

**STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I**  
**STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

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TESTIMONY  
OF  
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ADMINISTRATOR  
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON  
JUDICIARY  
JANUARY 31, 2025, 9:15 AM

SENATE BILL 809  
RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 809. The State Procurement Office (SPO) appreciates the intent and provides the following comments to this bill, which specifies when it is unlawful for the owners, officers and any immediate family member of any state or county contractor to make any contribution to any candidate committee or noncandidate committee. It also specifies when it shall be unlawful to receive funds on a contract through legislation.

The State Procurement Office (SPO) provides reference to the Procurement Code under Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) 103D-101 Requirements of ethical public procurement. In addition to public employees conducting themselves in ethical procurement practice, HRS 103D-101(b) mandates any actual or prospective bidder, offeror, or business to also act in good faith and practice purchasing ethics, and when applicable, display business integrity as a responsible offeror through public procurement processes.

SPO also comments on Section 2, page 5, lines 1-7, which requires the contractor to provide the list of names of owners, officers and immediate family members to the state and county offices executing the contract to report the information to the commission.

For the purposes of assessing compliance with this section, the state or county office shall make the reported information available electronically to the commission, which shall then make the information available to the candidate and noncandidate committees on a password-protected section of the commission's website.

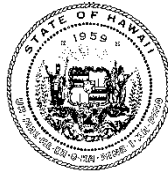
The bill needs to clarify whether this reporting requirement would apply to **ALL** contracts, regardless of the dollar value or method of procurement. Currently, the Executive branch

departments post awards on the Hawaii Awards and Notices Database System for any award \$2,500 or greater.

In FY 2023, Executive branch agencies reported approximately 3,000 awards. In FY 2024, agencies reported approximately 2,700 awards. This data is primarily from the Executive branch agencies and does not include the other 21 jurisdictions.

Requiring agencies to submit a report for every single contract will be an administrative burden. The Legislature may want to consider contracts only over the small purchase threshold, (HRS 103D-305, \$100,000 for goods and services, \$250,000 for construction), or by method of procurement (professional services, HRS 103D-304; competitive sealed bids, HRS 103D-302; or competitive sealed proposals, HRS 103D-303).

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.



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


235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 29, 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. 809, Relating to Campaign Contributions.**

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”) supports this bill and recommends an amendment.

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) §11-355 by extending the ban on contributions from state and county contractors to the owners and officers of the contractor and their immediate family. It is common for contractors to get around the ban by having those persons connected to the contractor make political contributions.<sup>1</sup> A few of these situations also involved false name contributions where the contributors were reimbursed for their contributions. The bill also extends the ban to HRS Chapter 42F grantees of the state and grantees of the counties via county charter or code, and the owners and officers of the grantee and their immediate family. Grantees, similar to contractors, receive state and local funds and thus should be treated similarly in the context of political contributions. The bill requires state and county agencies to disclose the identities of the state or county contractor or grantee and the

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission’s 2025 legislative package contains a similar bill (i.e., S.B. 257); however, the Commission’s bill does not apply to owners of government contractors and grantees and does not require state and county agencies to provide information about the entities to the Commission to facilitate compliance with the contribution ban.

entity's owners and officers and their immediate family members to the Commission.<sup>2</sup> This bill will prevent the corruption, or at least the appearance of corruption, of elected officials.

When the Commission sponsored a similar bill in a past year, objection was made to the inclusion of "owners" in the ban because of the potential to reach owners of a very small interest in the contractor. Thus, the Commission recommends that the bill be amended to include owners holding at least a 5% interest in the contractor or grantee.

The bill also amends HRS §11-364 to provide for the return of an excess contributions within thirty calendar days of the receipt of the excess contribution, or if the excess contribution is a nonresident contribution, within thirty calendar days of the end of the election period.

The Commission requests that this committee pass this measure with the suggested amendment to the term "owner."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The bill requires the Commission to make this information available to candidate and noncandidate committees on a password-protected section of the Commission's website. Commission staff intends to reach out to the State Office of Enterprise Technology Services to discuss the development and implementation of this requirement.

<sup>3</sup> Commission staff has spoken to the State Procurement Office so they are aware of this bill. Staff also intends to reach out to the Department of the Attorney General to discuss the feasibility of adding a requirement to the State of Hawaii's General Terms and Conditions for state contracts that the contractor or grantee provide the contracting agency with information about the owners, officers, and their family members.



