



STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 24, 2025

TO: The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian affairs

The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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

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

Tuesday, January 28, 2025
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.¹ The Campaign Spending Commission ("Commission") supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to enhance Hawaii's partial public financing program by increasing the maximum amount of public funds available for all offices by 50%² (except for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs ("OHA") which will be significantly enhanced by over 1,000%) to qualified candidates. It also makes a downward adjustment of the minimum qualifying contributions for certain offices because it appears that publicly financed candidates for those offices were having a difficult time raising the minimum qualifying contributions. Respectfully, the Commission is submitting this bill as an attempt to boost an existing program that is mandated by the State Constitution which has not changed and whose maximum dollar amounts have not changed since 1995.

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") sections as follows:

- 1) HRS §11-425 by increasing the maximum amount of public funds available for all offices (except for the offices of the Mayor of the County of Kauai, Mayor of the County of Maui, and OHA trustee) by 50%. The bill also increases the maximum

¹ The companion bill is S.B. No. 256.

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

amount available for candidates for Mayor of the counties of Kauai and Maui by 125% by moving those offices from subsection (a) to subsection (b) and increasing the maximum amount of public funds available for a candidate for trustee of OHA from \$1,500 for the election period to 10% of the expenditure limit for each election established in HRS §11-423(d).

- 2) HRS §11-429(a) by increasing the amount of qualifying contributions required for a candidate for trustee of OHA from more than \$1,500 in the aggregate to more than \$5,500 in the aggregate.
- 3) HRS §11-429(b) by increasing matching fund payments from \$1 for each \$1 of qualifying contributions in excess of the minimum qualifying contribution amounts to \$2 for each \$1 of excess qualifying contributions.

The bill also provides a downward adjustment of the minimum amounts of qualifying contributions for the office of prosecuting attorney for the city and county of Honolulu (from \$30,000 to \$25,000), and counties of Hawaii (from \$10,000 to \$5,000) and Kauai (from \$5,000 to \$3,000), and for the office of county council for the county of Maui (from \$5,000 to \$4,000). Lastly, the bill establishes two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) positions in the Commission and appropriates funds.

For illustration, here is a comparison of the present partial public funding program in contrast to the enhanced partial public funding program set forth in this bill. For a qualified Senate candidate running in District 1 in the 2026 election, the maximum amount of public funds available is \$7,269 in the primary election and another \$7,269 in the general election. In contrast, under this bill, this same candidate would receive \$10,903 in the primary election and another \$10,903 in the general election. For a qualified House candidate running in District 1 in the 2026 election, the maximum amount of public funds available is \$3,562 in the primary election and another \$3,562 in the general election. In contrast, under this bill, this same candidate would receive \$5,343 in the primary election and \$5,343 in the general election.

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

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

In regard to the additional two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) positions in the measure, the Commission has not had an increase in personnel for the past 29 years despite the number of candidate committees and noncandidate committees having almost doubled in size. Currently, there are only 5 staff members who oversee 700+ committees that have anywhere from 1-3 officers who require assistance on how to comply with the various requirements of campaign finance law thereby generating hundreds of staff hours assisting committees over the phone, in-person, and by email as well as a number of enforcement actions for violations. Under HRS §11-314(7), one of the Commission’s 14 duties is to investigate and hold hearings for receiving evidence of any campaign finance violations. The Commission has no investigator on staff and has had to rely on contracts for investigative services with outside agencies.⁴ In comparison to other State and county good government groups with compliance and enforcement duties, the Commission has had a modest budget and nominal staff despite a tremendous growth in committees, an expansion in its duties and responsibilities, and enforcement mandates. The Commission respectfully seeks your support so that the Commission may ensure that the integrity and transparency of the campaign finance process is upheld and approve our request for 2 new full-time permanent exempt excluded positions (i.e., an Elections Assistant and an Investigator).⁵

The Commission requests that this committee pass this bill.

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

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

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



Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe]

January 29, 2025

HB 370 — RELATING TO PARTIAL PUBLIC FINANCING OF ELECTIONS.

