



**Hawaii  
Legislative  
Council  
Members**

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

Tuesday, February 13, 2024  
10:05 AM, Conference Room 211 or via Zoom

RE: **SB2381 SD1** Cleaner Elections - **Support with Amendments**

Joell Edwards  
Wainiha Country  
Market  
Hanalei

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Committee Members,

Russell Ruderman  
Island Naturals  
Hilo/Kona

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 100 small businesses across the State that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity – we know Hawaii can strengthen its economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment. This is why we support SB2381 SD1 with amendments.

Dr. Andrew Johnson  
Niko Niko Family  
Dentistry  
Honolulu

SB2381 SD1 brings us one step closer towards a representational democracy that protects small business owners, consumers and the environment – not just large corporations who can afford to pay-to-play through expensive lobbyists and multi-tiered campaign contributions.

Robert H. Pahia  
Hawaii Taro Farm  
Wailuku

Luxury developers, defense contractors, big pharma, agri-chemical corporations, and all the private attorneys and consultants they hire, can afford to give candidate the maximum allowable contributions; they can also hire lobbyists who can give maximum contributions to these same candidates, and well-funded candidates can buy max contribution tickets to fundraisers for other candidates in their faction – all of these max contributions quickly add up to a campaign war chest that is almost impossible to challenge in any impactful way.

Maile Meyer  
Na Mea Hawaii  
Honolulu

Furthermore, the campaigns of certain legislative leaders may have already benefited from state taxpayer money being laundered through state Grant-In-Aid (GIA) recipients – that were hand-picked by those legislative leaders. After select GIA money goes through the wash and spin cycle, a portion may end up in those same legislators' campaign accounts. For example, look at how much taxpayer money went to GIA recipients Navatek and Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council and compare that to the amounts of campaign contributions from employees, consultants, lobbyists and family members of those GIA recipients. Meanwhile, the legislature has exempted these millions of dollars in GIA awards from the State Ethics Commission's oversight.

Tina Wildberger  
Kihei Ice  
Kihei

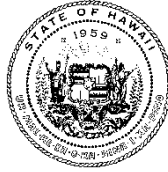
L. Malu Shizue Miki  
Abundant Life  
Natural Foods  
Hilo

While SB2381 SD1 begins to even the playing field for candidates who are not receiving GIA-campaign "kickbacks", more must be done to realize the corrective impact this bill seeks. We urge this committee to add sections to this bill that will: 1) cap the maximum allowable contribution to a candidate campaign at \$100 per donor, per election - including from candidates themselves and their immediate families, 2) prohibit candidate campaigns from making contributions to other candidate campaigns, and 3) ensure the Hawaii Ethics Commission has oversight over GIA contracts in the same way they do over all other state contracts and expenditures of state funds.

Kim Coco Iwamoto  
Enlightened Energy  
Honolulu

Chamber of  
Sustainable  
Commerce  
P.O. Box 22394  
Honolulu, HI  
96823

**KRISTIN E. IZUMI-NITAO**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



PHONE: (808) 586-0285  
FAX: (808) 586-0288  
WWW.HAWAII.GOV/CAMPAIGN

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION**


235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 12, 2024

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

The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

**SUBJECT: Testimony on S.B. No. 2381, SD1, Relating to Public Financing for Candidates to Elected Office.**

Tuesday, February 13, 2024  
10:05 a.m., Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill, which establishes a comprehensive public financing program. The Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) supports the intent of this bill, and respectfully submits that a general fund appropriation to fund the program as well as additional Commission personnel to be hired before the 2028 general election are necessary.

This bill establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices beginning with the 2028 general election year, appropriates funds to the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund, and appropriates funds (\$200,000) to the Commission to hire additional personnel and to plan and prepare for the implementation of the new public financing program. The bill also requires the Commission to submit progress reports and, if necessary, proposed legislation to the Legislature prior to the regular sessions of 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028 regarding the implementation of the comprehensive public funding program for candidates to state and county offices.

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 county council with a county population of between 195,000 to 499,999 to a high of \$2,500,000 for candidates for Governor. 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.

The Commission suggests the following amendments to the bill:

- 1) Section 7 of the bill appropriates \$200,000 out of the general revenues of the state for deposit into the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund (“HECF”). Section 8 of the bill then appropriates \$200,000 out of the HECF to be expended by the Commission for planning and preparation for the implementation of the comprehensive public financing program. Thus, the funding of the additional personnel will come from the HECF. Prior to 2018, the Commission’s operating expenses were paid by funds the HECF. At that point, the funds in the HECF were so low that the continuation of the partial public financing program and the Commission were in jeopardy. In 2018, the Legislature switched the funding for the Commission’s operating expenses from the HECF to the general fund. Since then, the HECF was able to grow to \$1.9 million, which is more than sufficient to run the partial public financing program. The Commission requests that the Commission be permitted to expend the \$200,000 appropriation directly from the general revenues and not have that amount first appropriated to the HECF.
- 2) On page 10, beginning at line 10, seed money is limited to \$5,000, or five percent of the CPF Max for the office sought, whichever is greater. The Commission recommends deletion of the five percent of the CPF Max alternative. Depending on the office sought,<sup>1</sup> that alternative method of determining the limit on seed money could result in too high of an amount of seed money. After all, seed money can be raised from private individuals and also may be used by a certified candidate in lieu of public funds. One of the main purposes of comprehensive public financing is to remove private moneys from political campaigns. This would also be consistent with S.B. No.1543, the comprehensive public funding program from last session, as well as with the Hawaii County Council’s comprehensive public funding pilot project (Act 244, 2008 Sess. Laws) cited in Section 1 of the bill.
- 3) In §11-F(b), beginning at the bottom of page 13 of the bill, when providing for the minimum qualifying contributions for the offices of Mayor, Prosecuting Attorney, and County Council, the Commission suggests that the different county offices be described by the name of the county, rather than the population. Such an amendment would reduce any confusion when reading the bill. This suggestion also applies to §11-H(a), beginning at the bottom of page 18, which provides for the CPF Max for each office.
- 4) The Commission recommends the deletion of §11-F(b)(12) (page 15, lines 7-10) and §11-H(a)(12) (page 20, line 19, to page 21, line 2). The Commission believes that these

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<sup>1</sup> For example, five percent of the CPF Max for a certified candidate for Governor is \$125,000.

two paragraphs provide for the minimum qualifying contributions and CPF Max, respectively, for the office of the Maui County Prosecuting Attorney. Since that county office is an appointed, not elected, office, those two paragraphs are not necessary.

- 5) §11-G, beginning on page 17 of the bill, provides for the certification of qualification for comprehensive public funds. On page 18, lines 1-5, that section states, “The clerk for the county that includes the district from which election is sought shall provide to the commission the information needed for verification, including the names, addresses, dates of birth, and signatures of registered voters in that district.” Although the Commission has not consulted with the County Clerks yet, it may be more feasible to have the County Clerks certify this information, especially the signatures of registered voters, since the Commission believes that the counties have the means to electronically verify the signatures.
- 6) §11-H(d), on page 23, line 4, calls for the adjustment of the CPF Max every general election year to match the change in the consumer price index for all urban consumers published by the U.S. Department of Labor. The Commission suggests that the election year adjustments be done by averaging the amount the winning candidates spent in the two preceding elections. The Commission believes that this is how the CPF Max amounts were arrived at in §11-H(a).<sup>2</sup>
- 7) The Commission notes that since candidates running for Maui County Council (138 qualifying contributions) and Kauai County Council (75 qualifying contributions) run county-wide, these candidates will have a somewhat easier path to raise the minimum qualifying contributions because these contributions can come from registered voters county-wide.<sup>3</sup> Candidates running for Honolulu County Council (338 qualifying contributions) and Hawaii County Council (50 qualifying contributions), must seek such contributions only from registered voters in their respective council districts, and not county-wide.

The Commission requests that the Committee pass this bill with the described amendments subject to appropriate funding and adequate personnel resources.

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<sup>2</sup> Actually, based upon the timing of the request for information from the drafters of last year’s comprehensive public financing bill, the information about winning candidates provided by Commission staff were from the 2018 and 2020 elections.

<sup>3</sup> However, each Maui County Councilmember is elected from one of “nine residency areas.”  
<https://www.mauicounty.gov/Faq.aspx?QID=60>



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Director of Council Services  
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

## COUNTY COUNCIL

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200 S. HIGH STREET  
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[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

February 13, 2024

**LATE**

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair  
Tuesday, February 13, 2024  
10:05 AM

### **SUBJECT: IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2381**

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, and honorable committee members,

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in *strong support* of SB2381, 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.

A fair, open, and inclusive system that enables the public to select a fellow community member to represent them in government is the bedrock of representative democracy. A system should be designed so that the representatives of the people are free to make decisions based on the public interest, and not feel threatened by those with big money to do their bidding.

During deliberations in a recent Council meeting, a colleague noted how it was ok for her to speak her honest thoughts about the behavior of a special interest group, because that group never donates to her campaign. The inverse of that statement being: "It's not ok to speak honestly about this group because they donate to my campaign."

While not all elected officials are so publicly candid about their relationship with donors, the community has seen elected officials who are beholden to their donors vote against the interest of the people. This is a big reason public trust in government has, and continues to, significantly erode.

A fully public financing program would give candidates the option to be a financially viable candidate and maintain freedom to represent their constituents

with less influence from big donors. It could help to restore trust and confidence in government.

In the previous hearing on this measure, the Campaign Spending Commission disclosed that only 16 candidates pae'aina-wide participated in the partial-public funding program. As 1 of those 16 candidates, I can attest to the rigor involved to receive the initial funding and the reporting required. I believe that the matching funds helped me reach more people, which enabled me to prevail in the 3 of 4 campaigns I ran.

It's expected that the Ways and Means Committee will focus on the appropriation aspect of this measure. Since there is no way to nail down the precise amount necessary in any given year without a process to ask candidates to commit to participation beforehand, perhaps for the inaugural year, funds can be dispersed until it's exhausted on a first come, first served basis. The Spending Commission can report to the Legislature in the following year the number of candidates that participated in the program and the amount distributed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

Me ke aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Keani Rawlins-Fernandez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Keani" being the most prominent.

Keani Rawlins-Fernandez  
Councilmember



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 13, 2024

10:05 AM

Conference Room 211

### In **SUPPORT** of **SB2381 SD1**: RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE

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Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS SB2381 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 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** SB2381 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



Inspiring Hope, Changing Lives

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## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2381: 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 02-13-24

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 SB2381, 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.

