

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 28 2025**

RE: S.B. No. 345  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred S.B. No. 345, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to facilitate the availability of funding for candidates participating in the partial public financing program for elected office.

Specifically, the measure:

- (1) Increases, from ten to sixty-seven percent of the expenditure limit, the cap on the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates;
- (2) Increases by twenty percent the cap on the amount of expenditures a candidate may make;
- (3) Increases the matching fund ratio from \$1 for each \$1 of qualifying contributions raised by a candidate to \$2 for each \$1 of qualifying contributions raised in excess of the minimum qualifying contributions that a candidate must raise to participate in the program; and



- (4) Appropriates moneys from the general fund to the election campaign fund to fund the partial public financing program.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Campaign Spending Commission, League of Women Voters of Hawaii, Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action, Free Access Coalition, Our Hawaii, and numerous individuals.

Your Committee received written comments in opposition to this measure from numerous individuals.

Your Committee recognizes that the partial public financing program provides dollar-for-dollar matching funds, up to a maximum amount, for the qualifying contributions raised by a qualifying candidate for the elected office. Your Committee also recognizes that over the past two decades, inflation costs have made the current amounts of funding under the law less than competitive, and the current amounts of funds available to candidates for public funding are significantly below the amounts spent by privately funded candidates. Your Committee believes that this measure is an appropriate mechanism to level the playing field and promote fairness in elections.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 345, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Ways and Means,

  
DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Third Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Ways and Means**  
**WAM**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 45 SD1	JDC, WAM	2-26-2025		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310		
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y. (VC)	X			
AQUINO, Henry J.C.	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	X			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	X			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	X			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	X			
KIM, Donna Mercado	X			
LEE, Chris	X			
WAKAI, Glenn	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
<b>TOTAL</b>	13	0	0	0
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes