

STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION


235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 28, 2025

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 1173, Relating to Elections.**

Friday, January 31, 2025
9:15 a.m., Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) has concerns about this bill and provides the following comments.

This bill adds a new subpart to part XIII of Chapter 11 (Campaign Finance), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to impose a five percent fee against a noncandidate committee on the amount of independent expenditures made by the noncandidate committee during an election period. In Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, the case cited in Section 1 of the bill, the United States Supreme Court found that independent expenditures could not lead to corruption or the appearance of corruption, which has been the main justification for the enactment of campaign spending laws. The bill’s financial burden on the making of independent expenditures may be unconstitutional. The Commission suggests that this committee seek the advice of the Department of the Attorney General before moving forward with the bill.

The Commission requests that this committee defer this measure and seek an opinion from the Department of the Attorney General.



Senate Committee on Judiciary

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports: SB1173 Friday, January 31, 2025 at 9:15am; Conference Room 016

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

HAPA is submitting testimony in STRONG Support of SB1173, which imposes a fee on the total amount of independent expenditures made by a noncandidate committee during an election period.

Independent expenditures are defined as those not controlled by or coordinated with any candidate or agent of such candidate. When made by noncandidate committees, these expenditures can significantly influence elections without the same level of accountability as candidate committees.

Unlike contributions and campaign-related expenditures, independent expenditures are not coordinated with the candidate's campaign. This lack of coordination can result in excessive spending that outweighs the voices of individual voters and candidates.

We have seen the impact of such expenditures in Hawai'i. Our state already recognizes "Super PACs"—noncandidate committees that have registered and certified with the Commission that they will only be making independent expenditures. This bill would require that these entities contribute to the public good while exercising their right to free speech.

The proposed fee structure is both reasonable and purposeful in that it aligns with existing campaign finance regulations, serves important interests by providing more information to the public and improving transparency in our electoral process, and generates revenue that will be used to strengthen our public financing for qualified candidates, reduce reliance on private funding, and improve oversight and enforcement capabilities.

We urge you to support the passage of SB1173!

Thank you for your support and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is positioned above the typed name.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:03:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Green Party of Hawai'i , we are writing in STRONG support of SB1173.

This bill addresses the growing influence of independent expenditures, which often exceed resources available to individual candidates. PAC's can undermine public confidence in the electoral process.

The Green Party of Hawai'i, asks for a yes vote for fees on PAC spending, SB1173.

Mahalo Nui,

Green Party of Hawai'i

Susan RobertsEmery

Co chair GPH

Pauuilo



Committee on Judiciary
Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard

January 31, 2025 9:15 am Room 016
SB1173— RELATING TO ELECTIONS

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB1173, which would impose a fee on independent expenditures made by a non-candidate committee regarding a State election.

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should protect representative democracy from being distorted by big spending in election and enable candidates to compete equitably for public office.

SB1173 will help achieve these objectives. Non-candidate committees often represent entities or individuals with substantial wealth, and the committees can exert influence on elections by contributing amounts much greater than most individuals can contribute. SB1173 would protect elections from distortion by big-spending Super-Pacs, thus enabling candidates to compete equitably for political office.

Since the fee will be paid to the Campaign Spending Commission, it can support the partial public funding program or strengthen the CSC office.

Please pass SB1173.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:25:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann V Saffery	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

ALOHA ALL,

I SUPPORT SB1173.

MAHALO FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION,

ANN V SAFFERY

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:34:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emelia Briscoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Emelia, and I am writing in **STRONG** support of SB1173

This bill addresses the growing influence of independent expenditures, which often exceed resources available to individual candidates. PAC's can undermine public confidence in the electoral process.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Emelia Briscoe, Honolulu

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:34:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Susan Stayton, and I am writing in STRONG support of SB1173

This bill addresses the growing influence of independent expenditures, which often exceed resources available to individual candidates. PAC's can undermine public confidence in the electoral process.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Susan, Lawai, Kauai

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:47:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Richard Janik, MD, and I am writing in STRONG support of SB1173

This bill addresses the growing influence of independent expenditures, which often exceed resources available to individual candidates. PAC's can undermine public confidence in the electoral process. Please support! Mahalo for your consideration!