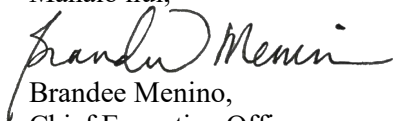
Our team uses evidence-based practices to help our neighbors avoid and overcome homelessness, and we achieve above-average results in helping people get housed and stay housed. However, as a non-governmental organization, we cannot change the laws that have led to the status quo. While federal, state, 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 shift toward compassionate, equitable, and cost-effective housing policy.**

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 SB2381, 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 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Chief Executive Officer**  
Brandee Menino

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 8:08:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John & Rita Shockley	Testifying for Free Access Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition supports SB2381 for more free public access for candidates to participate in the election process.

The influence of dark money from PACs and wealthy individuals cuts off citizens from entering elections. This reform is important. Please support it!



HAWAII

AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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**MAILING ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 23404  
Honolulu HI  
968233

February 9, 2024

TO: Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the WAM Committee

RE: SB 2381 SD1 RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE

Support for hearing on February 13

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support this bill as it would establish a comprehensive system of public financing for campaign elections. This is a reform to make many other reforms possible. Campaign fundraising skews public policy to those with financial resources to contribute to campaigns. Eliminate the money and the process will be cleaner.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel, President



February 9, 2024

The Senate  
State of Hawaii  
Ways and Means Committee  
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Co-Chair

Dear Members of the Committee:

**Public Citizen submits this testimony in strong support of SB 2381**

Here at Public Citizen, we emphasize that all aspects of the U.S. government should be for the public and not driven by large corporations or industries. As a non-partisan organization with more than 3,200 members and supporters in Hawaii and 500,000 members and supporters nationwide, we are dedicated to discovering new ways to push democracy forward and amplify the voices of everyday Hawaiian in issues that affect their lives.

The U.S. has more than often struggled to increase voter turnout during elections<sup>1</sup>. Compared to other developed countries, the U.S. voter turnout is meager and continues to lag. According to available data, voter turnout from 2018-2022 was three of the highest-turnout in U.S. elections in decades<sup>2</sup>. This means that while the U.S. may rank low in election participation compared to other nations, there is a momentum present within voters, resulting in more voter turnout. However, whatever the catalyst for the recent change may be, we must find ways to increase the momentum and prevent it from flatlining.

That is why SB 2381 will help establish new ways for voters to engage in the political process, which can increase voter turnout. For example, Seattle has used a similar program that resulted in a 10% increase in turnout compared to previous elections without the program<sup>3</sup>. Creating a more equitable field through SB 2381 helps create a more diverse field of candidates. It enables them to be less dependent on seeking funding from a small group of big donors, resulting in

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<sup>1</sup> Desilver, D. (2022, November 1). Turnout in U.S. has soared in recent elections but by some measures still trails that of many other countries. Retrieved from Pew Research Center: <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2022/11/01/turnout-in-u-s-has-soared-in-recent-elections-but-by-some-measures-still-trails-that-of-many-other-countries/>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> 2019 election cycle evaluation - seattle.gov. Accessed February 2, 2024. [https://www.seattle.gov/documents/departments/ethicselections/democracvoucher/biennial%20reports/final%20dvp%20evaluation%20report%20july23\\_2020.pdf](https://www.seattle.gov/documents/departments/ethicselections/democracvoucher/biennial%20reports/final%20dvp%20evaluation%20report%20july23_2020.pdf).

more civic engagement from voters who are underrepresented. Additionally, participating in the political process can help show voters that their vote matters since the SB 2381 creates meaningful opportunities for ordinary constituents to be more civically engaged in the democratic process<sup>4</sup>.

It is also essential to recognize how the program has strengthened democracy in New York City as an example of its potential for the state. In 2021, the program played a significant role in helping elect the city's most demographically representative council. Women's representation doubled to 61%, and people of color's representation increased from 51% to 67%, with 97% of those elected recipients of public financing<sup>5</sup>. While this data may only reflect the city of New York, it also demonstrates the possibilities that may result in the 2024 state elections, which already have more than 200 candidates enrolled in the program.

The program helps remove barriers and creates an equitable space that widens outreach to communities that often face difficulties when engaging in the political process, such as people of color, members of the LGBTQ+ community, women, and low-income individuals. Whether someone is a constituent or a candidate, establishing a political process that puts people first means that those often disadvantaged can attain equality.

Typically, when candidates decide to run for office, they must often disproportionately rely on big donors or their own contributions to maintain a successful campaign throughout an election cycle. In contrast, with SB 2381, constituents will no longer feel undervalued during campaigns. Candidates, especially those from a minority background, will no longer have to depend on wealth to win races but can depend on community outreach, knowing that focusing on the people first will not inevitably put them at a disadvantage against big donors.

A further contribution to the program only ensures more of an equitable playing field for candidates who may not have ties to big donors. One of the primary goals of this program is to remove the "money" from politics and re-establish the political process as something run by the people, for the people. More often than not, a few big donors overshadow ordinary voters during an election cycle. SB 2381 will mean that diverse voices from various communities will have the opportunity to build more personable relationships with candidates, and it will help incentivize candidates to reach out to voters to build trustworthy relationships.

Therefore, Public Citizen fully supports SB 2381 to create an even playing field where every voter has a true voice..

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<sup>4</sup> "How Campaign Finance Reform Can Increase Voter Turnout." The Decision Lab. Accessed February 2, 2024. <https://thedecisionlab.com/insights/policy/how-campaign-finance-reform-can-increase-voter-turnout>.

<sup>5</sup> 8455, 208, and 9453. "Small Donor Public Financing Plays Role in Electing Most Diverse New York City Council." Brennan Center for Justice, January 24, 2024. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/small-donor-public-financing-plays-role-electing-most-diverse-new-york>.



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 2:00:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pete Doktor	Testifying for Veterans for Peace, Hawai`i Ch. 113	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Committee Members,

As a hui of military veterans and supporters, we humbly ask your support for SB2381.

I enlisted naively in high school with a sincerity to defend our democracy, as have multiple members of my `ohana across generations. While motivated by a range of personal reasons, ultimately we enlist selflessly to protect the integrity of our democracy. However, this is not the only way to defend democracy. You have this opportunity to do so now with SB2381.

Currently, our democracy is threatened to the point that we're technically an oligarchy if one objectively compares governmental policies to public opinion. This republic faces an internal enemy of rule by money, special interests and the putting of profits over public health and safety. Our military is helpless in this attack — we need policies of accountability, transparency, integrity and so on.

This pay-to-play system we have is neither representative, or democratic. Publicly funded elections can help level this gap between representatives and the public. The constant need to fundraise has made our system completely dysfunctional and ripe for corrupt collusion, also known as the Military-Industrial-Media-Complex. It may not only decrease the bleeding of funds lost to politicking, it may actually be a more efficient cost-effective investment to strengthen the integrity of our political system.

If you agree we cannot settle for oligarchy and need to invest to sustain democracy, please pass SB2381 this year!

Mahalo for your commitment to public service that serves the public.

E Mālama Pono,

Pete Doktor  
Veterans for Peace, Hawai`i Ch. 113



Hawai'i

Committee: Ways and Means  
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 10:05am  
Place: Conference Room 211 & Via Videoconference  
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of SB2381 SD1  
Relating to Public Financing for Candidates to Elected Office

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Committee Members:

The ACLU of Hawai'i **supports SB2381 SD1 Relating to Public Financing For Candidates Elected to Office. Specifically, we ask that you fully fund this measure, make it permanent and implement no later than 2026.**

In our view, the answer to concerns over the escalating cost of political campaigns is to expand, not limit, the resources available for political advocacy. **Thus, the ACLU supports a comprehensive and meaningful opt-in system of public financing that would help create a level playing field for every qualified candidate.**

A representative democracy functions best when it closely mirrors the electorate. And this is accomplished when access to public candidacy isn't limited by personal wealth or the deep pockets of private interests.

Financial means, or lack of such, can have a wide array of impacts. Access to wealth often results in better educational and health outcomes over the course of one's life. Those individuals and families impacted by our criminal justice system are predominately those who live in poverty. **So too do financial means impact our electoral system. Those with greater financial means and access to high-quality education are more likely to run for, and win, elected offices.**

Giving potential candidates the option to access a meaningful pool of public money will go a long way toward leveling the playing field against well-funded and entrenched incumbents. And a well-funded public financing system could very-well encourage individuals from these under represented demographics to run for public office.

When our legislative officials have in common shared lived experience, not just geographic proximity, with those they represent we can all be uplifted with bolder public policy that acknowledges our most vulnerable and works to uplift them.

We will continue to advocate for reform of the current system, including in support of our longstanding commitment to public financing of campaigns. In doing so, we will stress fidelity to

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i  
P.O. Box 3410  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801  
T: 808.522.5900  
F: 808.522.5909  
E: [office@acluhawaii.org](mailto:office@acluhawaii.org)  
[www.acluhawaii.org](http://www.acluhawaii.org)

the principles protected by the First Amendment with the goal of expanding, not limiting, political speech.

Please pass and SB2381 SD1 on a permanent basis and starting no later than 2026. Mahalo for your service!

Sincerely,

***Josh Frost***

Josh Frost  
Policy Assistant  
ACLU of Hawai'i  
[jfrost@acluhawaii.org](mailto:jfrost@acluhawaii.org)

*The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai'i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai'i has been serving Hawai'i for over 50 years.*

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i  
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[www.acluhawaii.org](http://www.acluhawaii.org)

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 7:12:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Kohn MD	Testifying for We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Strongly Support SB2381**

*Aloha Committee Members,*

*Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to **a more ethical and representative government** that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.*

*People Before Profit*

*Mahalo.*

*www.WeAreOne.cc*



Aloha,

**HULI PAC is in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2381 - Clean Elections!**

We advocated for Clean Elections in 2022 to see it quietly disappear behind closed doors after overwhelming support all the way to the end. It is a mark of big money dominating Hawaii's political system, leading our community to witness bad policies being passed and good ones being killed.

SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. We are not here to support a two-party system, and we want to support better leadership and open up the options for the right leader to win against corporate funding. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government prioritizing constituents' needs. Connecticut, Maine, and ***Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective.*** These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Thank you for your time. We humbly await your votes in support of Clean Elections.

Aloha  
HULI PAC  
Maki Morinoue, member  
Holualoa, HI  
Hawai'i County  
96725



150 Hamakua Drive #341  
Kailua, HI 96734

(808) 224-0644  
[our-hawaii.org](http://our-hawaii.org)

# Testimony in Support of SB2381

Submitted to the Senate Ways and Means Committee  
by Evan Weber, Managing Director, Our Hawai'i, 2/13/2024

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Committee members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to speak before you today. On behalf of Our Hawai'i's over 36,000 members and supporters across the pae 'āina, I stand in strong support for Senate Bill 2381, relating to public financing of candidates to elected office. Our members and supporters are local people — kama'āina and kānaka maoli, keiki and kūpuna, from Kaua'i to Kohala, Kailua to Kapolei and every place in between. 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.

