

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

171

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 05

, 2025

RE: H.B. No. 370  
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 370 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PARTIAL PUBLIC FINANCING OF ELECTIONS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Increase the amount of funds available to candidates who qualify to participate in the partial public financing program;
- (2) Adjust the minimum amount of qualifying contributions certain candidates must receive to participate in the partial public financing program;
- (3) Increase the matching fund payments to candidates in the partial public financing program for excess qualifying contributions; and
- (4) Appropriate funds to increase the amount of funds available in the partial public financing program and to permit the Campaign Spending Commission to hire more staff to address the anticipated increase in participation in the financing program.

2025-1152 HB370 HD1 HSCR HMSO



Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Campaign Spending Commission; League of Women Voters of Hawaii; Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action; Green Party of Hawai'i; Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus; Our Hawai'i; 350Hawaii.org; Free Access Coalition; Chamber of Sustainable Commerce; Hawaii Workers Center; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from one individual.

Your Committee finds that this measure implements one of the recommendations made by the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct established by the House of Representatives in House Resolution No. 9, Regular Session of 2022. This measure would bolster publicly funded elections thereby expanding the reach of many small donors and relieving candidates of the need to rely on the support of special interest groups or large donors.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriation for staff within the Campaign Spending Commission and the number of staff positions to unspecified amounts;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider an appropriation amount of \$200,000 for two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) permanent positions to be placed within the Campaign Spending Commission.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 370, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 370, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Judiciary &  
Hawaiian Affairs,



---

DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



*HB 171*

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs**

Bill/Resolution No.: <b>HB 370</b>	Committee Referral: <b>JHA, FIN</b>	Date: <b>1/28/25</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
JHA Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TARNAS, David A. (C)	✓			
2. POEPOE, Mahina (VC)	✓			
3. BELATTI, Della Au	✓			
4. COCHRAN, Elle				✓
5. HASHEM, Mark J.	✓			
6. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
7. PERRUSO, Amy A.	✓			
8. TAKAYAMA, Gregg	✓			
9. TODD, Chris	✓			
10. GARCIA, Diamond			✓	
11. SHIMIZU, Garner M.	✓			
<b>TOTAL (11)</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align:center; font-size:small;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee      Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office      Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				