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

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

The amount available to publicly funded candidates has not changed in over two decades. Inflation in media prices, postage, and labor costs make the current amounts far less than competitive. The current amounts available to qualified candidates for public funding are far below the amounts spent by privately funded candidates who won election to the same office. Not surprisingly, the number of candidates using the PPFP has decreased every year since at least 2016. The increases proposed in HB370 unquestionably offer an improvement on the status quo.

In addition, HB370 cuts the amount of qualifying contributions required to access public funding for several offices, making the program easier to access.

To enable the Campaign Spending Commission (CSC) to fulfill the requirements of this bill as well as its existing duties, HB370 adds 2 positions to CSC staff and increases the CSC budget by an unspecified amount.

These changes will bolster the use of the PPFP, thus advancing the goals of equitable and effective campaign funding. Please pass HB370.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports: HB370 Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 2:00pm; Conference Room 325

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

HAPA strongly supports HB370, which increases the partial public campaign financing available for all state and county elective offices.

Our state's public financing system has not been updated for 30 years. The value of the dollar has more than doubled since then with inflation. With that, this leaves our public financing system inadequate in today's political landscape. Therefore, HB370 would address this by increasing the maximum amount of public funds available to candidates across various offices and makes public financing a more viable option for candidates.

Recent data also highlights the urgent need for campaign finance reform. For example, since 1994, incumbents in the Hawai'i House have spent an average of \$57,883 per election, while challengers spent only \$16,500 when adjusted for inflation. This disparity has resulted in a 90% reelection rate for incumbents over the past decade.

The proposed changes in HB 370 align with other reform efforts in the state. In 2023, lawmakers passed many recommendations from the Foley Commission, including strengthening penalties for government fraud and reforming lobbying practices. However, some of the toughest reform measures, such as full public financing of elections and prohibiting campaign contributions during legislative sessions, have yet to be enacted.

This bill addresses these gaps by increasing the maximum amount of public funds available for all offices by 50% and for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs from \$1,500 to 10% of the expenditure limit for each election. This change recognizes the unique needs of our state and ensures that candidates for this important office have the resources to reach voters across all islands.

The bill also includes provisions for additional staffing at the Campaign Spending Commission, allocating \$200,000 for two full-time positions. This funding is necessary for the effective implementation and oversight of the expanded program. This is particularly important as the Commission has not received additional personnel in decades, even though campaign finance laws have become increasingly complex.

We urge you to support HB370 370 as you have the opportunity to respond to public sentiment for an equitable and transparent electoral system.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is placed below the text 'Thank you for your support and consideration,'.

Anne Frederick, Executive Director

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 8:37:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

*Green Party of Hawai'i is in **STRONG support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawaii's partial public financing program for elections. The corruption in the system does not allow for anyone outside of the majority party to get their voice heard. This is a small stepping stone in the right direction.*

This bill is a significant step toward reducing the influence of big money in our election process. Vote yes on HB370.

Mahalo nui,

Green Party of Hawai'i

Susan RobertsEmery

co chair GPH

Paauilo



HOUSE BILL 370, RELATING TO PARTIAL PUBLIC FINANCING OF ELECTIONS

JANUARY 28, 2025 · JHA HEARING

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports HB 370, relating to partial public financing of elections, which Increases the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all state and county elective offices; amends section 11-425, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), by increasing the maximum amount of public funds available for each election for candidates (1) for Mayor of the County of Kauai and the County of Maui by 125 percent; (2) for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs from \$1,500 to 10 percent of the expenditure limit established in section 11-423(d), HRS; and (3) for candidates for all other offices by 50 percent; amends section 11-429(a), HRS, by increasing the amounts of qualifying contributions for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs from more than \$1,500 in the aggregate to more than \$5,000 in the aggregate; provides a downward adjustment of the amounts of qualifying contributions for the Office of Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu, County of Hawai'i, and County of Kauai and for the Office of County Council for the County of Maui; provides for an unspecified appropriation to pay for the increase in the partial public financing program; and provides for an appropriation in the amount of \$200,000 for the Commission to hire two additional staff members.

