



COMMENTS ON HB 370_HD1
RELATING TO PARTIAL PUBLIC FINANCING OF ELECTIONS

House Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Capitol

February 25, 2025

12:00 p.m.

Room 308

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) respectfully submits COMMENTS on HB370_HD1, which increases the amount of public funds available to candidates for public office who participate in the State's Partial Public Financing program under Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 11, Part J, and increases participating candidates' expenditure limits.

OHA generally supports public financing as a good government measure. The amendments to HRS Chapter 11 proposed in HB370_HD1 will make the public financing program a more viable option for candidates by increasing the funding available to candidates who participate in the partial public financing system. Increased access to publicly financed campaigns makes elections more accessible, open, and fair

At the same time, OHA objects to the continued disparity with which OHA is treated under the Partial Public Financing law. HRS § 11-423(d) sets forth the campaign expenditure limits under the partial public financing program by a formula that multiplies the "number of voters in the last preceding general election registered to vote" in the relevant voting district by a specific dollar amount. See HRS § 11-423(d). OHA trustees are the only candidates who run statewide election campaigns that are not explicitly listed in this subpart, and thus default to the lowest multiplier category with "other offices," or \$0.20 (20 cents). See HRS § 11-423(d)(5). As a point of comparison, the lieutenant governor who also runs a statewide campaign has a dollar multiplier of \$1.40. See HRS § 11-423(d)(2).

The total expenditure limits in HRS § 11-423(d) in turn affect the amount of public financing available to a candidate under HRS § 11-425, which sets public funding as a percentage of the total expenditure limits. While OHA appreciates that this measure will increase the maximum amount of public financing available to OHA candidates from

\$1,500 to \$17,200 (using the last general election voter registration data), this is still far below what comparable office holders will receive. Under the changes proposed in HB370_HD1, the lieutenant governor's maximum public funding will increase from \$180,782 to \$271,173.

As a matter of fairness and equity, OHA respectfully requests that OHA be treated comparably to other statewide office holders through necessary amendments to HRS §§ 11-423, -425. Specifically, the multiplier set in HRS § 11-423 should put OHA on parity with the lieutenant governor, another statewide office holder. Likewise, section 2 of HB370_HD1 should be amended to set the maximum amount of public funds available to OHA candidates at fifteen percent of the HRS § 11-423 limit, consistent with candidates of the position of lieutenant governor, another elected position that requires statewide elections.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



Committee on Finance
Chair Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi

Tuesday February 25, 2025 12 pm Room 308
HB370 HD1 — RELATING TO PARTIAL PUBLIC FINANCING OF ELECTIONS

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members: **The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB370 HD1.** The League of Women Voters of the US believes that methods of financing political campaigns should enable candidates to compete equitably for public office and ensure that candidates have sufficient funds to communicate their messages to the public. Hawaii's Partial Public Funding Program (PPFP) is intended to support those goals.

Public financing of campaigns for political office is an investment in good governance, like budgeting for the Office of Elections or the Campaign Spending Commission or the Legislature itself. Public Financing can return the value invested in it by increasing the extent to which elected officials work for the benefit of all state residents, rather than wealthy businesses or individuals; increasing voter confidence in government; and encouraging more citizen participation in elections and communication with their representatives.

The cost of this investment is not large. Supporting HB370 HD1 would cost less than \$5million in the 2026 election year, even assuming an extremely large increase in the number of candidates seeking and qualified for public financing. That is a very small addition to the State budget, as this committee is well aware. It is also quite possible that legislative spending would be more effective and efficient when directed by the needs and values of the population, rather than being swayed by financial relationships with special interests.

Please make this investment in helping a more diverse group of candidates consider running for elected office, decreasing corruption and enhancing the reputation of elected officials in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



HOUSE BILL 370, HD1, RELATING TO PARTIAL PUBLIC FINANCING OF ELECTIONS

FEBRUARY 25, 2025 · FIN HEARING

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports HB 370, HD1, relating to partial public financing of elections, which increases the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all elective offices; adjusts the minimum amount of qualifying contributions certain candidates must receive to participate in the program; and increases the matching fund payments for excess qualifying contributions.

