



STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 31, 2023

TO: The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

The Honorable Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 200, Relating to Partial Public Financing of Elections.**

Thursday, February 2, 2023
1:00 p.m., Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.¹ The Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) supports this bill.

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

¹ The companion bill is H.B. No. 95.

bill also establishes two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) positions in the campaign spending commission and appropriates funds.

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

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

The Commission requests that this committee pass this measure.

SB-200

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 2:19:33 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
daniel foley	Testifying for noneCommission to Improve Standards of Conduct	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator Rhoads and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

As Chair of the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct (Commission), I support this bill to increase public funding of elections for reasons stated in the Commission's December 1, 2022 Final Report subittede to the House of Representatives, specifically page 32.

Judge Daniel Foley (ret.)