Committee on Judiciary  
Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard

January 31, 2025 9:15 am Room 016  
SB809 — RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

### 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 strongly supports SB809, which would**

1) extend the prohibition on campaign contributions by contractors to apply to state or county grantees; 2) extend the prohibition on campaign contributions by contractors/grantees to the officers and immediate family members of the contractor/grantee; 3) prohibit state or county grantees from soliciting contributions; 4) require the return of illegal contributions to the contributor; 5) escheat any illegal contribution not returned within 30 days, to the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund (HECF); and 6) require grantees/contractors to disclose the names of owners, officers and immediate family members.

To save time for readers already familiar with the analysis of Campaign Spending Commission (CSC) data published in the New York Times (NYT) in 2024\*, I give a brief statement of the basis for LWV-HI support of each of the 6 items. I refer readers to the NYT article (link on p.2 below) for more detailed data.

- 1) The same considerations of pay-to-play apply to grantees as to contractors.
- 2) Since 2006 - the year the pay-to-play law (HRS 11-355) was implemented - people tied to government contractors have given state and local Hawaii politicians more than \$24 million: **about one-fifth of all donations** made. Most often, these donations were given to politicians with the most power to determine contract awards. HRS 11-355 is undermined by contributions from officers, employees, and their families. SB809 would restore the intent of HRS 11-355.
- 3) When grantees solicit contributions to politicians, those contributions may be bundled by the grantee or otherwise identified as tied to the grantee, such as by thanking the politician for the grant award or expressing the benefit of the award.
- 4) and 5) Returning illegal contributions to the contributor within 30 days, or, failing that, escheating the money to the appropriate state agency, is standard practice across campaign finance regulations. The money added to HECF funds will help offset the expenses of monitoring contributions by contractor officers and their immediate families.
- 6) One weakness in implementation of HRS 11-355 is that CSC staff often don't know the identities of a contractor's officers and their immediate families. SB809 cures this problem.

\*

Blaze Lovell, Eric Sagara & Irene Casado Sanchez. *Inside the Late-Night Parties Where Hawaii Politicians Raked In Money*. New York Times; January 17, 2024.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/17/us/hawaii-contractors-campaign-donations.html?searchResultPosition=7>

**Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.**



## **SENATE BILL 809, RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS**

JANUARY 31, 2025 · JDC HEARING

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** SB 809, relating to campaign contributions, which prohibits state or county grantees, officers and immediate family members of state or county contractors, and officers and immediate family members of state or county grantees, from contributing to candidate committees and noncandidate committees for the duration of the contract; prohibits state or county grantees from knowingly soliciting any contributions; requires candidates, candidate committees, and noncandidate committees to return any unlawful contribution to the contributor within 30 calendar days of receipt; provides that an unlawful contribution shall escheat to the Hawai'i Election Campaign Fund if it is not returned to the contributor within 30 calendar days; and requires disclosures of the names of any owners, officers and immediate family members of a state or county contractor or grantee.

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.

Last year, a Civil Beat/New York Times investigation unveiled just how deeply pay-to-play culture is ingrained in local politics. After reviewing hundreds of thousands of campaign contributions and more than 70,000 government contracts, reporters found that nearly \$1 out of every \$5 donated to politicians came from people tied to companies doing business with state and local governments. As Civil Beat reported at the time, when some companies were on the cusp of winning major government contracts, people connected to them donated large amounts of campaign funds to influential public officials who were in positions to sway the awards.

Perhaps the most telling part of the report is encapsulated in the following excerpt from the special investigation: *Even though those contributors generally didn't acknowledge their connections to the companies, they were not violating Hawai'i law, which only prohibits donations directly from the firms. "Everyone gets very upset with pay-to-play, but it's legal," said Kristin Izumi-Nitao, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Campaign Spending Commission.*

It might be legal today, but it shouldn't be any longer if we care about our future. Government should work for the public interest, not special interests. It is in that spirit that we support this and other reforms to restore integrity to our state's electoral and governmental processes.

