



STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 26, 2024

TO: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance

The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Members of the House Committee on Finance

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on H.B. No. 1845, HD1, Relating to Partial Public Financing of Elections.**

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
12:00 p.m., Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

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

The purpose of this bill is to enhance Hawaii’s partial public financing program by increasing the maximum amount of public funds available for all offices by 50% (except for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (“OHA”) which will be significantly enhanced by over 1,000%) to qualified candidates. It also makes a downward adjustment of the minimum qualifying contributions for certain offices because it appears that publicly financed candidates for those offices were having a difficult time raising the minimum qualifying contributions. Respectfully, the Commission is submitting this bill as an attempt to boost an existing program that is mandated by the State Constitution which has not changed and whose maximum dollar amounts have not changed since 1995.

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) sections as follows:

- 1) HRS §11-425 by increasing the maximum amount of public funds available for all offices (except for an OHA trustee) by 50% and increasing the maximum amount of public funds available for a candidate for trustee of OHA from \$1,500 for the election

¹ The companion bill is S.B. No. 2210.

period to 10% of the expenditure limit for each election established in HRS §11-423(d).

- 2) HRS §11-429(a) by increasing the amount of qualifying contributions required for a candidate for trustee of OHA from more than \$1,500 in the aggregate to more than \$5,000 in the aggregate.
- 3) HRS §11-429(b) by increasing matching fund payments from \$1 for each \$1 of qualifying contributions in excess of the minimum qualifying contribution amounts to \$2 for each \$1 of excess qualifying contributions.

The bill also provides a downward adjustment of the minimum amounts of qualifying contributions for the office of prosecuting attorney for the city and county of Honolulu, and counties of Hawaii and Kauai, and for the office of county council for the county of Maui. Lastly, the bill establishes two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) positions in the Commission and appropriates funds.

For illustration, here is a comparison of the present partial public funding program in contrast to the enhanced partial public funding program set forth in this bill. For a qualified Senate candidate running in District 1 in the 2024 election, the maximum amount of public funds available is \$7,211 in the primary election and another \$7,211 in the general election. In contrast, under this bill, this same candidate would receive \$10,816 in the primary election and another \$10,816 in the general election. For a qualified House candidate running in District 1 in the 2024 election, the maximum amount of public funds available is \$3,485 in the primary election and another \$3,485 in the general election. In contrast, under this bill, this same candidate would receive \$5,227 in the primary election and \$5,227 in the general election. Lastly, for a qualified OHA candidate, the maximum amount of public funds available is \$1,500 for the election year. In contrast, under this bill, this same candidate would receive \$17,227 in the primary election and \$17,227 in the general election.

The Commission requests this Committee to restore the \$200,000 in funding in Section 6 of the bill for two additional positions to implement the expansion of the partial public financing program and to restore the effective date of July 1, 2024. The Commission requests that this committee pass this bill with amendments.

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 11:36:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leolani Mahuka iwaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 11:41:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vincent r Golio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Their should be zero public campaing financing available to elective offices. No confidence in gov't officials spending any of the money you take from us without full audits of spending. Since you are so busy NOT telling us where the money goes, then OPPOSE.

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 11:45:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 11:49:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I absolutely oppose this bill

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 11:54:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Dedely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I absolutely oppose this bill

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 12:02:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James K. Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Totally oppose

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 12:22:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa Parmenter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose HB1845

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 12:29:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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.

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 1:06:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharron VanDeusen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1845.

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 1:22:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Magoon Ohana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose- Again our tax dollars should be better spent, like cleaning up voter roles and go back to in person voting with ID!

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 2:11:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James R Cabodol Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wē elect u to make decisions on our behalf so far you all have done nothing for the people,
definitely oppose

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 3:14:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosemarie Vailisale	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Rosemarie Vailisale, do not support this bill

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 4:06:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sash Fitzsimmons	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 6:02:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Thyne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Legislature,

I definitely oppose this! Taxpayer's should Not be paying for any of this! Again why are you wasting tax payer's dollars? Campaign money should not be paid for by Taxpayers. This is ridiculous!

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 7:31:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as tax payers money will be funding campaigns they do not want to support

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 8:38:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CHESTER LUM	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

HB1845 should be withdrawn.

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

Chester Lum

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 10:14:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It is biased and unfair.

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 10:38:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 1:16:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No !!! Raise your own money.!!!!

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 11:33:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **OPPOSE** this Bill.

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 12:16:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian Mccauley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Public funds should never be used to for campaigning.

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 4:49:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larry Duclayan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition of Hawaii House Bill HB1845

Statement of Position: This testimony is written to express strong opposition to **House Bill HB1845**, which pertains to increasing the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all elective offices. This bill could mean that my tax dollars could support a campaign that I do not support. This bill is unfair, ineffective, and wasteful.

Background Information: HB1845 aims to amend the Hawaii Revised Statutes to increase the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all elective offices, including the governor, the lieutenant governor, the state legislators, the county mayors, the county council members, and the county prosecutors. The bill claims that this measure is necessary to reduce the influence of special interests and wealthy donors in elections, and to encourage more candidates to participate in the public campaign financing program. However, this bill is unfair, as it could force taxpayers to fund campaigns that they do not support or agree with. It is also ineffective, as it does not guarantee that candidates who receive public campaign financing will be more responsive or accountable to the public. It is also wasteful, as it would divert public funds from other essential services or programs that could benefit the people of Hawaii.

