem that won't simply go away on its own. Please take this opportunity to get money out of politics and help get our democracy back on track.

Mahalo, Marilyn Mick. Honolulu

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 4:37:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roberta Baker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I strongly support SB1543 and public funded elections.

This bill will remove the need for candidates to seek donations by creating relationships with donors which can lead to corruption or the perception of it. We need to move on from the recent examples of convictions for corruption that have occurred among legislators and public officials.

With publicly funded elections candidates will be free to spend more time with their constituents rather than fundraising.

Thank you for passing this important measure, Roberta Baker

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 5:14:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
irene kloepfer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Public ally funded elections will goa long way to get rid of corruption in politics, and making it aside for good peop,e to serve without the burden of raising so much money and thereby being beholden to special interests. Please pass for clean elections and politicians

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 5:19:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna Camacho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Committee,

Thank you for hearing this bill.

Trust is a social good to be protected as much as the air we breathe and the water we drink. When trust is damaged, the community as a whole suffers. When it is destroyed, societies falter and collapse.

In a time where public trust in the government is waning, a bill that aims to rebalance the scales of political power back in favor of people, is hopeful.

This is an opportunity to lessen the influence of money in politics, give political power to the people, and restore the people's trust in this body and in you all. All of these things are badly needed. 74% of the Hawai'i voting public favors enacting public financed elections and ending the influence of corporate and private donations.

Please do the right thing and pass this bill. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 8:31:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hunter Heavilin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for SB1543, a bill that establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawaii. This proposed legislation is a significant step towards promoting transparency and fairness in our political system by reducing the influence of big-money donors and promoting the involvement of everyday citizens in the electoral process.

By establishing a public financing system, SB1543 aims to make running for office more accessible for individuals who are not independently wealthy or well-connected. Furthermore, this legislation provides an avenue for candidates to compete on a level playing field, without being beholden to special interests.

The establishment of a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawaii is a crucial step towards creating a more transparent and democratic election process. The legislation ensures that candidates will be accountable to the people they represent, rather than to wealthy special interests. I urge lawmakers to support SB1543 and help to promote transparency, accountability, and fairness in our political system.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 9:03:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Dean	Testifying for Clean The Pacific	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Briefly, there's only one thing you need to consider about this bill; if you're opposed to this bill, you need to take a good hard look at your motives. Our democracy is a failure and the reason it's a failure is money is corrupting it. Everyone knows this, but no one talks about it, at least on the media that is. And why is that? The media has become this massive multi trillion dollar industry and a fair amount of that money they make comes from political advertising. But if we cared more about our democracy than we do about making money, we would have a completely level playing field for anyone who wants to run for any office, from County Council to President of the United States.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 9:08:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LorrieAnn Santos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support SB1543 to set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all.

Point #1

- We know money now has a huge impact on elections
- The current campaign donation system creates relationships that have caused corruption.
- Legislators listen to donors, since they fund their campaigns.
- Money is crucial to winning, e.g., 91% of candidates who outspend opponents win.
- Many elections are uncontested because potential candidates can't afford the high price tag.

Point #2

- Clean Elections creates a fairer system
- Candidates will spend more time with constituents rather than fundraising.
- Elections will be more competitive with a more diverse set of candidates.
- Legislators will make decisions without concern of what how much their donors contributed or will contribute.
- 74% of Hawai'i voters support full publicly financed elections.

Point #3

- Cost of this program is small - at less than \$25 million, a \$3 visitor fee or cannabis legalization would generate more than enough to pay for it.
- Legislators who aren't beholden to donors can save costs elsewhere in the budget.

Point #4

- Connecticut and Maine have clean elections statewide which are both popular and successful.
- Over 70% of Democratic legislators use this program in Maine.

Passing into law, 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. Please take the action to Support SB1543!

Lorrie Ann Santos

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 9:21:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Hunt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote for SB1543.