Richard Janik, MD, Lihue, Kauai

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:01:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Fred Hofer

and I am writing in **STRONG** support of SB1173

This bill addresses the growing influence of independent expenditures, which often exceed resources available to individual candidates. PAC's can undermine public confidence in the electoral process.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Fred Hofer

Hilo

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:02:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1173 RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

Mahalo,

Theresa Thompson

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:47:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG support of SB1173

This bill addresses the growing influence of independent expenditures, which often exceed resources available to individual candidates. PAC's can undermine public confidence in the electoral process.

Please support!

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:22:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I urge you to support SB1173, which will address the growing influence of independent expenditures, which often exceed resources available to individual candidates. The influence that PACs have needs to be curtailed so they do not undermine the electoral process.

Thank you

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:14:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and I am writing in strong support of SB 1173, which seeks to address the growing influence of independent expenditures in Hawai‘i’s elections.

I sit on the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i’s Executive Commission, serve as a board member for the Hawai‘i Workers Center, and am a Kanaka Maoli, a lineal descendant of the Hawaiian Kingdom. As someone deeply involved in community advocacy, I have seen how Political Action Committees (PACs) and independent expenditures often drown out the voices of grassroots candidates who genuinely represent their communities. This imbalance threatens the integrity of our electoral system and erodes public trust in our democracy.

By introducing a 5% fee on PAC spending, this bill ensures that large, independent expenditures do not overshadow individual candidates. More importantly, it provides much-needed funding for public campaign financing, administrative system upgrades, and staffing, which will make our elections more transparent, fair, and accessible.

Strengthening public campaign financing reduces reliance on private donors and corporate interests, allowing candidates to run on their values rather than the priorities of big-money backers. This shift is essential to ensuring that our elected officials remain accountable to the people of Hawai‘i, not wealthy special interests.

I urge you to pass SB 1173 to restore balance, fairness, and integrity in our elections.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

Mō‘ili‘ili, HI 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Executive Commission Member

Board Member, Hawai‘i Workers Center

Kanaka Maoli / Lineal Descendant of the Hawaiian Kingdom

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:59:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Faccenda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG support of SB1173. This bill addresses the growing influence of independent expenditures, which often exceed resources available to individual candidates. PAC's can undermine public confidence in the electoral process. Public funding of elections will help address the issue of big money buying candidates.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Kevin Faccenda

Honolulu

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:15:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy Schacht	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:16:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is kimdonghyeon, and I am writing in STRONG support of SB1173

This bill addresses the growing influence of independent expenditures, which often exceed resources available to individual candidates. PAC's can undermine public confidence in the electoral process.

This testimony must be actively accepted because it shows that there may be illegal funds related to the election and that it is related to the gate.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

kimdonghyeon

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 3:12:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sven Sorge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Sirs and Madams,

This bill addresses the growing influence of independent expenditures, which often exceed resources available to individual candidates. PAC's can undermine public confidence in the electoral process.

Thank you very much!

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 3:35:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads,

Vice Chair Gabbard, and

Members of the Committee,

My name is Kimo Pestana nd I am writing in STRONG support of SB1173

This bill addresses the growing influence of independent expenditures, which often exceed resources available to individual candidates. PAC's can undermine public confidence in the electoral process.

Please supportf SB1173

Mahalo for your consideration!

Paul Kiimo Pestana

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 5:14:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noreen Dougherty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Noreen Dougherty and I am writing in STRONG support of SB1173

This bill addresses the growing influence of independent expenditures, which often exceed resources available to individual candidates. PAC's can undermine public confidence in the electoral process.. Let's make our elections more fair representing the people's interests.

Please support SB1173

Noreen Dougherty

Kapaa Hawaii

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:08:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you support of SB1173

This bill will address the growing influence of independent expenditures, which often exceed resources available to individual candidates. PAC's can undermine public confidence in the electoral process.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:48:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Keala Fung, and I am writing in STRONG support of SB1173

This bill addresses the growing influence of independent expenditures, which often exceed resources available to individual candidates. PAC's can undermine public confidence in the electoral process.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Keala Fung, Honolulu HI

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:48:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis O'Shea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill and hope you will too.

The PACs have way too much influence.

Return power to the people.

Mahalo

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:04:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Rhoads, Vice Chair Senator Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Judiciary.

Please support SB1173 which, to my understanding, would establish fees for political action committees which could then be added to a public campaign fund.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:03:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1173, which proposes imposing a fee on the total amount of independent expenditures made by noncandidate committees, commonly known as Super PACs, during an election period. This legislation is a significant step toward promoting fairness and transparency in Hawaii's electoral process.