Our supporters are not alone. Our corruption and public trust in government crisis has reached a tipping point. 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.](#) With public trust at an all time low, now is not time for band-aids, it's time for real solutions. While last year progress was made, the fundamentals of the equation have not shifted. We need to address the overriding issue of money in our politics where it begins, in our elections.

SB2381 would go as far as is legally possible under the United States constitution, by leveling the playing field to candidates who are not wealthy or well-connected and providing a viable alternative for campaigning from the private-money driven status quo. It's a historic opportunity to get big money out of our elections, allow every day people an equal voice with the rich and powerful, and allow candidates and legislators like you all to be beholden only to their constituents and their conscience. No longer would legislators have to look over their shoulders, worried about how their donors who will fund their next campaign might react to each and every vote. They can be fully focused on delivering for their constituents, the people. That's how democracy is supposed to work!

And, we know that programs like this work: we've seen it in places like Connecticut, Maine, Hawai'i County and cities all around the US. And we know it's popular. In addition to previously mentioned strong public support, the bill has been supported by leading politicians of both the Democratic and Republican Parties, has the backing of the state Democratic Party, and support from dozens of leading organizations in Hawai'i. **And we know we have the resources: the program would cost less than 0.1% of the state budget.**

We have the policy. We have the public desire for change. We have the resources. 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.

Mahalo nui loa for your courage and action. Laulima, we can move forward to a better future for Hawai'i.



Testimony of **Lahaina Strong**  
Before the Senate Committee on  
**Ways and Means**

In Consideration of Senate Bill No. 2381 SD1  
**RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE**

To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

We are writing on behalf of Lahaina Strong, an organization that was initially formed in 2018 following the Hurricane Lane fire in Lahaina and re-energized last year after the devastating Lahaina fires on August 8. Our organization is the largest grassroots, Lahaina-based community organization, with over 20,000 supporters, engaged in providing support and assistance to the victims of these disasters.

**Lahaina Strong stands in support of SB2381 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.

Lahaina Strong has been at the forefront of relief and advocacy efforts, including the initiation of the "Fishing for Housing" camp, which has been in operation for over eleven weeks along Kaanapali Beach, championing dignified housing for Lahaina fire victims. We commend the legislature for considering measures that address the pressing issues faced by our community, and we believe that the proposed bill encompasses crucial provisions that align with our organization's goals and demands.

Senate Bill 2381 SD1 addresses critical issues related to campaign finance and the influence of money in politics. As concerned citizens deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, we believe that this bill is a crucial step towards fostering a more equitable political landscape.

Hawaii has witnessed the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics, and it has become increasingly evident how decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to the environmental mismanagement that fueled the devastating fires. In light of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests.

SB2381 SD1 aims to provide an alternative to reliance on private contributions. By doing so, the bill seeks to level the playing field, ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who can genuinely represent the interests of our communities.

SB2381 SD1 does not cast negative aspersions on the integrity of our elected officials, rather, it recognizes the systemic issues that arise from the existing campaign finance structure and proposes a solution that can foster a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process.

In the aftermath of the wildfires, the importance of community-driven solutions and representation cannot be overstated. SB2381 SD1 aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, ensuring that our elected officials are accountable to the people they serve, rather than being disproportionately influenced by financial contributions from select interests.

We respectfully urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits that SB2381 SD1 can bring to our state, creating a political environment that is more resilient, responsive, and representative of the diverse voices that make up our community.

Mahalo for dedicating your time and attention to this vital issue. We value your commitment to the welfare of Hawaii and the community-driven principles we cherish.

Sincerely,

Pa'ele Kiakona, Jordan Ruidas & Courtney Lazo

Lahaina Strong



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 4:16:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joshua DK Lum	Testifying for Lahaina Strong	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.

As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.

SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.

This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.

Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.

Sincerely, Joshua DK Lum

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 8:32:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawai'i's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. The Green Party of Hawai'i stands strong behind a bill that will level the playing field for all candidates not just the two major parties that dominate the media. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests, running our elections and owning our representatives. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents.

I would like to share a true story with you. In a conversation with Jerry Brown, then Governor of California, in 2010. Governor Brown told myself and my husband, how he learned to "go directly to Big Ag, Big Pharma, the Big Banks, to those who OWNED the representative, and asked them to Release that representative to vote, yes or no, on said bill." It saved Governor Brown time , and he got his much needed vote on the Bill he was pursuing. Win win , for the legislature, Big Lose for the People.

It is the influence of Big Money on every politician in this room, and in this legislative body, that needs to be checked.

If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381, yesterday.

Mahalo nui,

Let's do this,

Susan RobertsEmery

Co chair GPH



## TESTIMONY FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

FEBRUARY 13, 2024

**SB 2381, SD1, RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR  
CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **supports** SB 2381, SD1, relating to public financing for candidates to elected office. Pursuant to the “Government” section of the official Democratic Party of Hawai'i platform, the party supports “government reforms that limit the influence of money on the creation or execution of policy. We support campaign finance reform that limits the amount of money organizations, corporations or individuals can donate to political campaigns. We support full public-financing of elections.”

Government should work for the public interest, not special 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 because 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. 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.

This bill will eventually create an election system that is fair for our island home. Once a clean elections program is fully effectuated in 2028—more than enough time to fund the system for the next non-gubernatorial election season—candidates will no longer need to rely on contributions from wealthy donors. Instead, they can seek support from their constituents in the form of small donations that verify their credibility and subsequently obtain public funding in an amount sufficient to run effective campaigns. Legislators will, in turn, be empowered to focus on engaging with their communities, rather than wheedling the donor class. Ultimately, this will help our government reflect the will of the people, not the wallets of the privileged.

Mahalo nui loa,

**Kris Coffield**

*Co-Chair, Legislative Committee*

(808) 679-7454

kriscoffield@gmail.com

**Abby Simmons**

*Co-Chair, Legislative Committee*

(808) 352-6818

abbyalana808@gmail.com



To: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)  
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 10:05am

**In strong support of SB2381 SD1**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, 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 is in **strong support of SB2381 SD1** that establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State, to begin with the 2028 general election year.

SB2381 SD1 will help restore the people's trust in government. Considering the 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.

SB2381 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 SB2381 SD1.

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

Sherry Pollack  
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



February 12, 2024

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawaii State Legislature

The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki  
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawaii State Legislature

**Re: Statement in support of S.B. 2381, SD1**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

Campaign Legal Center (CLC) respectfully submits this statement supporting and recommending amendments to S.B. 2381, SD1, a bill to establish comprehensive public financing for state and county candidates. CLC is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and strengthening democracy across all levels of government. Since the organization's founding in 2002, CLC has participated in every major campaign finance case before the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as in numerous other federal and state court cases. Our work promotes every American's right to participate in the democratic process.

CLC is a longtime proponent of public financing for campaigns, and we commend the Committee for pursuing an updated program for Hawaii. Adopting a strengthened public financing program could broaden public engagement in democracy and amplify the voices of regular Hawaii residents in the electoral process.

To strengthen S.B. 2381 SD1, CLC recommends the following amendments:

- **Permit certified candidates to qualify for supplemental funds.** Under the bill, a certified candidate receives a primary election grant and, if the candidate advances, a general election grant. To ensure competitive funding for participating candidates, the Committee should consider providing supplemental funds to candidates who collect additional qualifying contributions, similar to the Maine Clean Elections Act.<sup>1</sup>
- **Allow certified candidates to pay campaign debts after the day of the election.** Under the bill, certified candidates are prohibited from spending their grant funds "outside the applicable campaign period" and must return their leftover public funds

<sup>1</sup> See Me. Stat. tit. 21-A, § 1125(8-B)-(8-E). Participation in the Maine Clean Election Act program rebounded after the program was amended in 2015 to include supplemental grants, which ensure candidates can access additional funds in particularly competitive races. MAINE CITIZENS FOR CLEAN ELECTIONS, CLEAN ELECTION PARTICIPATION RATES AND OUTCOMES: 2016 ELECTIONS, <https://perma.cc/A62B-RSDW> (Feb. 6, 2017).

within specified periods after their campaign ends. The Committee should consider amending these commonsense requirements to explicitly allow candidates to pay their legitimate campaign debts with public funds before having to return the leftover amounts, which is standard in other public financing programs.<sup>2</sup>

- **Allow seed money to be used for legitimate campaign costs.** The bill requires that a candidate’s seed money be used only for determining the candidate’s viability for public financing, and then reduces the amount of the candidate’s public grant by their seed money total. Because the seed money total reduces the public campaign funds a candidate may access, the Committee should consider allowing seed money to be used for legitimate campaign costs, similar to seed money provisions in other programs.<sup>3</sup>
- **Provide reduced general election grants for unopposed candidates.** Under the bill, an unopposed candidate in a general election receives no public funds. Although providing significantly reduced funds to an unopposed candidate—as the bill does for primary elections—is important, providing no funds may make it difficult for certified candidates to finish their campaign. The Committee should consider providing a significantly reduced grant to unopposed candidates in the general election.<sup>4</sup>
- **Provide Campaign Spending Commission (CSC) discretion to assess penalties.** The bill requires a candidate who violates contribution restrictions to be fined an amount equal to three times the amount of public funds received. Similar to Hawaii law under H.R.S. § 11-410(a), the Committee should consider giving CSC the discretion to determine an appropriate penalty amount—such as *up to* three times the amount of public funds received—based on mitigating or aggravating factors.
- **Provide alternatives for insufficient funding.** Instead of making the program inoperative when public funds are insufficient for full funding for all covered elections, the Committee should consider alternatives, like additional appropriation requests by CSC, reduced grants as determined by CSC, or other options to sustain the program.<sup>5</sup>
- **Remove restrictions on candidates after the election.** Because candidates who participate in the program must comply with program requirements regardless of their prior participation in the program, the post-election restrictions on elected candidates—seemingly for contributions that would apply to a subsequent election—appear to be unnecessary. The Committee should consider removing them.

CLC respectfully urges the Committee to adopt our recommendations and support S.B. 2381, SD1. We would be happy to assist the Committee in crafting these amendments. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Aaron McKean  
Legal Counsel

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<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 16-953 (requiring return of public monies “above an amount sufficient to pay any unpaid bills”).

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., Me. Stat. tit. 21-A, § 1125(2-A); see also Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 16-945.

<sup>4</sup> See, e.g., Me. Stat. tit. 21-A, § 1125(8-B)-(8-D); see also Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-705(i)(3).

<sup>5</sup> See, e.g., Me. Stat. tit. 21-A, § 1124(4); see also Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 16-954.





## **Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

### **Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB2381 SD1**

Tuesday, February 13th, 2024 10:05 a.m. Conference Room 221

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

We support SB2381 SD1 which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State.

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 overwhelmingly supported by Hawai'i voters.

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.

SB 2381 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.



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 SB2381 SD1! Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is positioned below the word 'Respectfully,'.