Our democracy belongs to we, the people. At a time when our nation is experiencing extreme political turmoil and basic civil liberties are under assault, we must take steps in Hawai'i to safeguard democratic participation. In the 2024 primary election, for example, our state

experienced its lowest turnout in 65 years, with only 32.1 percent of registered voters filling out a ballot. This is, in part, a reflection of the public's deep cynicism with our electoral processes.

Hawai'i continues to be embroiled in public corruption scandals, following the bribery allegations that were levied against former Senate Majority Leader Kalani English and former State Representative Ty Cullen. Other public officials, such as employees at local permitting offices, have also recently been ensnared in bribery scandals, in some cases with connections to Milton Choy, the lobbyist who was responsible for coordinating the bribery scheme that Sen. English and Rep. Cullen became a part of. These cases show that we have a moral crisis in our public institutions and must do all we can to restore integrity to government.

When candidates for public office are forced to rely on private donations to build relationships, those transactions can cause corruption or create the perception of it. Put simply, legislators are responsive to donors because donors fund their campaigns. Money is crucial to winning. Roughly 91 percent of candidates who outspend their opponents win their elections.

Relatedly, many people choose not to run for public office because they can't afford the cost of a campaign, leaving many incumbents routinely uncontested in their reelection bids. The average winner of a State House seat in Hawai'i spends approximately \$40,000 on their campaign, compared to only \$16,000 for the losing candidate. Over half of all campaign donations in 2022 came from just 980 donors, each of whom contributed at least \$6,000 in candidate donations during that election cycle.

This bill moves our islands incrementally toward an election system that is fair. **We are especially supportive of the proposed positional funding for the Hawai'i Campaign Spending Commission, which has not received additional staff since its inception decades ago.** That said, we urge your committee to continue evaluating more robust public financing models, such as those being used in states like Maine. In the 2010 and 2012 election cycles, the Hawai'i Island County Council ran a pilot program for comprehensive public funding. Similarly, Connecticut and Maine have instituted comprehensive public financing programs, which have proven successful at increasing electoral participation and reducing candidates' reliance on private donations. Over 70 percent of Democratic legislators use public financing to fund their campaigns in Maine.

These models ensure that candidates no longer need to rely on contributions from wealthy donors. Instead, they can seek support from their constituents in the form of small donations that verify their credibility and subsequently obtain public funding in an amount sufficient to run effective campaigns. Legislators are, in turn, empowered to focus on engaging with their communities, rather than charming the donor class. Ultimately, this reorients our government toward the will of the people, not the wallets of the privileged.

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

Contact: educationcaucusdph@gmail.com



150 Hamakua Drive #341
Kailua, HI 96734

our-hawaii.org

Testimony in Support of HB370

Submitted to the House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee
by Evan Weber, Managing Director, Our Hawai'i, 1/28/2024

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, I stand in strong support for Senate Bill 2381, relating to public financing of candidates to elected office. 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.

For the last several years we have been at the forefront of a movement of over three dozen organizations and thousands of citizens pushing to create a true alternative to our private money campaign finance system — full public financing of elections. **We still believe that a full public financing system is necessary and urgent to provide balance to our legislature and give local working families more representation in government. However, we also support building upon, improving, and expanding our existing partial public financing system**, as this legislation would do.

We agree with the inflation-based argument presented by the Campaign Spending Commission for increasing the matching about from \$1-\$1 to \$2-\$1. **Under this same logic, we suggest further amending the legislation to have the multipliers for each different type of race double based on inflation since 1995, as well. This would mean changing amounts in the following ways:**

- (1) For the office of governor - ~~\$2.50~~ \$5.00;
- (2) For the office of lieutenant governor - ~~\$1.40~~ \$2.80;
- (3) For the office of mayor - ~~\$2.00~~ \$4.00;
- (4) For the offices of state senator, state representative, county council member, and prosecuting attorney - ~~\$1.40~~ \$2.80.

The major issue with the current partial public financing system is that it limits candidates for State Legislative races too much without providing enough funds to make opting in worth it. When combined with the other changes in the bill, the doubling of the multiplier to keep pace with inflation would bring an average State House race up from the current amount you receive in a primary of ~\$3,000 to around \$10,000. While this is not enough to run a race on, it is a significant improvement that, when augmented with private fundraising, would be meaningful.