Our democracy belongs to we, the people. At a time when our nation is experiencing extreme political turmoil and basic civil liberties are under assault, we must take steps in Hawai'i to safeguard democratic participation. In the 2024 primary election, for example, our state experienced its lowest turnout in 65 years, with only 32.1 percent of registered voters filling out a ballot. This is, in part, a reflection of the public's deep cynicism with our electoral processes.

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 that election cycle.

This bill moves our islands incrementally toward an election system that is fair. **We are especially supportive of the proposed positional funding for the Hawai'i Campaign Spending Commission, which has not received additional staff since its inception decades ago.** That said, we urge your committee to continue evaluating more robust public financing models, such as those being used in states like Maine. 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 comprehensive public financing 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.

These models ensure that candidates 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 are, in turn, empowered to focus on engaging with their communities, rather than charming the donor class. Ultimately, this reorients our government toward the will of the people, not the wallets of the privileged.

We believe that government should work for the public interest, not special interests. It is in that spirit that we support this and other reforms to uplift the transparency, accountability, and integrity of our state's election system.

Contact: educationcaucusdph@gmail.com

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STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 24, 2025

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

The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee Finance

Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Anthony Baldomero, Associate Director *TB*
Campaign Spending Commission

SUBJECT: **Testimony on H.B. No. 370, H.D. 1, Relating to Partial Public Financing of Elections.**

Tuesday, February 25, 2025
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%² (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 the offices of the Mayor of the County of Kauai, Mayor of the

¹ The companion bill is S.B. No. 256.

² The percentage of the expenditure limit, which determines the maximum amount of public funding available for each office, is increased by 50% in the bill.

County of Maui, and OHA trustee) by 50%. The bill also increases the maximum amount available for candidates for Mayor of the counties of Kauai and Maui by 125% by moving those offices from subsection (a) to subsection (b) and increasing the maximum amount of public funds available for a candidate for trustee of OHA from \$1,500 for the election 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 \$5,500 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 (from \$30,000 to \$25,000), and counties of Hawaii (from \$10,000 to \$5,000) and Kauai (from \$5,000 to \$3,000), and for the office of county council for the county of Maui (from \$5,000 to \$4,000). Lastly, the original bill established two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) positions in the Commission and appropriated \$200,000 to fund these positions.

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 2026 election, the maximum amount of public funds available is \$7,269 in the primary election and another \$7,269 in the general election. In contrast, under this bill, this same candidate would receive \$10,903 in the primary election and another \$10,903 in the general election. For a qualified House candidate running in District 1 in the 2026 election, the maximum amount of public funds available is \$3,562 in the primary election and another \$3,562 in the general election. In contrast, under this bill, this same candidate would receive \$5,343 in the primary election and \$5,343 in the general election.

For a qualified candidate running for Kauai Mayor in the 2026 election, the maximum amount of public funds available is \$9,635 in the primary election and another \$9,635 in the general election. In contrast, under this bill, this same candidate would receive \$21,679 in the primary election and \$21,679 in the general election. For a qualified candidate running for Maui Mayor in the 2026 election, the maximum amount of public funds available is \$23,002 in the primary election and another \$23,002 in the general election. In contrast, under this bill, this same candidate would receive \$51,754 in the primary election and \$51,754 in the general election. Lastly, for a qualified OHA candidate in the 2026 election, the maximum amount of public funds available is \$1,500 for the election period. In contrast, under this bill, this same candidate would receive \$17,217 in the primary election and \$17,217 in the general election.