By levying a fee on Super PACs' independent expenditures, SB 1173 aims to mitigate the disproportionate influence that these entities can exert on elections through substantial financial contributions. This measure seeks to level the playing field, ensuring that all candidates have a fair opportunity to present their platforms to the electorate, regardless of their financial backing.

Furthermore, the revenue generated from these fees could be utilized to support public campaign financing or other initiatives that strengthen democratic participation and integrity. This approach not only discourages excessive spending by Super PACs but also reinvests in alternatives to the private money campaign system altogether.

In conclusion, I urge you to support SB 1173. This bill is a crucial measure to enhance the equity and transparency of our elections, ensuring that the voices of all Hawaii residents are heard and valued.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:46:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
janice palma-glenie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

i'm writing in **STRONG** support of SB1173 and its intention to reduce the influence of independent expenditures, which often exceed resources available to individual candidates. PAC's can undermine public confidence in the electoral process and the process itself.

Every level of this nation's government needs to reign in special interest influence wherever it can. Mahalo for standing strong in support of any measure that will help achieve that goal.

sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

kailua-kon

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:59:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to urge your support for Senate Bill 1173. This bill would impose a fee on the total amount of independent expenditures made by non-candidate committees, commonly known as Super PACs, during an election period. It is a significant step toward promoting fairness and transparency in Hawaii’s electoral process.

By levying a fee on Super PACs’ independent expenditures, SB 1173 aims to mitigate the disproportionate influence that these entities can exert on elections through substantial financial contributions. This measure seeks to level the playing field, ensuring that all candidates have a fair opportunity to present their platforms to the electorate, regardless of their financial backing.

Furthermore, the revenue generated from these fees could be utilized to support public campaign financing or other initiatives that strengthen democratic participation and integrity. This approach not only discourages excessive spending by Super PACs but also reinvests in alternatives to the private money campaign system altogether.

In conclusion, I urge you to support SB 1173. This bill is a crucial measure to enhance the equity and transparency of our elections, ensuring that the voices of all Hawaii residents are heard and valued.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:24:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Marcia Kemble, and I am writing in STRONG support of SB1173.

This bill addresses the growing influence of independent expenditures, which often exceed resources available to individual candidates. PAC's can undermine public confidence in the electoral process.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 2:11:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1173, which proposes imposing a fee on the total amount of independent expenditures made by noncandidate committees, commonly known as Super PACs, during an election period. This legislation is a significant step toward promoting fairness and transparency in Hawaii's electoral process.

By levying a fee on Super PACs' independent expenditures, SB 1173 aims to mitigate the disproportionate influence that these entities can exert on elections through substantial financial contributions. This measure seeks to level the playing field, ensuring that all candidates have a fair opportunity to present their platforms to the electorate, regardless of their financial backing.

Furthermore, the revenue generated from these fees could be utilized to support public campaign financing or other initiatives that strengthen democratic participation and integrity. This approach not only discourages excessive spending by Super PACs but also reinvests in alternatives to the private money campaign system altogether.

In conclusion, I urge you to support SB 1173. This bill is a crucial measure to enhance the equity and transparency of our elections, ensuring that the voices of all Hawaii residents are heard and valued.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 3:16:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1173, which proposes imposing a fee on the total amount of independent expenditures made by noncandidate committees, commonly known as Super PACs, during an election period. This legislation is a significant step toward promoting fairness and transparency in Hawaii's electoral process.

By levying a fee on Super PACs' independent expenditures, SB 1173 aims to mitigate the disproportionate influence that these entities can exert on elections through substantial financial contributions. This measure seeks to level the playing field, ensuring that all candidates have a fair opportunity to present their platforms to the electorate, regardless of their financial backing.

Furthermore, the revenue generated from these fees could be utilized to support public campaign financing or other initiatives that strengthen democratic participation and integrity. This approach not only discourages excessive spending by Super PACs but also reinvests in alternatives to the private money campaign system altogether.

In conclusion, I urge you to support SB 1173. This bill is a crucial measure to enhance the equity and transparency of our elections, ensuring that the voices of all Hawaii residents are heard and valued.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 3:27:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am absolutely in favor of SB1173 and strongly support its initiatives. Any bill that can create a legal workaround Citizens United is a fantastic win for democracy and for the equal opportunity for everyone in our electoral processes, helping us to get back to one person one vote, the way it should be. Mahalo.