Anne Frederick  
Executive Director

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:47:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Megan Fox	Testifying for Malama Kaua'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is an important strategy to uplifting community voices and participation in governance.

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 2:05:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

**Aloha Chair, Vice Chair & Committee Members,**

**On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 5,000 members statewide, we stand in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2381 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.**

**Passing a strong, comprehensive "Clean Elections" bill is essential to ensure a fair and democratic election process in our state.**

Similar to successful programs now in place in Connecticut and Maine, public funding programs such as that being proposed in SB2381 provide qualified candidates with a basic threshold of campaign funding, thus removing a huge barrier of entry for new candidates.

If passed into law, this potentially transformative legislation would increase electoral competition at all levels resulting in a greater diversity of life experience serving in public office, and help reduce the corrupting influence private money now has on our elections.

Please vote in Support of SB2381 SD1 to ensure a clean, fair, and democratic election process in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Dave Mulinix, Co-Founder & Statewide Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 2:37:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Shimei	Testifying for Indivisible Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

IN SUPPORT

Indivisible Hawaii supports SB2381 SD1.

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 5:53:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Camron Hurt	Testifying for Common Cause	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Common Cause Hawai'i adamantly supports SB 2381. It is important that in a world post Citizens United that our local governments do everything to safeguard not only the integrity of our votes, but also the election process as a whole. This bill, if adopted would help to ensure that the person with the deepest pockets is not the loudest voice in the room. It allows for incumbents to be able to do their due diligence and work of their communities, without being beholden to fundraising. It is a program that also helps to prevent the emergence of fringe candidates by helping to ensure that any candidate with access to these funds has wide ranging community support. We have seen success stories of states cities that have adopted comprehensive campaign financing. As it is proposed in this bill, this would put Hawaii as the leader in the nation when it comes to fully funded citizen elections. As local politicians fight off the stench of corruption that has plagued our politics for far too long, this bill allows us to take a collective step forward. For these reasons, and many more that Common Cause Hawaii is in full support of this bill. Thank you.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2024 4:26:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB 2381 SD1.

I don't want my tax dollars paying for candidates I don't support.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2024 5:35:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **oppose** this Bill.



Douglas Meller  
2615 Aaliamanu Place  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
douglasmeller@gmail.com

**Testimony Supporting SB 2381, SD1  
Relating to Public Financing for Candidates to Elected Office**

Submitted to Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 10:05 am, State Capitol Room 211 & Videoconference Hearing

There are two reasons I strongly support this bill:

1. SB 2381 will make it much more difficult for direct political campaign contributions to determine which candidates are elected, what legislation is enacted, or agency decisions.
2. SB 2381 will reduce incentives for anyone to request (or coerce) campaign contributions from political appointees, persons who want negotiated government consulting contracts, and persons who have non-bid leases or permits to use public property.

SB 2381 will not affect expenditures by special-interest PACs to support or oppose specific candidates, legislation, or agency decisions. In plain English, this bill cannot totally prevent special-interest PACs from spending money to influence public opinion and political decisions. I believe that's a necessary and acceptable risk for a democracy which allows free speech.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2024 9:29:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristen Alice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB2381. I would rather see candidates getting to know voters than courting donors. Imagine how much better served our communities will be when we make a good-faith effort to eliminate, or at least mitigate, pay-to-play politics.

It's time to publicly finance campaigns! Please pass SB2381.

Mahalo,

Kristen

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2024 11:30:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
CHESTER LUM	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony opposing this bill.

I oppose this bill and SB2381 should be tabled.

Once again, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony opposing this bill.

Chester Lum

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2024 11:42:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
james wallace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB2381. We need clean elections badly. With the votes being mucked up by vote by mail only, made it easier to rig votes. My friend and co-worker got 2 ballots. Imagine all the people I don't know possibly voted twice. That's how that useless governor Green won. Nobody likes him but yet he won on the first print out. You see how rigged Hawaii votes is. That's why we are voted the most corrupt state in the nation!!! Stop rigging and support CLEAN elections!!!!

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 3:25:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Oppose

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 7:58:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kahi Pacarro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure because I want to elect leaders representing their people. I do not consider corporations to be people, and you shouldn't either. When I look at the current state of politics, I see overwhelming influence by corporations due to campaign contributions. This has created a democracy that people like me have lost hope in. The only way to recover from this slippery slope is to increase the power of the citizens and reduce or, even better, withdraw the influence of corporations/lobbying groups.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 8:00:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Puppione	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Committee Members,*

*Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.*

*Mahalo.*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 8:03:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Teresa Landreau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I was outraged last session when the clean elections measure passed both chambers but was killed in the murky end of session process. We are watching this bill and the legislators involved. Particularly Senator Donovan Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Sharon Mortiwaki Similar measures are working well in other states. You must end the current cycle of campaign money raising that puts special interests ahead of the people and aina of Hawaii in order to ensure re-election. Let's do this so Hawaii's future won't be full of more convictions for bribery and corruption in elected officials. Mahalo



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 8:27:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana Shaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Committee Members,*

*Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.*

*Mahalo.*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 8:43:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jaysha Alonzo-Estrada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2381 for a more fair and equitable election that better represents the people of Hawai'i.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 8:43:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaiko Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 8:55:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Both nationally and locally, moneyed interests have exerted far too much influence, indeed in some cases control, over our legislative endeavors. The influence of lobbyists and the like are counter to the exercise of democratic practice, and create conflicts of interest for our legislators.

I therefore write in strong support of publicly funded elections.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 9:13:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed.

SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective.

These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo,

Keala Fung, Honolulu

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 9:14:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 9:20:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ariel Wallace-Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Committee Members,*

*Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.*

*Mahalo.*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 9:24:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

*Aloha Committee Members,*

*Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.*

*Mahalo.*

Greg Crawford



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 9:50:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Committee Members,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you support SB2381 SD1.

Thank you,

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 9:56:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dennis O'Shea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is far past time to end the financially based corruption that has plagued Hawaii politics for more than one hundred years.

Please pass this bill.

Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 10:08:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

*Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year.*

*If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, **we need to pass SB2381 now.***

*Mahalo.*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 10:21:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joyce Baker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Committee Members,*

*Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.*

*Mahalo.*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 10:24:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mina H Elison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo, Mina Elison

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 10:49:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Martha Nakajima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Thank you.

Martha Nakajima, Honolulu

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 11:25:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is a bill whose time has come! There appears to be overwhelming support for it. I thank those in our legislature who are trying to advance it and I urge the full support of our legislature to enact it. I am very strongly in support of clean elections and urge your passage of this bill.

Anita Trubitt

Kailua, HI

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 11:33:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Committee Members*

*Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.*

*Mahalo.*

*Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo*



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 11:35:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Monica Stone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for receiving my testimony in support of SB2381!

Let's change the systems so we can be the change.

with aloha,

Monica Stone, Kailua-Kona, 96740

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 11:39:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Dinner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vote Yes, please. At last, an opportunity to get big money out. You already know how important this is. I'll spare you the data.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 11:41:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Glenn Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Donovan Dela Cruz and Honorable Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki:

I strongly support SB 2381 regarding clean elections, and urge you to pass this measure out of committee. There is nothing more critical before the Legislature this term and I and fellow concerned citizens see this as a top priority.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 11:43:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo,

Stacey Alapai

Makawao, HI 96768

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 11:50:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank DeGiacomo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 12:02:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gabriela Schneider	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation as it would increase the power of everyday people and minimize the influence of deep-pocketed political donors. It would increase fairness in Hawaii's elections, because it catalyzes more inclusiveness. By providing public funding for candidates running for office in the Hawaii legislature, this "clean elections" proposal will diversify who can run for office -- not just the wealthy or politicians connected to special interest donors. Importantly, that can then increase more voter engagement and public trust in our elections and representatives, something Hawaii gravely needs after several years of high-profile political corruption scandals. Furthermore, candidates can spend less time fundraising and more time on policy and serving the needs of the people, like improving access to affordable housing, food security, fire and disaster preparedness, and our schools.

This is also a tried-and-true program that has improved constituent engagement in the U.S. Many states and municipalities (e.g., Connecticut, Minnesota, and New York City) now provide some form of citizen funding option for at least some public offices, and a system has been available for eligible presidential candidates since 1976, with matching funds for contributions for the primaries and full public funding for the general election.

Similar legislation moved through the last legislature with widespread public support. The time has come for clean elections in Hawaii.

Thank you for your time,  
Gabriela Schenider (Kapaau, Hawaii Island)

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 12:11:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Valerie Weiss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill and getting money out of our politics.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 12:11:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Passing a strong, comprehensive "Clean Elections" bill is a top 2024 statewide legislative priority of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and strongly supported by "good government" groups across the islands.

Similar to successful programs now in place in Connecticut and Maine, public funding programs such as that being proposed in SB2381 provide qualified candidates with a basic threshold of campaign funding, thus removing a huge barrier of entry for new candidates.

If passed into law, this potentially transformative legislation would increase electoral competition at all levels resulting in a greater diversity of life experience serving in public office, and help reduce the corrupting influence private money now has on our elections.



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 12:25:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please SUPPORT SB2381. Thank you.

Jane E Arnold

1763 Iwi Way, Apt D

Honolulu HI 96816

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 12:52:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Madolin Wells	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There's no single piece of legislation more important than this one, because everything else rests on freeing the public from control by powerful financial interests that have profit and control rather than the good of the people and protection of our natural resources as their motivation.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 1:00:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Velasquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Committee Members,*

*Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.*

*Mahalo.*

*Catherine Velasquez*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 1:10:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and committee members of Ways and Means

I'm testifying in strong support of SB2381 because publicly financing of elections is the best way put democracy back into running for public office.

Thank you for your consideration,

Keith Neal

Waimea

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 1:19:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili, O'ahu

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 2:42:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Roger Walraven	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do the right thing and pass this important legislation. The People of Hawaii deserve better government and the passage of this bill is important to keep undo influence in our government. Best wishes to you all. Aloha

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 2:44:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The State of Hawaii should be a model for the nation in executing clean elections - elections not influenced by big donors, PACs etc. and financed publicly. That is just one reason the entire legislature and the governor should enthusiastically support SB2381. I fully support this bill!

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 3:25:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Penelope Hazzard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Definitely in favor of this bill it wont keep big money out but will allow the little guy/girl in.



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 3:51:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mariko Whitenack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou!

My name is Mariko Whitenack and I am writing in strong support of SB2381. Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to submit testimony.