Under the bill, assuming one qualified candidate for each elective office³ in the state, the maximum amount of public financing available would be **\$2,353,426** in the 2026 primary election and another **\$2,353,426** in the 2026 general election. As of October 31, 2024, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund (“HECF”) balance was \$2,268,225.38. An appropriation into the HECF is likely necessary if this bill is passed. As the following table shows, recent usage of the partial public financing program has been dwindling:

Election Year	Total Candidates Receiving Public Funds	Total Public Funds Disbursed	Number of Winning Candidates
2024	10	\$52,053.09	7
2022	15	\$71,878.29	6
2020	16	\$85,361.97	3
2018	18	\$105,966.88	8
2016	28	\$202,190.49	12
2014	24	\$234,864.92	11
2012	22	\$145,696.00	9
2010	22	\$188,286.48	Not Reported
2008	23	\$144,502.00	Not Reported

In regard to the additional two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) positions in the measure, the Commission has not had an increase in personnel for the past 29 years despite the number of candidate committees and noncandidate committees having almost doubled in size. Currently, there are only 5 staff members who oversee 700+ committees that have anywhere from 1-3 officers who require assistance on how to comply with the various requirements of campaign finance law thereby generating hundreds of staff hours assisting committees over the phone, in-person, and by email as well as a number of enforcement actions for violations. Under HRS §11-314(7), one of the Commission’s 14 duties is to investigate and hold hearings for receiving evidence of any campaign finance violations. The Commission has no investigator on staff and has had to rely on contracts for investigative services with outside agencies.⁴ In comparison to other State and county good government groups with compliance and enforcement duties, the Commission has had a modest budget and nominal staff despite a tremendous growth in committees, an expansion in its duties and responsibilities, and enforcement mandates. The Commission respectfully seeks your support so that the Commission may ensure that the integrity and transparency of the campaign finance process is upheld and approve our request for

³ The Commission is aware that not all elective offices appear on the ballot in an election year.

⁴Act 10, Special Session 1995, was the single year that a sum of \$70,000 was appropriated for one investigator for the Commission for FY 1995-1996 and was then sunset. This request essentially restores this position and makes it permanent.

2 new full-time permanent exempt excluded positions (i.e., an Elections Assistant and an Investigator).⁵

The Commission requests that this committee pass this bill with the appropriation of \$200,000 for the two full-time equivalent (2 FTE) permanent positions to be placed within the Commission restored.

⁵ The Commission requested these 2 full-time permanent exempt excluded positions in its FY 2025-2027 budget to which the Governor has approved – specifically, the request was for \$200,000 for FY 2026 and \$180,000 for FY 2027-2029. Notably, the Commission is an administratively attached agency with the Department of Accounting and General Services.

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:49:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Kauai Women's Caucus	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let the results of our recent Federal election, with the power of the all mighty dollar, that has lead to an oligarchy where a handful of white, racists, male billionaires are calling the shots in all 3 branches of this government. This is a crisis. Bill HB370 takes a brave baby step in a different direction.

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 10:29:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a citizen who values free markets, personal accountability, and the integrity of our elections, I submit this testimony in strong opposition to HB370. This bill increases public campaign funding—raising maximums from 10% to 15% for top offices and 15% to 22.5% for others, doubling matching funds to \$2 per \$1 raised, and appropriating taxpayer dollars for it all. It’s a well-intentioned but misguided expansion of government that undermines fair elections. I urge you—Republicans and Democrats alike—to **VOTE NO**. Here’s why this bill fails Hawaii.

It Siphons Taxpayer Money from Critical Needs

This bill pumps millions from Hawaii’s general revenues into political campaigns—upping funds from 10% to 15% for governor and mayor races, 15% to 22.5% for others, and adding staff to the Campaign Spending Commission. Meanwhile, our schools, roads, and healthcare strain under tight budgets. Democrats, you’ve fought for working families facing high costs—why divert their tax dollars to prop up candidates when those funds could fix potholes or lower prescription prices? This prioritizes politicians over people.

It Tilts Elections Toward Big Spenders, Not Grassroots

Doubling matching funds to \$2 per \$1 raised sounds fair, but it favors entrenched incumbents and well-connected candidates who can already tap big donors to hit thresholds like \$100,000 for governor. Small, grassroots voices—especially in rural areas—get drowned out, despite lower qualifying amounts (e.g., \$1,500 for state reps). Democrats, you’ve championed equity in representation—why back a system that stacks the deck against underfunded newcomers from diverse communities? This isn’t leveling the field; it’s rigging it.