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:19:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this measure to limit pac spending.

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:18:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kate Paine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Citizen's swell - support good gvmnt.

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:49:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:31:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1173, which proposes imposing a fee on the total amount of independent expenditures made by noncandidate committees, commonly known as Super PACs, during an election period. This legislation is a significant step toward promoting fairness and transparency in Hawaii’s electoral process.

By levying a fee on Super PACs’ independent expenditures, SB 1173 aims to mitigate the disproportionate influence that these entities can exert on elections through substantial financial contributions. This measure seeks to level the playing field, ensuring that all candidates have a fair opportunity to present their platforms to the electorate, regardless of their financial backing.

Furthermore, the revenue generated from these fees could be utilized to support public campaign financing or other initiatives that strengthen democratic participation and integrity. This approach not only discourages excessive spending by Super PACs but also reinvests in alternatives to the private money campaign system altogether.

In conclusion, I urge you to support SB 1173. This bill is a crucial measure to enhance the equity and transparency of our elections, ensuring that the voices of all Hawaii residents are heard and valued.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:40:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

The growing influence of **SuperPACs** in Hawai‘i’s elections drowns out the voices of everyday people. SB1173 helps level the playing field by:

- Placing a **5% fee on large independent expenditures** to curb unlimited spending
- Funding public campaign financing**, allowing candidates to run without relying on corporate donors
- Strengthening **Hawai‘i’s democracy by ensuring fairer elections**

SuperPACs should not have **unlimited power** in shaping our elections. This bill helps ensure **Hawaiians—not outside money—decide our future.**

To: Judicial Chair Rhoads and Committee Members
From: Brodie Lockard, Common Cause Hawaii Board Member
Date: Friday, January 31, 2025, 9:15 am

In strong support of SB1173

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members—

SB1173 would impose a fee on the total amount of independent expenditures made by noncandidate committees, commonly known as Super PACs, during an election period. This legislation is a significant step toward promoting fairness and transparency in Hawaii's electoral process.

By levying a fee on Super PACs' independent expenditures, SB1173 would mitigate the disproportionate influence that these entities have on elections through substantial financial contributions. This measure seeks to level the playing field, ensuring that all candidates have a fair opportunity to present their platforms to the electorate, regardless of their financial backing.

Furthermore, the revenue generated from these fees could be utilized to support public campaign financing or other initiatives that strengthen democratic participation and integrity. This approach not only discourages excessive spending by Super PACs but also reinvests in alternatives to the private money campaign system altogether.

SB1173 is a crucial measure to enhance the equity and transparency of our elections, ensuring that the voices of all Hawaii residents are heard and valued.

Please pass this important bill.

Sincerely,

Brodie Lockard
Common Cause Hawaii Board Member

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 6:52:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Klyman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure, and any other ways to make campagne contributions visible and tracked.

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 7:23:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Biggs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SuperPac's are notoriously shady. This measure seeks to level the playing field. The revenue generated from these fees could be used to support public campaign financing. Supporting this bill can help restore trust in our democratic institutions and make them stonger. Mahalo.

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 7:46:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Grandinetti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Andrew Grandinetti, and I am writing in STRONG support of SB1173

This bill addresses the growing influence of independent expenditures, which often exceed resources available to individual candidates. PAC's can undermine public confidence in the electoral process. Moreover, PACs dilute the individual contributions of voters and silences their voices in support of their candidates of choice.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Andrew Grandinetti

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 8:01:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure that will promote ethical governance. Please pass SB1173.

LATE

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 10:06:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this

LATE

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 10:13:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 371, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, HB 371 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support HB 371. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Diane Ware, Volcano 96785

LATE

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 1:53:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha e,

We want to elect the best people, not the best funded people - particllary when that funding comes from hidden-donor "independent" PACs that can swamp the airwaves with no accountability. Let's do what we can to have a level playing field.

- Dan Freund, Kapaa

LATE

SB-1173

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 8:18:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 1/31/2025 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Egbo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support pulling limitations on SuperPAC spending in order to limit the ammount of corruption so rampant in our government. The voices of the people are the ones that need to be elevated not that of the rich and powerful minority.