To: Ways and Means Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members  
From: Brodie Lockard, Common Cause Hawaii Board Member  
Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 10:05 am

### **In strong support of SB2381**

From *Civil Beat's* Randy Roth, December 24, 2023:

#### **Public Corruption In The Land Of Aloha**

"The Hawaii Legislature created a Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct in 2022, shortly after federal agents caught two legislators taking bribes. In its report to the 2023 Legislature, the commission described corruption in Hawaii as glaring, embarrassing, deep-rooted and systemic, and public trust as lost. Former officials in prison or awaiting trial included not just legislators, but prosecutors, police officers, planning-and-permitting workers, a chief building inspector, environmental-management director, affordable-housing official, wastewater-maintenance supervisor, police chief, councilman, county managing director, county corporation counsel, and police commission chairperson.

"All these crimes were investigated and prosecuted by federal agencies, with virtually no help from local law enforcement, local watchdog agencies, or whistleblowers from within the directly affected government offices. This suggests the added presence of a non-criminal form of corruption, often described as willful blindness or intentional ignorance. Rather than get personally involved and perhaps step on the wrong toes, people deliberately chose to go along to get along."

**Surely our elected officials, at least, can do better than this.**

A reform like public financing has been due in Hawaii for many years. With 2022'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].

**SB2381 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.

**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.

**SB2381 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 seven 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.

**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.

**Finally, SB2381 is fiscally responsible.** Even after the Maui fires, the state has plenty of money to fund the 2028 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.

**SB2381 is a thorough, well-conceived bill with an array of benefits.** I strongly urge the Judiciary 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-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 5:05:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

*Aloha Committee Members,*

*Please take this request seriously.*

*Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.*

*Do the right thing.*

*Mahalo.*

*Mary Lu Kelley*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 6:15:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marya Grambs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Committee Members,*

*Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.*

*Mahalo*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 6:44:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mamiko Carroll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee,

Please pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of SB2381, SD1, related to public financing for candidates to elected office.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 8:13:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marlies Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Support this

There should be no need for discussing this matter!

In the whole world we deserve clean elections and especially here in Hawaii! Be an example, do what's right! Only paper ballots!

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 8:32:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our democracy is under siege. I happened to be at a hearing last week and listened in disbelief as MAGA cult members verbally attacked Senator Rhoads for introducing a bill -SB2392 -that proposed keeping insurrectionists and those who would disrespect our constitution off the ballot. Clearly we need voters to be FAR better informed. Better representation of all sectors of society will help mitigate the impact of disinformation that FOX news and social media amplify. This bill SB 2381 will help draw out new leaders, people who might have been deterred from running simply because of the challenge of raising \$\$\$ to counter the influence of Big Money unleashed by Citizens United. This is a bill that is needed to restore public faith in our politics, a faith badly shaken by recent scandals. Please move this bill forward. It is critical to ensuring a healthier democracy in Hawaii. Mahalo for doing all you can to counter the harm of Citizens United.



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 10:58:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tony Radmilovich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is long overdue, please vote "yes"!

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 12:55:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**STRONG SUPPORT!**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 2:53:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Quintin Wilcox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This allows for equal opportunity, it does not allow monopolies to easily pay their way to the top.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 6:09:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee members,

I strongly support SB 2381 SD1,

This will go a long way to restoring integrity in our elections.

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

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 6:33:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
david gierlach	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's time for an even playing ground in Hawaii politics. This bill will help create a system where ordinary folks concerns aren't drowned out by big money interests. Please pass this bill.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 7:47:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support the intent of this legislation which would enable more citizens of Hawai'i to run for elected office, however, I am not certain that the outcome of the election would be any different, i.e., that candidates with wealthy donors who use their donations to buy access to candidates and elected officials will still prevail unless some cap on their donations is placed.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 8:22:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Eric Micha'el Leventhal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Representative — I trust this message finds you well.

As you are likely aware, money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This reform measure can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents.

Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced.

If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 SD1 now. Mahalo for your support!

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 8:37:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Eileen McKee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB2381 relating to clean elections.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Eileen McKee, Kihei



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 9:18:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mike Nakachi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e WAM Committee and Chair,

Please support SB2381 SD1, Changes need to happen, we need voices their in the peoples house for the People and our Aina. Not for political Contributions, or side deals. A'ole \$ over the people of place and Aina. Do the Kakou thing in you mind, your vote and continue to move forward clean elections for the People. I strongly support this bill and this initiative. Mahalo nui, Mike Nakachi, Moku o Keawe, Kakahawaiole distirct.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 10:03:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB2381.

Private money corrupts democracy. Enough said.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 10:08:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Committee Members,*

*Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.*

*Mahalo.*

*Michele Nihipali*

*54-074 A Kam Hwy.*

*Hauula, HI 96717*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 10:17:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill / mahalo Elizabeth Hansen, Hakakau HI 96710

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 10:53:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jodi Robinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill for public financing of Hawai'i's elections. Let's encourage good governance and leadership, support community-driven candidates, and remove big money out of our local political campaigns. Mahalo!

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 11:33:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emma Stierhoff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee,

My name is Emma Stierhoff, and I am writing to express my support for SB2381. Money has controlled politics in Hawai'i for far too long, creating a system in which policies favor the wealthy few over the needs of the majority. SB2381 can free candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests, allowing them to get elected on a platform that favors their constituents over private interests and creating a more ethical and representative government. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. As a result of these initiatives elsewhere, there have been shifts in who has the greatest influence on sitting legislators, giving more power to residents regardless of financial standing. This highly necessary program will be affordable at less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption in Hawaiian politics and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now. Thus, I urge you to pass SB2381.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Emma Stierhoff

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 11:57:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sven Sorge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawai'i's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo for your consideration

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 12:24:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Private interest money has dominated Hawaii's political system. SB 2381 will free candidates from having to fundraise from wealthy donors and private interests. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. Now is the time to choose to create a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few. I ask that you pass SB 2381 now. Mahalo!



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 1:20:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Money has dominated US & Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now

Mahalo,

tlaloc tokuda

Kailua Kona 96740

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 1:34:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Priscilla Stuckey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Committee Members,

Please pass SB 2381! I support ending the power of private money in Hawai‘i’s elections. To end corruption in politics, we need to finance elections with public funds. SB2381 will help all constituents’ voices be heard, and governing priorities can reflect needs of communities not just those of wealthy special interests. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawai‘i County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. This program carries a price tag of less than \$10 million per year. It’s a small cost to pay, because a government that works for all residents is priceless! Please pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 1:54:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rosie Grady	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Money has dominated Hawai‘i’s political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven’t resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Rosie Grady.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 2:37:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel R Freund	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

You know the arguments in favor of this bill. So I'll respond to the arguments against it.

**It won't put your incumbancy in jeopardy.** Publicly-financed elections elsewhere have not have not led to increased turnover in incumbents.

**Funding Republican's won't hurt Democrats.** Publicly-financed elections elsewhere have not led to shifts in party dominance

I'll add this to that: I am a true-blue Democrat but, before that, I am a citizen who supports good government. And I am proud that my Party's platform calls for publicly financed elections. Let the Republicans tell the voters what they stand for. I am confident that will help - not hurt - my the Democrats.

**It doesn't cost too much.** There's no such thing as a free lunch. *Someone* is paying for our elections and at present that means big money. Big money looks at our elected officers as an investment and expect a return. It's time for our officials to stop working for Big Money and start working for the voters. That's an investment of public money that's worth making.

- Dan Freund, Kapaa

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 2:43:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tadia Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I STRONG SUPPORT SB2381 SD1 because:**

- SB2381 SD1 can get money out of politics by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and wealthy donors.

- Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents.

- Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced.

- If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to **pass SB2381 SD1 now.**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 2:43:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
HANDS, E.J.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of Hawai'i for almost 20 years it has become abundantly clear that the governing system needs new candidates to diversify the body of too many long-established politicians governing the Hawai'ian islands, but encouraging 'fresh faces' to the governing body usually stumbles over the the impediment of insufficient campaign funding. The time is truly overdue for more forward-thinking officials to be elected to governance - or at very least, to challenge the status quo by running for various offices - which is why I support SB2381 SD1.i

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 3:01:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Money has dominated Hawai‘i’s political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven’t resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 3:25:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

It's past time to get money out of politics. Please do the RIGHT thing !

JN Makawao



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 3:34:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Billy woods	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 3:40:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Stetenfeld	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*"To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

*Sincerely,*

*Christina Stetenfeld*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 3:41:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

*To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

*Sincerely,*

*Cheylah-Marie Uyeda*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 3:42:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brenda O Watene	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Oriana McCallum. I am a second year law student and grew up in Kahuku. It's long overdue that we take the money out of politics and strive toward a democratic process that provides equal opportunity for all economic levels of society. It is very plain to see how much campaign financing has grabbed a hold of this State and manipulated it to its favor. Enough is enough. I strongly support SB2381. Mahalo, Oriana McCallum.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 3:45:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Clapper	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of this to keep elections clean and free of corruption and financial manipulation.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 3:46:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

*To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*our elected officials and representatives should be elected because they have the best ideas and experience to respond to and help with the issues that are important to the people who live here and the 'āina itself. It should not be because they have the most money to promote themselves more than anyone else. That is not Pono.*

*As a 40 year resident of Maui, and a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

*Paul Carter*

*21 River Road, Waihe'e, Hawai'i*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 4:01:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
C.Yamamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 4:06:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kazuo Flores	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I'm a born and raised kanaka of Napili in support of SB2381 SD1 Mahalo



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 4:09:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alberta Lono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

*Sincerely,*

*Alberta Lono-Morolt*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 4:21:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keila Paahana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state. Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

thank you,

Keila Paahana

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 4:54:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pua O Eleili Kelsi Pinto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*"To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I support SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with allow the playing fields to be more balanced I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

*Ke aloha no*

*pua o Eleili pinto*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 5:36:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill

**Chair Donovan Dela Cruz**  
**Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki**

**Senate Committee on Ways & Means**

**Tuesday, February 13, 2024**  
**10:05 AM**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2381 SD1 RELATING TO PUBLIC  
FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means,

My name is Jun Shin. I am a service worker as well as a labor and social justice activist, testifying as an individual in **SUPPORT** of **SB2381 SD1**, Relating to Public Financing for Candidates To Elected Office. This measure is very important in rebuilding trust and public engagement with our government.

It's exciting to think of the possibilities that a full public financing program opens up for our community and our politics. Even for incumbents who might be interested in switching to public financing, it can potentially take the stress and costs that come with fundraising, allowing more time to connect with the community and to do the day to day work of the people! This also means that working people, including many who don't come from well-to-do and well-connected backgrounds, or "professional" jobs (with all due respect) will also have the opportunity to step up and have the funding to seriously run for office in order to serve their communities. People in service jobs like myself for example.

It is good for a democracy when more of our elected officials look and share the experiences (hopes, dreams, interests, struggles) of the broader community. It is also good for democracy when we have more competitive elections where the winners aren't already decided, either by default or other factors like funding and institutional support. It gets more people interested and active. For people who are cynical, who have given up on the idea that government or politics can make any positive difference in their lives, maybe we can build a sense of personal stake once again.