It Grows Government at Taxpayer Expense

Expanding public financing from 10% to 15% and 15% to 22.5%, plus hiring more commission staff, balloons bureaucracy when we should be cutting waste. Trump’s 2017 tax cuts showed lean government can boost prosperity—federal revenue grew 10% by 2019 without handouts. Democrats, you’ve pushed for efficient public services—why saddle taxpayers with a bloated program that funds campaigns instead of streamlining government to serve voters directly? We need accountability, not more overhead.

It Ignores Private Funding’s Proven Success

Elections don't need more public cash—private donations already reflect voter priorities. In 2020, Hawaii candidates raised over \$14 million privately (Campaign Spending Commission data), showing people will support who they believe in. Raising public funds to 15% or 22.5% of expenditure limits just crowds out that organic support. Democrats, you've advocated for reducing corporate influence—why not cap big donors instead of forcing taxpayers to bankroll candidates? Free markets, not government checks, should drive campaigns.

It Undermines Our Shared Goal of Fair Elections

Committee members, we all want elections that reflect the people—Republicans demand freedom from government meddling, Democrats seek broad participation. HB370 fails both by misusing tax dollars, skewing advantages, and growing bureaucracy. **VOTE NO** to reject this overreach. Let's keep campaigns accountable to voters, not handouts, and invest in Hawaii's real needs—education, infrastructure, and health—not political slush funds. We can do better together.

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 8:03:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 8:05:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 8:24:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My money should not be used to fund campaigns. Go door knock and use sweat equity.
Disgusting what you folks try and pass into law

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:36:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corinne Solomon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB370

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 10:05:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noela von Wiegandt	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose SB370. Please vote no.

Thank you.

Noela von Wiegandt

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 10:06:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly Oppose

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 10:37:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lesha Mathes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Anyone running can do their own fundraising. We know that this would favor liberal candidates and erode the integrity of free market elections.

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 11:29:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reid Oya	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB370

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 1:12:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dorinda Ohelo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Taxpayers should not pay for this!

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 1:25:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Nichols	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a taxpayer and resident of Hawaii, I strongly oppose House Bill No. 370 (H.D. 1), which expands the partial public financing program for election candidates, because I believe it's deeply unfair, burdens me excessively, and destroys the free election system I value. I resent that my hard-earned tax dollars—already stretched thin by Hawaii's high living costs, where \$1 in 1995 is now worth \$2.07—will be tapped in unspecified amounts for fiscal year 2025-2026 to fund political campaigns and hire more Campaign Spending Commission staff, when I'd rather see that money fix roads or ease housing woes than subsidize candidates I might not even support, like a Honolulu mayor's race when I live on Kauai. I find it unjust that the bill hikes maximum public funds to 15% of the expenditure limit for governor or 22.5% for other offices and doubles matching funds to \$2 per \$1 of excess contributions, giving well-connected candidates a massive advantage—someone raising \$50,000 extra nets \$100,000 in public money, while I'd struggle as a grassroots hopeful to scrape together \$1,500 for state representative and get next to nothing. I'm baffled and frustrated by the inconsistent qualifying thresholds—why should I need \$5,500 to run for Office of Hawaiian Affairs while a Kauai prosecutor gets by with \$3,000 or a Maui councilor with \$4,000, when it feels arbitrary and uneven with no clear reason? I believe this bill obliterates free elections by flooding them with taxpayer cash—candidates can dodge engaging me directly, relying on my money instead of my vote, eroding the democratic freedom of choice and reducing their accountability, while the measly \$100 cap for small offices mocks their worth and leaves them sidelined. I'm also unsettled by the fiscal irresponsibility—those vague appropriation sums could spiral out of control, draining state coffers without me knowing how much I'm on the hook for, which isn't right. To me, this bill tips the scales against regular folks like me, favoring powerful insiders, costing us all dearly, and shredding the freedom of elections by making them less about voter support and more about state handouts, so I urge the Legislature to reject it and protect a fair system where candidates earn their way, not siphon it from my wallet.