**Contact: [educationcaucusdph@gmail.com](mailto:educationcaucusdph@gmail.com)**





150 Hamakua Drive #341  
Kailua, HI 96734

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

# Testimony in Support of SB809

Submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee  
by Evan Weber, Managing Director, Our Hawai'i, 1/31/2025

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Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and all Committee members,

On behalf of Our Hawai'i's over 38,000 members and supporters across the pae 'āina, we write in strong support of Senate Bill 809, relating to campaign contributions. Our members and supporters are local people — kama'āina and kānaka 'oiwi, keiki and kūpuna, from Kaua'i to Kohala, Kailua to Kapolei and every place in between. They have joined our movement to fight for a Hawai'i that puts local people — not big money interests — first, because they are worried about the direction of our islands and believe now is the time for change.

Our supporters are not alone. Our corruption and public trust in government crisis has reached a tipping point. After years of the FBI putting our officials in handcuffs, resignations, and scandals, [Hawai'i voters as a whole in 2022 ranked government corruption as their number 3 top issue, only behind inflation and affordable housing](#). In 2024 polling, [2 in 3 \(66%\) voters said they believe elected officials care more about "wealthy donors" than the "needs of their communities"](#).

This poll was conducted in March 2024, right before an April 17th [bombshell exposé dropped on the front page of the New York Times](#), exposing to the world the deep culture of pay-to-play corruption that has existed at high levels of Hawai'i political leadership. The exposé specifically called out the loophole in our campaign finance laws which this legislation and other similar bills introduced this session seek to close. **With the article being released towards the end of last legislative session, reform-minded lawmakers did not have time to act, but now you have the opportunity to close this loophole, begin changing the culture, and healing the violated public trust with the people of Hawai'i.**

Senate Bill 809 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.

We 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.

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:24:49 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ann V Saffery	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

ALOHA ALL,

I SUPPORT SB809

MAHALO FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION,

ANN V SAFFERY

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:30:32 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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 SB 809, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.

Closing this loophole is important because it ensures public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

This bill makes our elections more fair and transparent by removing conflicts of interest. It also builds trust by ensuring contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Emelia Briscoe, Honolulu

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:32:50 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 SB 809, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.*

*Closing this loophole is important because it ensures public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.*

*This bill makes our elections more fair and transparent by removing conflicts of interest. It also builds trust by ensuring contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.*

*Please support!*

*Mahalo for your consideration!*

Susan, Lawai, Kauai

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:44:40 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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 SB 733, the proposal to establish a continuous legislative session.*

*A full-time legislature means greater accountability and allows lawmakers to focus solely on serving the people. Prohibiting private-sector jobs ensures undivided attention and minimizes conflicts of interest. The proposed updates—like a two-year deadline for bills, a 90-day window for gubernatorial action, and earlier budget finalization—make government more efficient. Adjusting legislative salaries will reflect the increased commitment this shift requires.*

*Please support!*

*Mahalo for your consideration!*

*Richard Janik, MD, Lihue, Kauai*

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:53:51 PM

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

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

Comments:

Strongly support.

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:59:02 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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 SB 809, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.

Closing this loophole is important because it ensures public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

This bill makes our elections more fair and transparent by removing conflicts of interest. It also builds trust by ensuring contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Fred Hofer

Hilo

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:01:15 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 809 RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.

Mahalo,

Theresa Thompson



**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:45:30 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 SB 809, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.*

*Closing this loophole is important because it ensures public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.*

*This bill makes our elections more fair and transparent by removing conflicts of interest. It also builds trust by ensuring contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.*

*Please support!*

*Mahalo for your consideration!*

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:16:05 PM

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

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

Comments:

I urge you to support SB 809, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active. This has many benefits such as ensuring public funds are used for their intended purposes; makes our elections more fair and transparent by removing conflicts of interest; and builds trust by ensuring contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Thank you

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:40:09 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judge Daniel Foley (ret)	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Judiciary Committee,

As former chair of the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct (Commission). I submit this testimony in support of SB 809 RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Commission noted "Wealthy donors, corporations, and special interest groups have long had an outsized influence in the outcome of elections, but the decision in Citizens United dramatically expanded the influence of money in politics. With the influence of money in politics comes greater temptation and opportunities for corruption, bribery, and greed." Commission December 1, 2022 Report at page 31.

SB 809, along with other bills recommended by the Commission (some of which have been enacted into law and others pending in the legislature), would reduce the power of money in politics. Commission Report at pages 30-34.