Specific Arguments and Evidence:

1. Unfairness and Taxation:

- HB1845 is unfair, as it could force taxpayers to fund campaigns that they do not support or agree with.
- HB1845 does not allow taxpayers to opt out of contributing to the public campaign financing program, nor does it allow them to choose which candidates or parties they want to support with their tax dollars.
- HB1845 could violate the First Amendment rights of taxpayers, who have the right to free speech and association, and the right to refrain from supporting speech or association that they do not endorse.
- HB1845 could also create a conflict of interest for taxpayers, who may have different views or interests than the candidates or parties that receive public campaign financing.
- HB1845 is unfair, as it could force taxpayers to fund campaigns that they do not support or agree with, and that may not represent their views or interests.

2. Ineffectiveness and Accountability:

- HB1845 is ineffective, as it does not guarantee that candidates who receive public campaign financing will be more responsive or accountable to the public.
- HB1845 does not require candidates who receive public campaign financing to abide by any additional ethical or performance standards, nor does it provide any mechanism for the public to monitor or evaluate their actions or outcomes.
- HB1845 does not prevent candidates who receive public campaign financing from accepting private donations or spending their own money on their campaigns, which could still create the appearance or reality of corruption or influence.
- HB1845 does not address the other factors that affect the outcome of elections, such as voter turnout, media coverage, incumbency, or party affiliation, which could still give an advantage or disadvantage to certain candidates or parties.
- HB1845 is ineffective, as it does not guarantee that candidates who receive public campaign financing will be more responsive or accountable to the public, or that they will improve the quality or diversity of representation.

3. Wastefulness and Cost:

- HB1845 is wasteful, as it would divert public funds from other essential services or programs that could benefit the people of Hawaii.
- HB1845 does not specify the source of funding for the public campaign financing program, nor does it provide any estimate of the cost or the demand for such funds.
- HB1845 does not consider the opportunity cost of spending public funds on the public campaign financing program, rather than on other services or programs that could address the needs or priorities of the people of Hawaii, such as education, health care, infrastructure, or environmental protection.
- HB1845 does not demonstrate any clear benefit or return on investment for the public campaign financing program, nor does it require any assessment or evaluation of the effectiveness or impact of the program.
- HB1845 is wasteful, as it would divert public funds from other essential services or programs that could benefit the people of Hawaii, without any clear benefit or accountability.

Conclusion: This testimony urges the legislature to reject HB1845. This bill is unfair, ineffective, and wasteful, as it would increase the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all elective offices. This bill could mean that my tax dollars could support a campaign that I do not support. This bill is unfair, as it could force taxpayers to fund campaigns that they do not support or agree with. It is also ineffective, as it does not guarantee that candidates who receive public campaign financing will be more responsive or accountable to the public. It is also wasteful, as it would divert public funds from other essential services or programs that could benefit the people of Hawaii.

This testimony is written in opposition to this bill.

Mahalo,

Larry Duclayan

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 6:53:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry Murakami	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 7:50:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doug Pasnik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this legislation.

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 7:57:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peggy Regentine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I disagree with increasing campaign financing. Period.

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 8:14:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1845.

Thank you,

Teri Savaiinaea

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 8:17:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivek Pathela	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE! Hawaii is ranked the WORST in Election Integrity because of unjust bills like this one!

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 8:27:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J Miles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 8:53:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L Miles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose.

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 10:18:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james wallace	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose HB1845.We should not be giving money to public campaign democrats.Lets be real,dems runs hawaii,its a 1 party state.Im tired of giving our tax money to crooks.There is no results and we the people in hawaii is getting robbed by our own government.Like what Elijah Perrick said,you guys should be working for FREE!!!!

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:25:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vernelle Oku	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

This would place another burden on our already overburdened taxpayers.

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:24:28 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luis Ma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:07:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KELVIN AWAYA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1845. The state tax payers don't have any obligation to provide any kind of campaign funding for any political party whatsoever. If an individual wants to run/campaign, they do it on their own accord and on their expense. The people don't have anything to do with that, and should not be responsible for footing the bill.

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:09:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emerson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We should honestly not even be paying taxes to this point. This is an abuse of power and has been on going. Dont even try this. You should fund your own public campaign.

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:49:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Gouveia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our tax dollars should not be used to fund political campaigns, especially campaigns of an opposing party. A registered Republican voter should not have their tax dollars be used to fund a Democrat's campaign and vice versa. The people should be able to choose a candidate they want to financially support. This bill would violate our rights to choose our own candidate. Therefore, I oppose this bill.

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:59:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Alvarado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Yvonne Alvarado Oppose to Bill HB 1845 HD1

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:20:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joelle Seashell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Corruption at its finest, you should be ashamed for writing this bill.

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:34:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noela von Wiegandt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I Oppose HB 1845 strongly.

I do not want my tax dollars wasted on Democratic campaigns. Our State is falling apart because of the Democratic Party. Honolulu is starting to resemble San Francisco. The list is endless of the failure of the Democratic Party in Hawai'i.

Thank you very much.

Noela von Wiegandt

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:34:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
julie schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1845

I do not want my taxpayer money funding any political parties campaign

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:48:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:51:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1845

It's illegal for taxpayer money to arbitrarily fund political campaigns

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:53:28 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoë Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:56:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Domingo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

Let try focusing on the communities. This does nothing to help the people.

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:19:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Hb1845

my taxpayer money shall not go to any political parties campaign unless I direct it to

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:23:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deven English	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition.

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:29:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sierra Palpallatoc	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not consent to having my tax dollars going to polticians my beliefs are not aligned with. Use your own damn money to support the politicians you like

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 11:45:32 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ro Kaing	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Tax dollars should not be spent on capaign financing for any political party. I OPPOSE SB 1845.

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:14:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy R Ajimine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Taxes should NOT be used for campaigns. Thats crazy when we're so in debt with pressing needs for the infrastructure & our children!

HB-1845-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 6:33:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
THOMAS KENT	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.