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 3:45:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Pang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill HB370, which pertains to the partial public financing of elections in Hawai'i. While the intention behind this legislation may be to enhance the electoral process and promote greater participation, I believe it poses several significant issues that undermine the democratic principles we hold dear.

Firstly, the allocation of public funding to political campaigns raises concerns about the responsible use of taxpayer money. In a time when many residents are struggling with economic challenges, diverting public funds to finance political campaigns seems misaligned with the priorities of our community. It is essential that our government focuses on addressing pressing issues such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure, rather than subsidizing candidates' campaigns.

Additionally, HB370 may inadvertently favor certain candidates or parties over others. The criteria for eligibility and the distribution of funds could create an uneven playing field, leading to potential bias in the electoral process. This undermines the core principle of a fair and competitive democracy, where all candidates should have an equal opportunity to present their ideas and garner support.

Moreover, public financing could diminish the accountability of candidates to their constituents. When candidates rely on taxpayer money, there may be less incentive to engage with the community and address the specific needs and concerns of the electorate. True democracy flourishes when candidates are motivated to connect with voters and seek their support through genuine engagement rather than relying on public funds.

In conclusion, while the objective of enhancing electoral participation is commendable, I believe that House Bill HB370 is not the right approach. It risks misallocating taxpayer resources, creating an uneven electoral landscape, and diminishing the accountability of elected officials. I urge lawmakers to reconsider this bill and explore alternative methods to promote civic engagement and support for candidates that do not compromise the integrity of our electoral system.

Thank you for considering my perspective. I oppose HB370.

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 5:59:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Chair Yamashita and Committee Members,

My name is Brett Kulbis, I'm a 26yr Navy Veteran and Retired Civil Servant. I live in Ewa Beach.

I OPPOSE HB-370.

HB-370 seeks to increase the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all elective offices, adjust qualifying contribution requirements, increase matching fund payments, and appropriate funds for the program and staff. While the intent to enhance electoral participation and reduce the influence of so called "dark money" in politics is commendable, expanding the public financing program is not a solution:

1. Fiscal irresponsibility: As a taxpayer I don't want my tax dollars going to a candidate I don't support.
2. Effectiveness concerns: There is extremely limited evidence that increased public financing leads to significant improvements in electoral outcomes or reduces the influence of special interests. We already have partial public financing and less than 1% of 141 candidates in the 2024 election opted-in for partial public financing.
3. Potential for abuse: Expanding the program may create opportunities for candidates to exploit public funds for personal or political gain.
4. Complexity: The proposed changes to qualifying contributions and matching fund payments may further complicate an already complex system, potentially deterring participation.
5. Unintended consequences: Increased public financing could lead to a proliferation of fringe candidates, potentially confusing voters and fragmenting the political landscape.
6. Resource allocation: The funds appropriated for this program could be better utilized for pressing public needs such as education, healthcare, or infrastructure.

Instead of expanding the public financing program, I urge the committee to consider focusing on voter education initiatives to increase informed participation in the electoral process.

Respectfully, I encourage you to vote NO on HB-370 until a thorough study can be conducted.

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 10:06:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill HB370 as I do not want my tax dollars used to support candidates I may not agree with.

I ask you to vote "NO" on this bill.

Thank you.

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:53:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aika Valdez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:05:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Anne Bell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is far too much government overreach in this bill.

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:55:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose. Whomever controls where these funds go to will have a lot of power over the candidates and may play favorites that work against the good of the citizens of Hawaii.

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:59:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB370.

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:05:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee, My name is Eliel Starbright , and I am writing in **STRONG support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawai‘i’s partial public financing program for elections.

By increasing the funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program. This bill is a significant step toward reducing the influence of big money in our election process.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Elirl,Kapaa

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:09:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill to help level the playing field among candidates for public office!

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:11:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Pamela Elders, and I am writing in **STRONG support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawai'i's partial public financing program for elections.

By increasing the funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program. This bill is a significant step toward reducing the influence of big money in our election process.

I think we have witnessed the need for campaign finance reform at all levels of government. Now is the time to take action.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Pamela Elders,

Laupahoehoe, HI

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:13:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Danielle Guion, and I am writing in **STRONG support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawai'i's partial public financing program for elections.

By increasing the funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program. This bill is a significant step toward reducing the influence of big money in our election process.

PLEASE also support HB370 HD1. It benefits all, even you!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Danielle Guion, Makakilo, O'ahu

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:17:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT!

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:37:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Seikai Darcy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lisa Darcy, and I am writing in **STRONG support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawai'i's partial public financing program for elections.

By increasing the funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program. This bill is a significant step toward reducing the influence of big money in our election process.

HB370 is a really important small step towards educating community members on the process which will ultimately serve their communities with more strength.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Lisa Darcy, Kula, HI

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:38:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Sutherland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Scott Sutherland, and I am writing in **STRONG support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawai'i's partial public financing program for elections.

By increasing the funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program. This bill is a significant step toward reducing the influence of big money in our election process.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Scott Sutherland, Honolulu

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:01:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, as a citizen who is in favor of getting big money out of politics, I am writing in STRONG support of HB370 HD1, which will modernize and improve Hawai'i's partial public financing program for elections. It's a great start to getting dark money and corporate away from our elections, and back to way our democracy should be, one vote for one person. By increasing the funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program.

This bill is a significant step towards reducing the influence of big money in our election process. Reducing influence of outside money will help keep all of our elections, and governmental functioning itself, free and fair. Mahalo.

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:10:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in **STRONG support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawai'i's partial public financing program for elections.

By increasing the funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program. This bill is a significant step toward reducing the influence of big money in our election process.

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:17:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

L

Our Dearest Elected Officials,

You have been given a victory from the Hard Working Citizens of Hawaii. Your Service to this Island Nation is what propelled you to this victory, status and position of leadership.

Please hear the cries of your People and put an End to Corporate Corruption, Undisclosed Gifts and Pandering caused by the influence of Legislative Lobbyists and Influencers. Partial Public Funding is the Right Step in the Right Direction.

Join the movement to make elections fair, equitable and transparent. Eliminate corruption and restore the Trust of the People of Hawaii. God Bless You and Your Efforts to Pass HB 370 HD1.

Aloha and Be Well

Roger Walraven 808-645-6942

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:35:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha , I am in support of HB370 because of the need to increase equity in the arena of political and legislative engagement. Mshalo

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:45:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

As a candidate who ran for State House twice and used partial public funding both times, I am highly in support of additional improvements to this system.

I appreciate the increases as I agree they are necessary to make this a worthwhile system for candidates to consider using. Unfortunately until ALL candidates are required to run on a system of full public funding and/or subject to EXTREME contribution limits and campaign spending limits it is still supporting a system that is missing the true equity in campaign spending reform that advocates are hoping for.

I still believe that campaign spending reform is the ultimate reform that will help reduce corruption and restore trust and balance to our political system. I encourage you all to be bold with potential reforms- usually I strongly discourage "sneaky ammendments" to bills, but I would love to see a revolutionary on your committee add in language that requires all candidates to run on partial public funding and/or significantly limit EVERYONE'S spending limits. Still holding out hope that those changes are coming someday, eventually, in the future.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Shannon M.

Hawai'i Island Resident

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:03:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Keala Fung, and I am writing in **STRONG support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawai'i's partial public financing program for elections.

By increasing the funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program. This bill is a significant step toward reducing the influence of big money in our election process.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Keala Fung, Honolulu HI

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:35:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is kimdonghyeon, and I am writing in **STRONG support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawai'i's partial public financing program for elections.

By increasing the funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program. This bill is a significant step toward reducing the influence of big money in our election process.

If the donation is used for corruption (whether it is a media company or something else), a gate may occur.

Therefore, in my opinion, I prefer to determine the limit based on the performance of National Assembly members and public officials.

And because today there is selfishness (be it conscious or whatever), it tends to be biased to one side and is not neutral!

Mahalo for your consideration!

kimdonghyeon

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:41:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I am writing to ask that you support HB370.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:45:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleiheana-a-Pohaku Stormcrow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kaleiheana Stormcrow, and I am writing in **support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawai'i's partial public financing program for elections.

By increasing the funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program. This bill is a significant step toward reducing the influence of big money in our election process.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Kaleiheana Stormcrow, Mountain View

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:56:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in **STRONG support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawai'i's partial public financing program for elections. This bill is a significant step toward reducing the influence of big money in our election process.

Mahalo

Daniel Davids, Kaneohe

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:00:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jay Franzone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in **STRONG support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawai'i's partial public financing program for elections.

By increasing the funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program. This bill is a significant step toward reducing the influence of big money in our election process.

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:07:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Thank you.

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:09:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I have been a strong supporter of public funding for elections for almost 20 years. Private citizens cannot compete with well-organized and well-funded interest groups. Public Funding benefits the candidates, the system and, most importantly, the people of Hawai'i and thus should have your utmost support as well. Mahalo.

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:50:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Schultz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Disagre with increases the matching fund payments for excess qualifying contributions.

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:54:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

am writing in **STRONG support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawai‘i’s partial public financing program for elections.

By increasing the funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program. This bill is a significant step toward reducing the influence of big money in our election process.

Mahalo.

--Shay Chan Hodges

Maui, Hawaii

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:00:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT!!!

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:51:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy Shaver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christy, and I am writing in **STRONG support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawai'i's partial public financing program for elections.

By increasing the funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program. This bill is a significant step toward reducing the influence of big money in our election process.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Christy, Lahaina

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:57:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
fred hofer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Fred Hofere, and I am writing in **STRONG** support of HB370, which will modernize and improve Hawai'i's partial public financing program for elections.

By increasing the funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program. This bill is a significant step toward reducing the influence of big money in our election process.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Fred Hofer

Hilo

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:05:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Richard Bodien, and I am writing in support of HB370 to increase Hawai'i's partial public financing program for elections.

By increasing the funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements, this measure better reflects economic realities and encourages more candidates to participate.

Only with public funding will people like me with no representation and no funds can possibly even consider participating.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Richard Bodien

Hawi, HI

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:32:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee,

Strong support for HB 370

Enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Respectively submitted,

Keith Neal

Waimea

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:43:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Gevins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

Dr. Alan Gevins here. I live in Kilauea, Kauai. I urge you to pass HB 370. We need more public financing of our elections to reduce the influence of large money interest groups and to encourage election of representatives who will actually represent the interests of the general population rather than the special interests providing providing campaign support.I

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:34:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

****Testimony in Strong Support of H.B. No. 370, H.D. 1 – Relating to Partial Public Financing of Elections****

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for House Bill 370 (H.D. 1), which seeks to modernize and strengthen Hawaii’s partial public financing program for elections. This bill represents a vital step toward ensuring that our electoral system remains equitable, accessible, and reflective of the voices of all Hawaii residents.

As the bill notes, the funding levels for the partial public financing program were last significantly updated in 1995. Since then, the value of the dollar has more than doubled, eroding the program’s effectiveness in supporting candidates who rely on grassroots contributions rather than large private donations. By increasing the maximum amount of public funds available to qualifying candidates—including those running for governor, lieutenant governor, mayor, state legislature, county councils, prosecuting attorney, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs—this bill ensures that candidates have the resources they need to compete fairly in today’s elections.

I particularly commend the bill’s provisions to raise the maximum public funding thresholds to 15% of the expenditure limit for top offices like governor and mayor of Honolulu and Hawaii counties, 22.5% for state senators, representatives, and other local offices, and 10% for Office of Hawaiian Affairs trustees. These adjustments reflect the realities of modern campaign costs and provide a lifeline to candidates who prioritize small-donor support over special interests. Additionally, the increase in matching fund payments from \$1 to \$2 for every dollar of excess qualifying contributions amplifies the impact of individual donations, empowering everyday residents to play a larger role in our democracy.

The bill’s adjustments to minimum qualifying contribution amounts are equally critical. By recalibrating these thresholds—such as lowering the requirement for Honolulu prosecuting attorney from \$30,000 to \$25,000, or raising it for Office of Hawaiian Affairs candidates from \$1,500 to \$5,500—the legislation strikes a balance between encouraging participation and ensuring candidates demonstrate broad community support. These changes make the program more inclusive while maintaining its integrity, allowing a wider range of candidates to viably enter the electoral process.

Furthermore, I strongly support the appropriations outlined in Sections 4, 5, and 6 of the bill. Allocating general revenues to bolster the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund and providing resources for additional staff at the Campaign Spending Commission demonstrates a commitment to the program's success. With increased participation anticipated, these investments will ensure the commission can effectively administer the program and uphold transparency and accountability in our elections.

Hawaii has long been a leader in promoting fair and transparent elections, and H.B. 370 builds on that legacy. By reducing the influence of big money in politics and leveling the playing field for candidates who represent the interests of working families, Native Hawaiian communities, and underserved populations, this bill strengthens the democratic process for all. It sends a clear message: in Hawaii, elections should be about ideas and people, not just wealth and insider connections.

I urge the House of Representatives to pass H.B. No. 370, H.D. 1, and move it forward to the Senate for swift approval. This legislation is a practical, forward-thinking solution that will enhance voter trust, increase candidate diversity, and uphold the values of equality and representation that define our state. Thank you for your consideration and for your dedication to improving our electoral system.

Sincerely,

Tiare Smith

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:24:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Marie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:49:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is GeorgiaHoopes, and I am writing in **STRONG support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawai'i's partial public financing program for elections.

By increasing the funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program. This bill is a significant step toward reducing the influence of big money in our election process.

Everyday people can't compete with big money, so, let's level the playing field!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:11:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Urge you to support **HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawai‘i’s partial public financing program for elections.

By increasing the funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program. This bill is a significant step toward reducing the influence of big money in our election process.

Thank you

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:34:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Hagan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **STRONG support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawai‘i’s partial public financing program for elections.

By increasing the funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program. This bill is a significant step toward reducing the influence of big money in our election process.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Erin Hagan, Waialua

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:41:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB370, which would Increase the amount of public funding and provide higher matching rates, meaning that more candidates, especially those without large financial backers, can afford to run for office.

With stronger public financing, elected officials can focus more on community concerns rather than on fundraising from large donors.

Lowering the financial barriers helps bring new voices, including grassroots candidates, into the political process. Please pass this bill, for the good of all. Mahalo for your attention.

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:46:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mariana Monasi and I am writing in **STRONG support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawai'i's partial public financing program for elections.

By increasing the funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program. This bill is a significant step toward reducing the influence of big money in our election process.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Mariana monasi, kea'au

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:32:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cardenas Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cardenas (Cards) Pintor

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:05:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joell Edwards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joell Edwards , and I am writing in **STRONG support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawai'i's partial public financing program for elections.

By increasing the funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program. This bill is a significant step toward reducing the influence of big money in our election process.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Joell Edwards , Wainiha

HB-370-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:04:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takemouchi, and Committee members,

My name is Greg Kahn and I am writing in strong support of HB370

It has been pointed out that only a handfull of candidates are participating in the State's Public Campaign Financed Program. Yet when you look at the history of the 14 states and 26 localities that offer this program, you find that candidate participation incrementally increases with the amoun of the match. All of the 40 aforementioned programs have varying requirements, limits, and thresholds, but ther one thing they have in common is that participation numbers coincidie with amounts.

I feel that increasing the partial match will move us towards clean elections.

Mahalo

Greg Kahn