Passage of SB 809 would go a long way in addressing the abuses of "pay to play" and help restore public trust in our government.

Mahalo, Judge Daniel Foley (ret.)

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:10:25 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 809**, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.

I sit on the Sierra Club of Hawaii’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. Through my work in advocacy and community organizing, I have seen how political donations from contractors and grantees create an unfair advantage, allowing private interests to influence decisions that should be made solely for the public good.

Closing this loophole is critical to ensuring that public funds are used for their intended purposes, not as a tool to sway political campaigns or curry favor with decision-makers. We need a system where contracts and grants are awarded based on merit, not on political connections.

This bill strengthens public trust in government by ensuring elections are fair and transparent, and by removing conflicts of interest that can lead to favoritism or backdoor deals. When contractors and grantees focus on their work rather than political contributions, we create a system that is more accountable, ethical, and responsive to the needs of our communities.

I urge you to pass SB 809 to uphold the integrity of Hawai‘i’s government and ensure that public resources serve the people, not political agendas.

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-809**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:13:03 PM

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

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

Comments:

Please support

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 10:58:32 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

*I am writing in STRONG support of SB 809, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.*

*Closing this loophole is important because it ensures public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.*

*This bill makes our elections more fair and transparent by removing conflicts of interest. It also builds trust by ensuring contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.*

*Please support!*

*Mahalo for your consideration!*

*Erin Hagan, Waialua*

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:10:03 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 SB 809, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.*

*Closing this loophole is important because it ensures public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.*

When investing donations in politics, along with other political parties, one-sided policies may be preferred over neutral policies and are prone to corruption.

*This bill makes our elections more fair and transparent by removing conflicts of interest. It also builds trust by ensuring contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.*

*Please support!*

*Mahalo for your consideration!*

*kimdonghyeon*

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 3:11:56 AM

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

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

Comments:

Dear Sirs and Madams,

*This bill makes our elections more fair and transparent by removing conflicts of interest. It also builds trust by ensuring contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.*

*Please support!*

*Mahalo for your consideration!*

*Thank you very much!*



**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 5:08:19 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 SB 809, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.*

*Closing this loophole is important because it ensures public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions. Mahalo.*

*Noreen Dougherty*

*Kapaa, Hawaii*

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:06:43 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

I am writing to respectfully ask that you support SB 809, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.

Closing this loophole is important because it ensures public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

This bill makes our elections more fair and transparent by removing conflicts of interest. It also builds trust by ensuring contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:23:41 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

My name is Keala Fung, and I am writing in STRONG support of SB 809, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.

Closing this loophole is important because it ensures public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

I feel this will help prevent contractors and grantees from having undue favoritism or political influence in decision making and make everything a more fair and transparent process.

This bill makes our elections more fair and transparent by removing conflicts of interest. It also builds trust by ensuring contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Keala Fung, Honolulu HI

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:38:50 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

*My name Michele Nihipali, and I am writing in STRONG support of SB 809, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.*

*Closing this loophole is important because it ensures public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.*

*Allowing contributions while a contract is still in effect, looks like "pay to play."*

*This bill makes our elections more fair and transparent by removing conflicts of interest. It also builds trust by ensuring contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.*

*Please support!*

*Mahalo for your consideration!*

*Michele Nihipali*

*54-074 A Kam Hwy.*

*Hauula, HI 96717*

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:45:05 AM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill and hope you will too.

It is past time to end special interests from buying OUR representatives.

Mahalo

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:55:45 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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 SB809 which, to my understanding, would close a campaign spending restriction loophole.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 11:57:17 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	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.*

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:04:36 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 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.*



**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:36:39 PM

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

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

Comments:

A great step in the right direction. Please pass this bill.

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:43:28 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 from kona in STRONG support of SB 809. One of the top issues thwarting true democratic process is money in politics -- pay to play, who you know. This bill will prevent state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.*

*Closing this loophole is important for our local democracy because it ensures public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.*

*The legislature's scuttling of important campaign finance legislation last year was abominable. I hope it won't happen every again. Please pass sb809 to insure that our elections are more fair and transparent by removing conflicts of interest.*

*sincerely,*

*janice palma-glennie*

*kailua-kona*

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:56:22 PM

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

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to voice my 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.