This is an important step towards restoring fair and democratic process to our elections.

Taxpaying voters are sick and tired of corruption, pay-to-play, and the influence of big money in our government. It is rampant in Hawaii. While you might not acknowledge it publicly, I know that you fully understand exactly what I mean. Many of my peers and friends are so disgusted that they no longer trust the legislature or their legislators, and no longer care to write, testify, or even know...

If we continue to have lobby \$ donating to candidates and controlling the outcomes of elections/legislation, nothing changes. All the testimony in the world is useless if candidates work for that big money rather than for our people, our aina and environment, and policies that are just and fair.

Clean elections will help. Your vote for SB1543 will help.

The problems in our government will NOT change until big money is removed from our government, starting with our elections. And this change will only happen if YOU support all necessary steps to fix our problem / INCLUDING SB1543.

February 20, 2021

Aloha Committee Members,

As a constituent of Kailua and a concerned Hawaiicitizen and voter, it's crucially important that this body does everything in its power to remove the influence money has on our politics. I believe corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay-to-play behavior of our politicians needs to end now.

Money in politics from wealthy donors holds back progress on all the issues important to local working families: namely affordable housing (which is increasingly scarce), the cost of living (which is unsustainably high), and protecting our environment and precious resources (which are continuously compromised by tourism and the Navy).

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign. It 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 places like Connecticut and Maine. Partial public financing is not enough. As long as candidates need to rely on private donations to get elected, there will always be the risk of corruption or the perception of it.

This is an opportunity to lessen the influence of money in politics, give political power to the people, and restore the people's trust in this body and in you all. All of these things are badly needed. 74% of the Hawai'i voting public favors enacting public financed elections and ending the influence of corporate and private donations. I am among that 74%.

That's because we know that it's 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, local people, first — not big money interests. Please, do the right thing.

Mahalo,
Alexis Cheung

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 10:05:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
janice palma-glennie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Getting money out of our election process is #1 to protecting and reclaiming our democracy. only representatives who want to keep power for special interests, corporations (and sometimes just themselves) would be against this bill.

Please use your integriy and vote "YES" for SB1543

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

kailua-kona

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2023 11:36:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	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 our politics. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay-to-play behavior of our politicians needs to end now. Money in politics holds back progress on all the issues important to local working families: from affordable housing, to cost of living, to protecting our environment, and more.

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, 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 places like Connecticut and Maine. Partial public financing is not enough. As long as candidates need to rely on private donations to get elected, there will always be the risk of corruption or the perception of it.

This is an opportunity to lessen the influence of money in politics, give political power to the people, and restore the people's trust in this body and in you all. All of these things are badly needed. 74% of the Hawai'i voting public favors enacting public financed elections and ending the influence of corporate and private donations.

That's because we know that it's 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, local people, first — not big money interests. Please, do the right thing. Mahalo.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 12:02:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariel Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Protect local people and kanaka maoli from big money interests in Hawaii.

Testimony in Support of SB1543 SD1

Submitted for: Ways and Means Committee Hearing, scheduled to be heard on Wednesday, 2/22/23 at 10:00 AM.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Greg Misakian and I strongly support SB1543 SD1.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, further below is the picture, and with just a few words I submit my testimony.

There are those who often oppose consumer protection Bills meant to help condominium owners and residents of Hawaii. The same group who often oppose these measures profit more when they are not enacted, are deferred, are improperly referred to the wrong committees, or are improperly triple referred. The game is clear and the rules are not, but the picture is 100% clear, unless you choose not to look. Hawaii needs better laws to ensure that Legislators, Attorneys, and all members of the public behave ethically and properly, and in the best interest of all.