Please **PASS Senate Bill 2381 SD1** out of your committee and continue the work of expanding democracy in our society.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,  
State House District 23 | State Senate District 12  
Cell: 808-255-6663  
Email: [junshinbusiness729@gmail.com](mailto:junshinbusiness729@gmail.com)

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 5:49:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ravi Bugga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

*Sincerely,*

*Ravi Bugga*

Lahaina

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 6:05:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judith White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawai'i's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Judith C. White, Psy.D.

Kapaa



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 7:05:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Linda Legrande	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 2381. Thank you, Linda Legrande

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 7:23:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arika Hultquist	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha,*

*Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 7:31:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep private money out of our elections to insure integrity.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 7:31:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dasha Alvarado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

*Sincerely, Dasha Alvarado*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 7:35:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Merritt Kaufman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.

As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.

SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.

This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.

Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.

Sincerely, Merritt Kaufman

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 7:40:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this legislation as a former Big Island farmer who is worried about the sustainable viability of our food crop (and ornamentals) pollinators. And about the economic survival of Hawaii farmers. Neonics are taking a huge toll on the no-cost pollination services of nature. There is no high tech technology in the wings able to replace the pollinators.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 8:12:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cambria Moss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is SO IMPORTANT to PASS. Please ho'oponopono

Mahalo nui loa for your service.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 8:16:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicki Tedesco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

*Sincerely,*

*Nicole Tedesco*



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 8:23:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Ann Napualani Furtado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

*Sincerely, Chelsea Furtado*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 9:10:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dave Kisor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Influence peddling has been a problem in government ever since the idea of government happened. Not having to read in a candidates begging e-mail they've been outspent would be refreshing and for that matter no more begging e-mails! Not only do we need clean elections, we could use Ranked Choice Voting statewide for all elections. Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 9:45:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Gratz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha WAM Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to poor policy decisions which disadvantage the people at large.

By freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests SB2381 can break the current link between private money and successful elections. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents.

Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but instead has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced.

We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

Robert Gratz.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 10:23:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Seikai Darcy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2381.

Mahalo,

Lisa Seikai Darcy

Kula, HI

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 10:25:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki, and members of the Committee on Ways & Means

I support SB2381 SD establishing a comprehensive public financing system for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawaii to begin with the 2028 general election year.

I respectfully ask you to please support this very important measure.

Mahalo

Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy

Kalaoa, North Kona Hawaii Island

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 11:26:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Keep politics and money separate... The whole American system is getting corrupted by greed and back-scratching" via monetary support to candidates, (behind-the-scenes & before our very eyes, sometimes). This should be illegal! In fact, I think it is illegal. People in office are forgetting that the government, in fact, is supposed to be in service to the people--we pay taxes! That contribution should be enough that our systems should be using funds to ensure that the local population is taking care of. It is blatantly disrespectful to ignore that fact. The people of Hawai'i, who are indigenous to this land, have every right to exist and practice cultural determination here. What happened in Lāhaina is very disturbing and unacceptable... Blocking roads, and not allowing to people to leave when there is a fire that is engulfing their home is ridiculous and infuriating...lives were lost & destroyed needlessly!!! I am saddened & enraged to know that this happened. Please do right by the people of this land who have endured more than they should in trauma!!! See to it that they have homes, where there is no more! politicians: do your jobs and don't accept any money when you should not! Auwe!

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 12:17:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeannette P Hereniko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki, and Committee Members:

I am writing you to urge you to please vote in favor of passing SB2381. If SB2381 passes, it will help our current Senators and Representatives as well as future candidates be free from depending on wealthy donors and those with special interests to fund your campaigns.

SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections. It will restore Hawai'i residents confidence in elected officials rather than thinking that donors to our officials's campaigns have more say than the average citizen. Even if this isn't true, it's still the perception of the public that wealthy donors influence the way you vote. Please help restore faith in our leaders by supporting public financing. Vote "yes" on SB2381 and make public financing in Hawai'i.

Please even the playing field by making funds available to those who cannot afford to finance their own campaign! Everyone wins if SB2381 passes, and your help as a member of WAM is crucial.

Thank you so much for your attention and hopefully your support in passing this important bill - SB2381!

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 1:32:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Douglas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please Support!



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 5:31:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Marvin Porter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senate Committee Members,

I am asking you to support public financing for candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai'i, This program has worked well on the Island of Hawai'i. It gave us excellent candidates and elected officials. Please support this program.

Mahalo,

Mary Marvin Porter

Island Eyes Video Journalism

Keaau, Hawaii, 96749

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 6:08:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

*Please support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mnay Mahalos*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 8:00:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rexann Dubiel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please, let's stop buying our representatives with the deepest pockets winning.

Make elections fair.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 8:05:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
C. Kai Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this much needed reform without dilution.

Mahalo

Kai Lucas

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 8:07:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have long wanted such a bill to pass to have a more ethical system for our great state so that it represents everyone, not just the wealthy. Mahalo

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 8:20:13 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Bruch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

*Sincerely, James Bruch*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 8:28:13 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

*To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

*Sincerely,*

*Richard Ho*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 9:36:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gene Lamkin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Unscrupulous donators can buy elections. Examples are Soros funded prosecutors that refuse to follow the law. It will lead to electing compromised officials.



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 9:43:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaiulani Bowers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill because it's one sided

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 9:54:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sharron VanDeusen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB238.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 10:19:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tarsis Rich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

*Tarsis*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 10:36:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hawai‘i can free itself from the corrupting influence of big money in politics by passing SB 2381 and implementing publicly-financed elections. This program will allow legislators to respond and react to their constituent needs rather than the preferences of their wealthy donors.

The success of fully publicly-financed elections in Connecticut, Maine, and for the Hawai‘i County Council illustrates that such a system is both effective and economically viable. These precedents have not led to increased turnover in incumbents or shifts in party dominance, but have significantly altered the sources of legislative influence back into the hands of the people, where it belongs for a functioning and thriving democracy. Please pass this bill!

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 10:39:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sierra Palpallatoc	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 10:47:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
mary drayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

equity in candidates political campaigning is of utmost importance....too many elections are decided by who was able to be seen the most -

this bill aligns with a more transparent INCLUSIVE process...too many people simply cannot afford to run.... this bill should be applied nationwide..

mahalo

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 11:02:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 11:06:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 11:10:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Dedely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 11:12:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawai'i's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 11:27:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dale Jensen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money, Money, Money - it is constantly in the news as the bane of our political system. In this legislative session our senators and house members have a chance to change the big money in politics system once and for all. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fund raise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now. We are watching Senators, please make this happen.

Mahalo.

Dale Jensen, Kailua

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 11:38:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Manulani Garcia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 11:45:13 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Witeck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My wife Lucy and I urge the adoption of this Clean Elections bill that would provide public financing for candidates to compete in elections and eliminate much of the dependency of candidates on corporations and well-heeled donors. The success of publicly financed campaigns has been shown in Maine, Connecticut and Hawaii County. This financing would also lessen the influence of wealthy donors and businesses in shaping public policy and provide a more equal playing field. Passing this bill would go a long way for restoring power to Hawaii's people. Please do approve this measure. Aloha!

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Chair Donovan M. L. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Y. Moriwaki  
Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 10:05 a.m., Room 211 & Via Videoconference

**SB 2381, SD1 — Relating to Public Financing for Candidates to Elected Office**

TESTIMONY  
Janet Mason, Honolulu

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Committee Members:

I **strongly support** S.B.2391, SD 1, which would establish a comprehensive system of public financing for elections in Hawaii.

The cost-benefit of the bill, is a legitimate, central concern of your Committee. While the \$30 million cost is well documented, quantifying the benefits is less tangible.

Your Judiciary subject matter Committee did find major benefits:

“Elections financed through this bill will have significant public benefit, including allowing candidates to compete without reliance on private funds and allowing elected officials to make decisions without the influence, or apparent influence of private individuals and organizations. Knowing a campaign was publicly financed will increase public confidence in the State's candidates and elected officials.”

Last year I served as a member of the **Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct**, formed by the House for the purpose of reforming basic underpinnings of our state governance, including the laws surrounding corruption and campaign spending. One of the major findings of this Commission was that power is often tightly linked with wealth in politics, where “power may beget more money and money may beget more power.” It is difficult to break the link between wealth and power because it puts the wealth and power of incumbents at risk.

The work of the Commission remains relevant. SB 2381 SD1 adopts our specific recommendation to increase the amount of public financing available for all offices up for election, but in varied amounts. As recommended, the increase in the maximum amount of public funds for an office would be based on the establishment of an

expenditure limit for each office. Also recommended, to administer the changes in the law, the bill provides an appropriation to the Campaign Spending Commission to establish two positions.

The bill points out that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. There are many compelling priorities for our State budget such as affordable housing, growing preschool education and Maui wildfire recovery. Nevertheless, I hope the Legislature will be bold and devote \$30 million to further the purpose of this bill using \$9.6 billion in revenue for this fiscal year and \$10 billion for the next year.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 11:53:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeannine Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now. Mahalo for your support.



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 12:07:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2381 SD1. We need to level the playing field for candidates running for public office and not allow money to influence and corrupt decision-making that impacts all of the people of Hawai'i. This is pono and it's *time*.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 12:16:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cari Sasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our tax dollars should NOT be used to fund anyone's political campaign! That's what the local and national political party organizations are for: to fundraise & support the campaigns of their candidates. The people need to have a voice in where their money is spent. I personally don't want any of my tax dollars going to a candidate or political party that I don't support and I don't think anyone else does either.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 12:39:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
L.C	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. I do not want my money to go any candidate that I do not support. Candidates should be able to finance their own campaigns by demonstrating their ability to work on behalf of their constituents, who should hold that candidate accountable for promises made during the campaign. Many people in our State and our country do the easy thing and vote for someone they know or what they heard third hand from the media or family/friends. They don't do their own homework and will vote for the same people over and over without knowing if elected officials made good on their promises.

In my opinion, this statement, "Allowing elected officials to make decisions free from the influence of, or the appearance that they have been influenced by, donations from special interests" means that special interests will remain a large part of the picture but the appearance of impropriety will be hidden. Smoke and mirrors.....

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 12:48:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Doug Pasnik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this legislation.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 12:50:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Justyce Torres	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If they want to run then they must get the money themselves with Detailed statements.

OPPOSE SB2381

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 1:35:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kuumomimakamae Nahooikaika	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.

As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to devastating fires. SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities interests.

This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.

Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.

Sincerely, Ku'umomimakamae Naho'oikaika

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 2:05:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anne Kamau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 2:10:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kelly morgan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 2:20:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jotis Russell-Christian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawai'i's political system for too long, leading to nasty policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government prioritizing constituents' needs. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but they have resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million annually. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jotis Russell-Christian, Hilo, HI

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 3:02:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joy Kaaz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in support of SB2381 SD 1. As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent Maui wildfires, this bill is necessary to create a more equitable and fair political landscape, a landscape that is not influenced by pay to play politics from PACS and private and corporate donors. We all have unfortunately witnessed the impact of pay to play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement that played a major role in creating the conditions that caused these devastating fires, and will continue to cause them in the future as climate catastrophe, global warming resulting in severe drought worsen.

This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, and fosters a more transparent, inclusive and accountable political process. I strongly and respectfully urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it will bring to our state.

Sincerely,

Joy Kaaz

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 3:14:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2381 SD1

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 3:19:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara L Franklin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this "clean elections" bill. Hawaii needs to add this program that is successful in other states and would bring fresh new faces into politics that is sorely lacking now. Money should not be the sole criteria for a successful campaign.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 3:51:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andres Mateo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

CANDIDATES NEED TO FIND THEIR OWN FUNDING TO RUN FOR OFFICE. WE THE PEOPLE DO NOT SUPPORT THAT THESE POLITITIANS PASS THIS BILL THAT GOES AGAINST EVERY PRINCIPAL OF VOLUNTERISM.

IF YOU WANT TO RUN FOR OFFICE START BY MAKING YOUR OWN FUNDING; GO SALE SOME MALASADAS, SOME LUMPIA, ASK PEOPLE IF THEY TRUTHLY WANT TO SUPPORT YOUR IDEAS. GO SALE SOME HONOLULU COOKIES IN THE STREETS OF HAWAII AND FEEL IF THE PEOPLE TRUTHLY SUPPORT YOU.

DO NOT PASS THIS BILL.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 4:13:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeffrey F Mizuno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 4:41:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

*To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.  
Tia Lee Klug-Wessell*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 4:59:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nalani Enos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's your decision to run for election. Fund your own campaign. Start a gofund me and let people decide if they want to help voluntarily. The money that gets taken from the people of hawaii should be used on things that benefit the people of Hawaii.



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 5:05:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yvonne Alvarado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Yvonne Alvarado Oppose to Bill SB2381 SD1

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 5:28:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
tania victorine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

People need transparency and this could hide donations sources

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 7:04:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators!

Let's finish the job we almost got done last year with SB1543.

This new bill (SB2381) can help break the link between big donor money buying our elections.

This demonstration of confidence and goodwill by legislators will actually be a freeing up from the pestering need to continually fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests; and so, inevitably it will lead to a more representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents...a truly virtuous cycle!

Connecticut, Maine, and our own Hawai'i County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year.

This is also an effective way to push back on the misguided and ultimately corruptive decision by the Supreme Court of the United States to equate 'free speech' with legalized bribery.

If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo nui loa!

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 7:20:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2381.

Thank you,

Teri Savaiinaea

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 8:03:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Annie Franzenburg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*"To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

*Sincerely,*

*Annie Franzenburg*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 8:18:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amos Zollo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill to clean up our election process and exclude big business from dominating the choices of our elected officials. We need candidates that truly care about the people of Hawaii, who they supposedly represent, to satisfy the true needs and wants of their constituents. This is supposed to be a democracy not autocracy. So let's ensure that is such by passing this bill through. Thank you for reading and considering my testimony. Amos Zollo

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 8:23:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

*"To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

*Sincerely,  
Nalani Abellanida*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 8:26:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lorraine Newman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Committee Members,

I strongly support a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai'i.

We need to make financial access to political office more equitable.

Otherwise our leadership is never truly representative of the constituents, and those either in or hoping to be elected to office are pressured to pay too much attention to fund-raising and the obligations and biases that go with this.

Please support the passage of SB2381

Mahalo for your consideration,

Lorraine Newman, Kilauea, Kauai



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 8:56:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and members of the Committee,

My name is Carolyn Eaton and I support this measure strongly. Candidates who are supported by the electorate are not always those with the largest amount of money for financing a campaign. This measure will even the playing field for legislative representation in our State.

Mahalo for your consideration of my support for this measure.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 9:03:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruben Ongos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 9:18:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laura Ramirez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawai'i's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Laura Ramirez and the Bettencourt family of Kapa'a, Kaua'i

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 9:46:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathy Jenkins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Like an elected surgery. I don't want it funded by anyone but that candidate. It's not fair to "we the people" that one be hired to a position that is supposed to serve our benefit's but rather is conflicted into a position to repay the benefactor for its duration. No thanks I don't want compromises or compromisers. Yikes no ways!!

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 9:58:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Diamond	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SN2381. Open to manipulation. Bad!

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 10:11:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sheila Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2381. Public financing for all candidates seeking election is a slippery slope.  
Encourages pay to play.

vr

Sheila Medeiros

District 43

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 10:35:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kate Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators on Ways and Means,

I strongly SUPPORT this bill to allow public funding for elections.

This bill creates a more even playing field in elections. Many excellent candidates have demonstrated support from their community yet can not currently make the financial jump up to the ballot. We need to change the paradigm and make elections more about the public interest than lobbyist interest.

Mahalo,

Kate Thompson

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 10:37:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support!



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 10:46:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michele Mitsumori	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents.

Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced.

We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 10:50:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Leake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo,

David Leake (Kaneohe)

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 11:03:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sonja Corrigan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 11:11:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Timothy Falb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I heartily support SB2381 for Clean Elections. It's time to remove the need for fundraising from the political process. We need elected officials who are not beholden to donors. Please move this bill forward.

Mahalo,  
Timothy Falb  
Kihei HI

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 1:04:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Terry Murakami	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

WAM

Tuesday 10 am Feb 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

State Capitol Conference Room, 211

To the Honorable Chair and WAM Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Unfortunately since Citizens United passed with corporations as people, money by corporate industry has been dominating in politics and policies at the sacrifice of the environment health, the ethical use of our lands, transparency regarding informed consent on public health issues, and affecting the mental health and well being of our constituents. Prioritize the needs of our constituents by example as I understand it, consider the election and voting practices in Connecticut and Maine that have been successful models. Our elections need to reflect the will of the people with an honest transparent playing field not merely to the influence of wealthy donators to campaigns, primarily or merely benefiting the wealthy few or corporate power. In the interest of we the people, by the people and FOR the people, let's reflect that in the way we elect and conduct our government end move toward ending corruption with strong checks and balances.

Structure clear rules AND enforcement mechanisms on the way our elections are publicly financed and conducted, particularly the way candidates are financed in the most honorable way that represents our constituents and our 'aina.

Thank you,  
Cynthia Groves

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 3:58:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Adriel Lam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Public financing does nothing the limit the influence of the financial powerful, and only serves to put further restrictions and barriers to entry on potential candidates. The Campaign Spending Commission process is already burdensome and inefficient, while placing no impediment on those with power and influence to continue to spend and do as they please. Unreported activity remains unaccountable, while the less connected, less powerful are shackled by regulation and threats of enforcement.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 6:43:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Gabriel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

Tanya Noelle Gabriel, LMHC



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 6:54:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Danette Trujillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm simply in support of this Bill

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:02:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diann Karin Lynn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I 100% support clean elections with public financing to get big money and all the distractions it brings OUT of our state politics.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:05:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

*To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

Seanne

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:14:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lila Mower	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:19:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lourdes Scheibert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support clean elections

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:36:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Marrack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

*Sincerely, Julie Marrack*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:40:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marion Haskins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Passing a strong, comprehensive "Clean Elections" bill is a top 2024 statewide legislative priority of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and strongly supported by "good government" groups across the islands.

Similar to successful programs now in place in Connecticut and Maine, public funding programs such as that being proposed in SB2381 provide qualified candidates with a basic threshold of campaign funding, thus removing a huge barrier of entry for new candidates.

If passed into law, this potentially transformative legislation would increase electoral competition at all levels resulting in a greater diversity of life experience serving in public office, and help reduce the corrupting influence private money now has on our elections.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 7:55:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melia Leslie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2381



**Testimony to the Thirty-Second Legislature, 2024 Regular Session**  
**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**  
**Colin D. Moore, Ph.D.**

**Senate Bill No. 2381 SD1: Relating to Public Financing for Candidates to Elected Office**  
**Position: STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

I am Colin Moore, a political scientist and professor at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I am also the author of a UHERO report on public campaign financing available for download here: <https://uhero.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Public-Campaign-Financing.pdf>

I strongly support SB 2381 SD1. It follows the successful model of public campaign financing currently used in the states of Arizona, Maine, and Connecticut.

There are three principal reasons why I support this bill:

1. Research shows that block grant programs can increase electoral competition and lead to more candidates running for public office. More competitive elections often lead to stronger voter mobilization and communication efforts. Arizona’s public financing program has been shown to reduce ballot “roll off,” which is the tendency of voters to leave ballots blank for less-visible legislative and municipal races.
2. These programs have been shown to contribute to greater diversity among candidates for public office. The advent of Connecticut’s full funding program led to the election of more Latinos and women to the legislature. In Arizona, far more Native American and Latino candidates ran for office than before.
3. Perhaps most important, public financing eliminates the need to raise private funds. This may make candidates less beholden to donors, but it also allows them to spend more time connecting with voters and discussing public policy. For example, when candidates in Maine were freed from the pressures of fund-raising, they spent more extra time canvassing and attending community events. In one survey of office-seekers, respondents frequently mentioned this benefit as a primary reason they decided to accept public funds. This bill is good for candidates and good for citizens.

**For these reasons, I urge you to support SB 2381 SD1.** It’s a good investment in the health of our local democracy and one we can afford.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:16:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Stongly Oppose

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:16:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rev Julienne Givot	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

*Sincerely,*

*Reverend Julienne Givot*

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:22:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michal Fentin Stover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2381 SD1. We need this clean elections bill to reduce the corrupting influence of private money on our elections and increase electoral competition. Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:27:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Linda Wakatake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly suport SB2381.

In 2018, only 17 percent of workers in the United States had access to paid family leave through their employers. Women, who are often the primary caregivers of infants, children, and elderly parents, are disproportionately affected by the absence of paid family leave. No one should have to sacrifice their financial well-being to care for their keiki or kupuna. The majority of Hawai'i's workforce cannot afford to take unpaid leave to care for a new child or assist a family member with a serious health condition. Hawai'i law only provides a four-week extension of unpaid leave to employees of large employers with more than one hundred employees.

All workers deserve access to family leave, which is essential in allowing parents to care for newborn keiki and family members who are seriously ill. Hawai'i has one of the fastest growing populations over the age of 65 in the nation. From 2020 to 2030, the percentage of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase to 22.5 percent of the state's population. Nearly one-third of workers who do not have access to family leave will need time off to care for an ill spouse or elderly parent. Multiple studies have shown that family leave programs can be established in a manner that is affordable for small businesses and our state. When medical emergencies arise, no one should be forced to choose between caring for their loved ones or earning a paycheck.

Sincerely,

Linda Wakatake

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:36:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
THOMAS KENT	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:38:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noela von Wiegandt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose SB 2381.

Although this Bill sounds good, it is not.

The taxpaying citizens shouldn't have to fund this.

Also, what if I do not agree with persons seeking election in Hawai'i?, do I have to pay for this?  
I disagree.

This bill is also supported by far left wing activists which is dangerous.

Thank you very much.

Noela von Wiegandt

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:45:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristen Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawai'i's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Kristen Young, Honolulu



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:15:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Corinne Solomon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2381

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:27:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kilihea Inaba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

This testimony is in support of SB2381 which seeks to create a fair and transparent means of campaigning for county and state candidates. By having candidates that are publicly funded and not "bought out" by corporations and special interests, we will have a government made up of true servants who have the whole best interest in mind, not those who are being paid to make decisions that will only benefit the wealthy few.

This type of pay-out is evident in various sectors of community, not just governmental campaigning. The decision makers that are put into power have a duty to decide on what's best for everyone, most importantly, the native people of the host culture. It is obvious that certain governmental officials do not have this in mind and being funded by wealthy and private entities does not help this.

Please support this bill so that we can have a better and healthier Hawai'i.

Mahalo,  
Kilihea Inaba

Kaloko, Kona, Hawai'i

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:31:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kanoë Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:36:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
stacy diaz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

oppose

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:41:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support clean elections.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:49:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Martin Choy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it is unclear to me if well financed candidates could gain a bigger advantage by accessing these funds. Please clarify What qualifications would determine whether they can have these funds?

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:50:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support!!

Andrea Nandoskar

Manoa, Oahu

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:50:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sharon Usagawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I am strongly in support of this Bill to make our Elections clean and accessible. We are built on the principles of the government being "for the people and by the people." A lot of people, feel disconnected from our government because political campaigns are often built on who has the biggest budget "war chest." Most citizens are also not aware of the funding sources and the influences those sources may have on a candidate. I believe this Bill will "level the playing field," so that more citizens have the ability to enter into the elections, and in my humble mind, it will allow for more openness, honesty and diversity in dealing with the issues that face Hawaii's unique cultural environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Usagawa



**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:52:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kim Cordery	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:59:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joelle Seashell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need more transporecy and accountabiltiy regarding public financing. Less corruption please.

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 10:02:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Perry J. White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Passing this bill is a high priority for me. Public funding such as this will provide qualified candidates with a basic threshold of campaign funding, thus removing a huge barrier of entry for new candidates.

**I urge you to pass this bill.**

**Mahalo and aloha,**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 10:03:13 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nate Hix	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Money should not be a barrier to political power. Candidates should be elected on their merits regardless of their ability to fundraise. Unfortunately, that's currently not the case as those who raise the most money win at over a 90% rate. Breaking the link between donors and election results is crucial to a fair and honest democracy.

Hawai'i County Council elections in 2010 and 2012 have proven that full publicly financed elections works here in our state, while Maine and Connecticut currently run this program statewide to much success.

At only an estimated cost of \$10 million per year, Hawai'i can easily take the necessary steps to remove the undue influence that money has on our political system. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Nate Hix

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 10:06:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this legislation. We need to get big money out of our politics and even the playing field, so regular citizens can have a chance to have their voices heard. Thank you.

Elizabeth Nelson

Kaneohe

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 10:06:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kay Aina	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee members,

Please defer this measure for better alternatives. Thank you.

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 10:15:13 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lori Kizer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Registering my support of Clean Elections.

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 10:24:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means.

My name is Jackie Keefe and I am writing in strong support of SB 2381.

I hope that you will pass this bill to give a chance to candidates outside of the traditional political system, like your average person, to have success in a race for office.

I believe that this is the democratic thing to do, as our governing bodies should look more reflective of our population. This is how laws get passed to protect the majority of our pae 'aina, rather than only benefiting those who can afford influence.

I thank you for your time taken to hear this bill today and hope to see you pass this through committee.

Thank you.

Jackie Keefe



**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 10:31:03 AM  
Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB2381 - We need our people to support State Government. People must feel they are fairly represented. Seats to the highest campaign spenders sets up a feeling of disenfranchisement and anger (or apathy until too much is neglected by the special interests and we get very angry).

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by rebalancing toward more equitable access by helping level the 'playing field' beyond only wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 10:32:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kealakai Hammond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB2381, a crucial step towards establishing clean elections in Hawaii.

For far too long, the influence of money has tainted our political system, leading to the passage of detrimental policies and the demise of beneficial ones. SB2381 offers a solution by severing the ties between private funds and electoral success, thereby liberating candidates from the pressures of fundraising from affluent donors and special interest groups. This pivotal shift can pave the way for a more ethical and representative government that genuinely prioritizes the interests of its constituents.

Drawing from the successful examples set by Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council, it is evident that fully publicly financed elections are not only feasible but also cost-effective. Importantly, such initiatives have not resulted in increased incumbent turnover or a loss of seats for majority parties. Instead, they have redefined the dynamics of legislative influence, fostering a more accountable political landscape.

Furthermore, the modest annual cost of less than \$10 million underscores the affordability and practicality of implementing this program. If we are sincere in our commitment to combatting corruption and fostering a political system that serves the interests of all residents, rather than a privileged few, then the passage of SB2381 is imperative.

In conclusion, I urge each of you to support this bill wholeheartedly. Let us seize this opportunity to usher in a new era of integrity and equity in Hawaii's electoral process.

Mahalo for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kealakai Hammond, LMHC, PMH-C

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 10:40:22 AM  
Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

As a candidate who has run on publicly funds in the past, I can attest to how important this legislation is. Please fully fund clean elections to help create a system that truly works for the people and by the people.

Mahalo,

Shannon Matson

Hawai'i Island Resident

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 10:50:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephen Baughn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Individuals who run for office should be able to come up with the means to provide funding for their campaigns. Tax money should not be used for that purpose and it is taking advantage of us citizens and the funds we pay for the betterness of our state. In strong opposition!!

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 11:03:28 AM  
Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrew Perez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is no reason why this bill should not be passed. I am in full support of campaign public financing, and Clean Elections in Hawaii

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 11:12:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
DIANA L BERINOBIS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.

As a concerned citizen, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.

SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.

This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.

Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.

Aloha,

Diana L Berinobis

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 12:32:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeanine Acopan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSED!!!

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 12:34:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Wendy Nguyen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!



**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 1:19:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

Not supporting "Clean" Elections says a lot about you I'm afraid to say.

Please level the playing field.

Thank you for your work in caring for Hawaii and promoting the aloha spirit.

Pamela Burrell

Kalihiwai, Kauai

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 2:42:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
William D Hart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. For far too long, wealthier candidates have had a clear advantage during campaigns and fund-raisers. Let's have a government based on abilities and dedicated efforts, not solely on the ability to out-spend other candidates. Mahalo for hearing me on this matter and for your consideration.

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 2:59:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tracey Beaudry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Another excuse to waste taxpayers money in ways we disapprove. I oppose this bill.

**LATE**

*Aloha Committee Members,*

*Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests. This can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seat, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.*

*Mahalo.*

*Robert H. Pahia*

*Maui, Hawaii*

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 5:09:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diliaur Tellei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure and urge the committee to pass it. This would be a great way to make it more accessible for regular people to run for political office -- and make it more likely that said candidates will represent their constituents' interest, not the biggest donors interests.

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 5:35:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill to level the playing field for individuals interested in running for local offices.

Mahalo

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 6:17:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mahealani Medeiros-Criste	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.

As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.

SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.

This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.

Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.

Mahalo,

Mahealani Medeiros Criste

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 9:51:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Catherine Thyne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE!



**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 11:02:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
susan walczak-pol	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 7:16:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Devon Steck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*"To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I stand in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i.*

*As a concerned citizen deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

*Sincerely, Devon Steck*

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 7:56:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ann Botticelli and Chuck Freedman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY REGARDING SB 2381 SD1

February 13, 2024

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on SB 2381, SD1.

Public financing of campaigns for state and local races offers the promise of equity in the election of our state and local officials. Many who have testified in support offer a vision of elections that are uncontrolled by large corporate or big money interests.

Unfortunately, with the protection of SuperPACs offered by the United State Supreme Court's Citizen's United ruling, this well-meaning effort may have the ironic consequence of offering seats for sale — at bargain prices — to aggressive dark money.

We need look no further than the last election, when the SuperPAC Be Change Now spent \$4 million in an effort to control the race for state of Hawai'i Lieutenant Governor, or when a series of mainland SuperPACs collectively devoted a seven-figure sum to the 2nd Congressional District.

Candidates whose contributions are capped, as would happen in if this bill were to become law, would be unable to compete against unfettered spending by outside, dark money. SuperPACs would be able to influence elections at bargain prices. In this case our state leaders will not be chosen by the electorate, but by entities with a very targeted agenda.

Before you commit candidates to this type of legislation, we suggest that you consider ways to safeguard our local elections against interference by entities such as Be Change Now. Without those safeguards, we could open the door to the very type of outsized influence this measure is designed to protect us against.

Beware of the law of unintended consequences.

Ann Botticelli, Kailua

Chuck Freedman, Kaimuki

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 8:23:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anna Barbeau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Imperitive that the public need know from where candidate campaign monies or for ANY other purposes for said candidate, whether in the form of gifts, trips, any financial account payments, advertizing, etc. Foul donations, quid pro quo 'gifting' for those who are deemed to represent the public..all need be made visable and worthy as evidence should said candidate need be removed.

**LATE**

**SB-2381-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 1:40:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2024 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Nakamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*To Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the honorable members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,*

*I'm offering testimony in support of SB2381 SD1, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in Hawai'i. As a Maui resident seeing the aftermath of the recent wildfires on Maui, I believe this bill is crucial for fostering a more equitable political landscape. We have seen the negative impacts of pay-to-play politics and the need for accountability, especially in light of the environmental mismanagement contributing to the devastating fires.*

*SB2381 SD1 provides an alternative to private contributions, leveling the playing field and ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who genuinely represent our communities' interests.*

*This bill aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, fostering a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process. I urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits it can bring to our state.*

*Mahalo for your dedication to the welfare of Hawai'i and our community-driven principles.*

*Sincerely, Jessica Nakamura*

**LATE**

**From:** [webmaster](#)  
**To:** [WAM Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [webmaster](#)  
**Subject:** FW: SB2381  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024 8:53:10 AM

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-Travis

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**From:** sherri curry <sherricurry808@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2024 5:43 PM  
**To:** webmaster <webmaster@Capitol.hawaii.gov>  
**Subject:** SB2381

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I would like to support the house bill to curtail big money in our elections. I couldn't submit the testimony.