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:21:45 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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 SB 809, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.

Closing this loophole is important because it ensures public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

This bill makes our elections more fair and transparent by removing conflicts of interest. It also builds trust by ensuring contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:53:29 PM

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

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

Comments:

This bill would address the blatant corruption, well documented, that has plagued our legislature.

Much of the public had a very negative opinion of our State government- passing this bill will help reduce corruption and undue influence, and help restore our citizen's faith that our leaders are acting in the public's best interest!

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 2:10:34 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 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.*

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 3:06:41 PM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support limiting outside influence in our elections by SuperPacs

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 3:13:27 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am absolutely thrilled to see a bill like SB809, which really seems to address the issues of pay-to-play. Cleaning up any iota of corruption or potential conflicts which could damage public trust in our institution is an absolute must. This bill, if passed and enforced, will direct public funds to the places where they are supposed to be instead of lining the coffers of any one particular candidate, and help restore trust and integrity to the public in general. Mahalo.



**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 3:15:41 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Greg Puppione	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.*

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 5:05:09 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Safia Gravel	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.*

*Safia N. Gravel*

*Hilo*

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 5:58:58 PM

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

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

Comments:

This is an excellent good government bill and closes a loophole which contributes to corruption. Please moved this bill forward.

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:18:06 PM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support this measure.

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:48:59 PM

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

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

Comments:

Support

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:30:14 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica May	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.

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:39:16 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 influence of **government contractors and special interests** in our elections weakens public trust. SB809 ensures that:

- State and county contractors cannot buy political influence** through campaign donations
- Government funding decisions are based on merit**, not favoritism
- Hawaiians regain trust in our political system** by eliminating conflicts of interest

No contractor or grantee should be able to **buy political favors** with campaign donations. This bill **keeps politics honest** and **protects public funds**.

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 11:03:54 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paul Kimo Pestana	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.

Paul Kimo Pestana



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 SB809**

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members—

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

**Public Corruption In The Land Of Aloha**

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

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

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

A reform like SB809 has been due in Hawaii for many years. With 2022's convictions of Senator J. Kalani English and Representative Ty Cullen for cash bribes, ethics in our state government has leapt to the front of the public's collective mind.

This bill closes a major loophole allowing for pay-to-play campaign contributions from government contractors.

SB809 prohibits contractors and their close contacts from contributing to candidates while a contract is in effect. It's simple and stops the kind of quid pro quo that Hawaii's government is infamous for. The need for it is obvious to anyone who reads Hawaii news. It's been obvious for years.

Please pass this much-needed bill.

Sincerely,

Brodie Lockard  
Common Cause Hawaii Board Member

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 6:26:17 AM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill! It's about time.

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 6:42:29 AM

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

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

Comments:

SB809 has the appearance to make sense about campagne contributions from others who have close personal ties to a candidate. I support this bill and any needed funding to track and make visible such personal connections and campagne contributions.

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 7:16:25 AM

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

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

Comments:

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns undermines public trust in government. This bill helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors. Supporting this measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions. Mahalo. Sarah Biggs, Kihei

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 7:41:56 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 SB 809, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.*

*Closing this loophole is important because it ensures public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.*

*This bill makes our elections more fair and transparent by removing conflicts of interest. It also builds trust by ensuring contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.*

*Please support!*

*Mahalo for your consideration!*

*Andrew Grandinetti, PhD*

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 8:00:05 AM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support this measure that would prohibits state or county grantees, officers and immediate family members of state or county contractors, and officers and immediate family members of state or county grantees, from contributing to candidate committees and noncandidate committees for the duration of the contract. We need to stop "pay-to-play" and promote ethical governance.

Please pass SB809.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this very important measure.

**LATE**

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 9:19:04 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ethan Onipaa Porter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,*

*I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 809, 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, SB 809 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 SB 809. 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.*

**LATE**

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 10:06:29 AM

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

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

Comments:

I support this



**LATE**

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 10:11:01 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 HI 96785

**LATE**

**SB-809**

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 4:54:53 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in **STRONG** support of SB 809, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.

Closing this loophole is important because it ensures public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

This bill makes our elections more fair and transparent by removing conflicts of interest. It also builds trust by ensuring contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Kealakai Hammond

Honolulu, Hawaii