Campaign Contributions of Yuriko Sugimura (aka Jane Sugimura), as seen at the State of Hawaii Campaign Spending Commission website:

Abercrombie, Neil	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	12/15/2009	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	Bendet Fidell & Sugimura AAL ALC	Attorney
Abercrombie, Neil	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	07/19/2010	\$100.00	\$1,700.00	Bendet Fidell & Sugimura AAL ALC	Attorney
Abercrombie, Neil	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	10/02/2009	\$500.00	\$500.00	Bendet Fidell & Sugimura AAL ALC	Attorney
Abercrombie, Neil	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	08/12/2010	\$100.00	\$1,800.00	Bendet Fidell & Sugimura AAL ALC	Attorney
Abercrombie, Neil	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	09/03/2010	\$500.00	\$2,400.00	Bendet Fidell & Sugimura AAL ALC	Attorney
Abercrombie, Neil	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	08/18/2010	\$100.00	\$1,900.00	Bendet Fidell & Sugimura AAL ALC	Attorney
Abercrombie, Neil	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	03/24/2010	\$100.00	\$1,600.00	Bendet Fidell & Sugimura AAL ALC	Attorney
Baker, Rosalyn	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	05/08/2017	\$150.00	\$550.00		Attorney / CPA
Baker, Rosalyn	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	05/07/2013	\$300.00	\$300.00		Attorney / CPA

Baker, Rosalyn	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	05/10/2016	\$200.00	\$400.00		Attorney / CPA
Baker, Rosalyn	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	06/23/2008	\$100.00	\$300.00		Attorney / CPA
Baker, Rosalyn	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	07/13/2011	\$200.00	\$500.00		Attorney / CPA
Baker, Rosalyn	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	05/10/2015	\$200.00	\$200.00		Attorney / CPA
Baker, Rosalyn	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	05/05/2012	\$200.00	\$700.00		Attorney / CPA
Baker, Rosalyn	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	05/02/2018	\$200.00	\$750.00		Attorney / CPA
Baker, Rosalyn	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	12/03/2019	\$500.00	\$500.00		Attorney / CPA
Baker, Rosalyn	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	05/06/2014	\$200.00	\$500.00		Attorney / CPA
Baker, Rosalyn	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	06/20/2010	\$200.00	\$300.00		Attorney / CPA
Belatti, Della	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	01/30/2019	\$200.00	\$200.00		
Belatti, Della	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	06/11/2018	\$250.00	\$250.00		
Caldwell, Kirk	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	11/24/2015	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Bendet Fidell Sugimura	Attorney
Chang, Stanley	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	05/29/2020	\$150.00	\$150.00		
DeCoite, Lynn	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	04/25/2019	\$150.00	\$150.00		
Espero, William	Individual	SUGIMURA, Yuriko J.	10/05/2017	\$200.00	\$300.00		
Fukunaga, Carol	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	05/27/2014	\$250.00	\$250.00	Bendet Fidell Sugimura	Principal
Fukunaga, Carol	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	07/12/2011	\$200.00	\$200.00	Bendet Fidell Sugimura	Principal
Fukunaga, Carol	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	03/12/2015	\$125.00	\$125.00	Bendet Fidell Sugimura	Principal

