

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 03 2023

RE: S.B. No. 1179  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2023  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B.  
No. 1179 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to protect the  
State's democratic self-governance by:

- (1) Prohibiting foreign entities and foreign-influenced business entities from making independent expenditures, electioneering communications, or contributions to candidates or committees, or contributions or donations to other persons earmarked for those purposes;
- (2) Requiring every business entity that contributes or expends funds in a state election to file a statement of certification regarding its status as a foreign-influenced business entity or foreign corporation; and
- (3) Requiring noncandidate committees making only independent expenditures to obtain a statement of certification from each top contributor required to be listed in an advertisement.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Campaign Spending Commission, League of Women Voters of



Hawaii, Center for American Progress, Free Speech for People, and five individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual.

Your Committee finds that political spending by foreign-influenced business entities can weaken, interfere with, or disrupt Hawaii's democratic self-governance and the trust that the electorate has in its elected representatives. Your Committee believes that existing law does not adequately protect against foreign interference through corporate political spending by United States corporations with significant foreign ownership. This measure will protect the integrity of Hawaii's democratic self-government by preventing foreign-influenced business entities from influencing Hawaii's elections through political spending.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of January 1, 2026; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1179, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1179, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Judiciary,



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KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Judiciary**  
**JDC**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 1179</b>	Committee Referral: <b>JDC</b>	Date: <b>2/16/23</b>
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The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.  
 If so, then the previous decision was to: \_\_\_\_\_

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312    
  Pass, with amendments 2311    
 Hold 2310    
 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

Recommendation:    
 Adopted    
 Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:  


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\*Only one measure per Record of Votes