Fukunaga, Carol	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	05/04/2012	\$200.00	\$500.00	Bendet Fidell Sugimura	Principal
Fukunaga, Carol	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	06/13/2018	\$300.00	\$1,325.00	Bendet Fidell Sugimura	Principal
Fukunaga, Carol	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	09/14/2017	\$400.00	\$525.00	Bendet Fidell Sugimura	Principal
Fukunaga, Carol	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	05/11/2009	\$200.00	\$200.00	Bendet Fidell Sugimura	Principal
Fukunaga, Carol	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	11/22/2017	\$500.00	\$1,025.00	Bendet Fidell Sugimura	Principal
Fukunaga, Carol	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	07/16/2010	\$200.00	\$400.00	Bendet Fidell Sugimura	Principal
Fukunaga, Carol	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	07/14/2011	\$100.00	\$300.00	Bendet Fidell Sugimura	Principal
Hashimoto, Troy	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	05/24/2018	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Bendet Fidell Sugimura	Attorney
Hashimoto, Troy	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	11/21/2019	\$100.00	\$200.00	Bendet Fidell Sugimura	Attorney
Hashimoto, Troy	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	05/20/2022	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	Bendet Fidell Sugimura	Attorney
Hashimoto, Troy	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	11/02/2021	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Bendet Fidell Sugimura	Attorney
Ichiyama, Linda	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	04/11/2018	\$100.00	\$200.00		
Ichiyama, Linda	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	02/24/2020	\$100.00	\$250.00		
Ichiyama, Linda	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	11/13/2019	\$100.00	\$150.00		
Ige, David	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	11/28/2017	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Bendet, Fidell, Sugimura AAL ALC	Attorney
Ige, David	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	07/19/2018	\$100.00	\$1,100.00	Bendet, Fidell, Sugimura AAL ALC	Attorney
Ihara, Les	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	07/05/2016	\$100.00	\$200.00		
Iwase, Randall	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	01/29/2007	\$300.00	\$300.00		

Johanson, Aaron	Individual	SUGIMUR A, YURIKO J.	10/14/2015	\$300.00	\$300.00	CLAY CHAPMAN IWAMURA PULICE & NERVELL	ATTORNEY
Johanson, Aaron	Individual	SUGIMUR A, YURIKO J.	07/21/2016	\$300.00	\$600.00	CLAY CHAPMAN IWAMURA PULICE & NERVELL	ATTORNEY
Johanson, Aaron	Individual	SUGIMUR A, YURIKO J.	11/03/2021	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	CLAY CHAPMAN IWAMURA PULICE & NERVELL	ATTORNEY
Keith-Agaran, Gilbert	Individual	SUGIMUR A, YURIKO J.	01/08/2015	\$150.00	\$150.00		
Keith-Agaran, Gilbert	Individual	SUGIMUR A, YURIKO J.	01/15/2016	\$150.00	\$300.00		
Keohokalole, Jarrett	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	05/17/2018	\$200.00	\$250.00		
Keohokalole, Jarrett	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	03/11/2020	\$150.00	\$150.00		
Kong, Samuel	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	04/18/2018	\$100.00	\$150.00		
Kong, Samuel	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	04/24/2019	\$150.00	\$150.00		
Kong, Samuel	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	06/22/2019	\$100.00	\$250.00		
Learmont, Lei	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	05/04/2018	\$500.00	\$500.00		
Luke, Sylvia	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	06/23/2022	\$500.00	\$500.00		
Luke, Sylvia	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	04/23/2008	\$50.00	\$150.00		
Luke, Sylvia	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	01/11/2019	\$250.00	\$250.00		
Luke, Sylvia	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	04/16/2018	\$300.00	\$300.00		
Maluafiti, Alicia	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	06/04/2018	\$500.00	\$500.00		

McKelvey, Angus	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	11/14/2019	\$100.00	\$150.00	Bendet Fidell Sugimura, AAL, a Law Corporation	Attorney
Menor, Ron	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	05/01/2019	\$500.00	\$500.00	Clay Chapman Iwamura AAL ALC	Attorney
Menor, Ron	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	10/16/2019	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	Clay Chapman Iwamura AAL ALC	Attorney
Misalucha, Bennette	Individual	SUGIMUR A, YURIKO J.	09/11/2020	\$500.00	\$500.00		
Moriwaki, Sharon	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	09/25/2019	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	Clay Chapman Iwamura, Pulice & Nervell, AAL, ALC	Attorney
Moriwaki, Sharon	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	02/17/2018	\$232.46	\$232.46	Clay Chapman Iwamura, Pulice & Nervell, AAL, ALC	Attorney
Moriwaki, Sharon	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	05/16/2018	\$500.00	\$732.46	Clay Chapman Iwamura, Pulice & Nervell, AAL, ALC	Attorney
Moriwaki, Sharon	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	03/14/2019	\$500.00	\$500.00	Clay Chapman Iwamura, Pulice & Nervell, AAL, ALC	Attorney
Moriwaki, Sharon	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	06/14/2018	\$100.00	\$832.46	Clay Chapman Iwamura, Pulice & Nervell, AAL, ALC	Attorney
Moriwaki, Sharon	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	10/17/2018	\$500.00	\$1,332.46	Clay Chapman Iwamura, Pulice & Nervell, AAL, ALC	Attorney
Moriwaki, Sharon	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	12/12/2020	\$250.00	\$1,250.00	Clay Chapman Iwamura, Pulice & Nervell, AAL, ALC	Attorney
Moriwaki, Sharon	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	12/06/2021	\$2,750.00	\$4,000.00	Clay Chapman Iwamura, Pulice & Nervell, AAL, ALC	Attorney
Nishimoto, Scott	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	01/31/2019	\$250.00	\$250.00		
Nishimoto, Scott	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	03/04/2019	\$100.00	\$350.00		

Ohno, Takashi	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	01/30/2020	\$250.00	\$350.00		
Ohno, Takashi	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	01/16/2018	\$150.00	\$200.00		
Oshiro, Blake	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	07/27/2010	\$250.00	\$350.00		
Rhoads, Karl	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	07/12/2021	\$500.00	\$500.00		
Rhoads, Karl	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	10/03/2019	\$500.00	\$700.00		
Rhoads, Karl	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	01/11/2016	\$175.00	\$275.00		
Rhoads, Karl	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	01/04/2019	\$200.00	\$200.00		
Rhoads, Karl	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	05/08/2012	\$125.00	\$125.00		
Saiki, Scott	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	05/13/2019	\$500.00	\$500.00	Clay Chapman Iwamura Pulice & Nervel	Attorney
Saiki, Scott	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	06/21/2022	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Clay Chapman Iwamura Pulice & Nervel	Attorney
Sakamoto, Norman	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	05/27/2009	\$150.00	\$150.00		
Say, Calvin	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	04/29/2019	\$150.00	\$150.00		
Schatz, Brian	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	04/09/2010	\$50.00	\$450.00		
Schatz, Brian	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	12/18/2009	\$400.00	\$400.00		
Sugimura, Yuki	Immediate Family	Sugimura, Yuriko	06/04/2022	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	Bendet Findell A Law Corporation	Attorney
Sugimura, Yuki	Immediate Family	Sugimura, Yuriko	12/06/2017	\$500.00	\$500.00	Bendet Findell A Law Corporation	Attorney
Sugimura, Yuki	Immediate Family	Sugimura, Yuriko	03/26/2020	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Bendet Findell A Law Corporation	Attorney

Sugimura, Yuki	Immediate Family	Sugimura, Yuriko	08/12/2015	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Bendet Fidell A Law Corporation	Attorney
Takayama, Gregg	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	02/19/2020	\$100.00	\$350.00	Bendet Fidell	Attorney
Takayama, Gregg	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	05/10/2022	\$200.00	\$400.00	Bendet Fidell	Attorney
Takayama, Gregg	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	11/13/2019	\$100.00	\$250.00	Bendet Fidell	Attorney
Takayama, Gregg	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	03/06/2019	\$50.00	\$150.00	Bendet Fidell	Attorney
Takayama, Gregg	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	04/11/2018	\$100.00	\$150.00	Bendet Fidell	Attorney
Takayama, Gregg	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	05/10/2022	\$200.00	\$200.00	Bendet Fidell	Attorney
Takenouchi, Jenna	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	05/11/2022	\$200.00	\$200.00		
Takumi, Roy	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	01/11/2018	\$200.00	\$200.00	Clay Chapman Pulice & Nervell	Attorney
Takumi, Roy	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	04/29/2022	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	Clay Chapman Pulice & Nervell	Attorney
Takumi, Roy	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	05/04/2021	\$500.00	\$500.00	Clay Chapman Pulice & Nervell	Attorney
Takumi, Roy	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	04/16/2019	\$500.00	\$500.00	Clay Chapman Pulice & Nervell	Attorney
Tam, Adrian	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	09/26/2020	\$500.00	\$500.00	Clay Chapman Iwamura Pulice & Nervell	Attorney
Tokuda, Jill	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	06/08/2018	\$250.00	\$1,550.00	Bendet Fidell Sugimura. AAL. ALC	Attorney
Tokuda, Jill	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	06/27/2018	\$100.00	\$1,650.00	Bendet Fidell Sugimura. AAL. ALC	Attorney
Tokuda, Jill	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	11/14/2017	\$500.00	\$600.00	Bendet Fidell Sugimura. AAL. ALC	Attorney
Tokuda, Jill	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	03/29/2018	\$500.00	\$1,100.00	Bendet Fidell Sugimura. AAL. ALC	Attorney
Tokuda, Jill	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	05/03/2018	\$200.00	\$1,300.00	Bendet Fidell Sugimura. AAL. ALC	Attorney

Tokuda, Jill	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko J.	12/15/2021	\$500.00	\$500.00	Clay Chapman	Attorney
Weyer, Matt	Individual	Sugimura, Yuriko	07/20/2022	\$500.00	\$500.00	Clay Chapman Iwamura Pulice & Nervell	Attorney

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 5:42:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members

I am in strong support of this measure. It is critical that we remove money influence in politics. By allowing public funds to support candidates everyone would have an equal chance and run on their merits.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 6:23:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	Testifying for HULI PAC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

We support SB1543

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. 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.

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, aka clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, 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 places like Connecticut and Maine.

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

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Maki Morinoue

96725

HULI PAC

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 8:51:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Mitsumori	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Committee Members,

We know there are many inequities in our society. Yet our democracy is founded upon each person equally having 1 vote.

Money has an undue influence in our polities. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai`i, and "pay to play" in politics holds back progress on all the issues important to local working families: from affordable housing, to cost of living, to protecting our environment, and more.

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, 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 places like Connecticut and Maine. Partial public financing is not enough. As long as candidates need to rely on private donations to get elected, there will always be the risk of corruption or the perception of it.

This is an opportunity to lessen the influence of money in politics, give political power to the people, and restore the people's trust in this body and in you all. All of these things are badly needed. 74% of the Hawai`i voting public favors enacting public financed elections and ending the influence of corporate and private donations.

Please help build a a Hawai`i that puts kama`āina and kānaka maoli, local people, first — not big money interests -- by **supporting SB1543**.

Mahalo.

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 8:54:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:01:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Tam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB1543, SD1

Senators.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB1543, SD1. Without a comprehensive system of public financing of all state and county elections and limits on campaign contributions, the prospects of a working democracy will diminish in Hawaii and the hope that has prospered in Hawaii for more than 70 years will fade.

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary
Tuesday, February 22nd, 2023 at 10:00am**

**Conference Room 211, State Capitol
RE: SB1543 Relating to Public Financing For Candidates To Elected Office**

Position: Strong Support

Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue. It's crucially important that we remove the impact money has on our elections. We instead need a robust clean elections system that SB1543 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 current system.

Money is incredibly crucial in our elections, as candidates who outspend their opponents win at a 91% rate. Of all campaign donations candidates received in the 2022 election cycle, over half of the money was given by just 980 donors who gave at least \$6,000 each. This massive political power by a small group is not democratic.

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.

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. SB1543 would do just that. SB1543 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.

Mahalo,

Nate Hix
808.469.8740

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:19:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barryn Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support, because our candidates should ONLY be financed publicly, and we need to create systems to work towards that. Amend this to begin as soon as 2024 instead of "2075".

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:49:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John P Gerry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill that should help make elections more fair and help take corporate money out of electing people that support people not corporations.

LATE

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 10:12:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Craig Wall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Elections in our democracy should not be for sale.

LATE

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 12:50:29 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marion McHenry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is of utmost importance. I strongly support publicly funded elections and specifically SB1543

Publicly funded elections will make our government more transparant and insure there is not secret backing for certain candidates. We need government for the people and by the people, not special interests and large corporate donations. Every election cycle I am so disheartened and frankly disgusted by the amount of money spent on ads and campaigns.

Please pass this important bill.

Sincerely,

Marion McHenry

Princeville, Kauai

LATE

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 2:30:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cliff & Mary DeVries	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We would like to see established a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawaii.

1. Money has a huge impact on elections. Legislators listen to donors more than to the public.

2. Clean elections creates a fairer system. Legislators will be free to make decisions without concern as to what their donors think. The public is in favor of this action.

3. Cost of the program is small.

4. Big Island County Council races had a similar program. Connecticut and Maine have clean elections.

Passing into law, publicly financed elections is the single most important thing we can do to end pay-to-play corruption in our politics.

LATE

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 3:11:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larry Alfrey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all.

Passing into law, 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.

LATE

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 7:12:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alani Bagcal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee,

My name is Alani and I am writing in strong support of SB1543. I urge the committee to please pass publicly financed elections, or clean elections.

We deserve clean elections and a Hawai'i that puts kama'āina and kānaka maoli — not big money interests — first. This measure would help get money out of politics and end pay-to-play corruption.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill,

Alani Bagcal

LATE

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:04:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Alice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kristen Alice and I am testifying in my personal capacity in strong support of SB 1543, for full public financing of elections. **This is one of, if not the most, important bills of the year.**

The status quo isn't working. And it's no wonder! If candidates are more focused on fundraising than on policy, how can we expect good policy to pass?

Additionally, the need for cash and time prevents many of the people who are most significantly impacted by poor policy from running for office. This includes people with lived experience of homelessness and housing insecurity, who often work 2-3 jobs just to make ends meet. People with lived experience should be leading efforts to end homelessness, but the demanding nature of campaigning and fundraising prevents so many from even considering running for office. By passing this bill, we can remove a significant barrier and move toward a legislative body that more accurately represents the people it is supposed to serve.

This bill would also significantly reduce the unfair influence that rich donors have on policy decisions.

You have the opportunity to make REAL change toward eradicating corruption in the legislature. Please make the right choice and support SB 1543.

Mahalo nui,

Kristen Alice

Hilo

LATE

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 10:43:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni DeFranco	Individual	Support	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 our politics. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay-to-play behavior of our politicians needs to end now. Money in politics holds back progress on all the issues important to local working families: from affordable housing, to cost of living, to protecting our environment, and more. SB1543 would set up a system of fully publicly financed elections, a.k.a. clean elections. It would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, 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 places like Connecticut and Maine. Partial public financing is not enough. As long as candidates need to rely on private donations to get elected, there will always be the risk of corruption or the perception of it. This is an opportunity to lessen the influence of money in politics, give political power to the people, and restore the people's trust in this body and in you all. All of these things are badly needed. 74% of the Hawai'i voting public favors enacting public financed elections and ending the influence of corporate and private donations. That's because we know that it's 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, local people, first — not big money interests. Please, do the right thing.

Mahalo.

LATE

SB-1543-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 12:20:26 AM
Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evelyn Aczon Hao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Publically funded elections can bring many needed changes.

1. It will encourage a variety of citizens to run because there is not need to have a huge war chest. The variety will enlarge public engagement.
- 2 .A large percentage of voters support public financing because they know it treats all candidates fairly by giving them a more level playing field.
- 3.Legislators will not have to worry about satisfying the needs of their biggest contributors. They will be able to focus on what is good for the people.

Please pass this bill. It is long due.