Furthermore, while the increase to 22.5% is a welcome step in the right direction for the percentage of expenditure limit that can be matched, the advent of Citizens United since 1995 has caused an increase in campaign spending, and suggests we should be bolder overall, in the spirit of the Hawai'i Constitution's intent. Increasing this to 50% or even 30% would mean that candidates would be eligible for funds that are truly getting closer to supporting them to running a competitive campaign.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of these friendly amendments.



To: The House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs (JHA)
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 2pm

In strong support of HB370

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and JHA Committee members;

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **strong support of HB370** that increases the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all state and county elective offices. By increasing the amount of public funding and providing higher matching rates, more candidates, especially those without large financial backers, can afford to run for office.

Bottom line, with stronger public financing, elected officials can focus more on community concerns rather than on fundraising from large donors. This is a win:win.

Please take this opportunity to help get money out of politics. Pass HB370.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this important legislation.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:25:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John & Rita Shockley	Free Access Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition supports this campaign reform bill.



Hawaii Legislative Council Members

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko
Family Dentistry
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia
Hawaii Taro Farm
Wailuku

Maile Meyer
Na Mea Hawaii
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki
Abundant Life
Natural Foods
Hilo

Tanya Aynessazian
Principal Contractor

Chamber of
Sustainable Commerce
P.O. Box 22394
Honolulu, HI 96823

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Tuesday, January 28, 2025
2:00 PM in Room 325

RE: **HB370** Increasing Public Campaign Financing - **Strong Support**

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of the Committee,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce strongly supports HB370, which would update and expand Hawaii's Partial Public Financing Program. The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 450 small businesses and entrepreneurs across the State of Hawaii that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity.

As small business owners who believe we can strengthen Hawaii's economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment, we urge this committee to vote in favor of passing HB370, because this bill brings us another step closer toward a democracy that protects small business owners, workers, consumers and the environment, not just large corporate campaign donors who can afford to pay to play.

By increasing funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements, this measure encourages more candidates to participate in the public financing program and allows new voices, and their circles of influence, to engage in our political process. With an expanded public financing program, incumbents can also focus more on community concerns and spending time in the communities they represent, rather than on large donor fundraising.

This bill is an important step in reducing the influence of big money in our election process, allowing more candidates, especially those without financial backers, to afford to run for office.



HAWAII WORKERS CENTER

(503) WORKERS ☎

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

Defending and Respecting the workers of
Hawaii'i

hawaiiworkerscenter@gmail.com ✉
Mail: 2252 Puna St., Honolulu, HI 96817 ✉
hawaiiworkerscenter.org 🌐

January 28, 2025

**Executive Board
Committee**

Rev. Sam Domingo
Board Chair

Mary Ochs
Vice Chair

Dr. Arcelita Imasa
Secretary

Kami Yamamoto
Treasurer

Board Members

Yoko Liriano

Nanea Lo

Innocenta
Sound-Kikku

Ray Catania

Justin Jansen

Leyton Torda

Kami Yamamoto

CJ Johnson

Executive Director

Sergio Alcubilla III, Esq.

Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. David Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

RE: SUPPORT for H.B. 370 Relating to PARTIAL PUBLIC FINANCING OF ELECTIONS.

Dear Chair Rep. Tarnas, Vice-Chair Rep. Poe, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

The Hawaii Workers Center (HWC) envisions a Hawaii in which all workers are empowered to exercise their right to organize for their social, economic and political well-being.

It is a resource of information, education, training and organizing for Hawaii's workers.

The HWC stands in support of H.B. 370 which increases the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all state and county elective offices.

As a supporter of the "Good Government Reforms" initiative, we believe these measures are important to provide a level playing field for working class interests and the candidates and elected officials that support Hawaii's working class communities. Without such measures, these interests will continue to be easily lost in our current political system that favors those with deep pockets, corporate interests, and big money.

We believe H.B. 370 is a step in the right direction towards good government reforms and gives our working class interests a fighting chance.

Sincerely,

Sergio Alcubilla
Executive Director

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/23/2025 3:39:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE the use of my tax dollars to finance political campaigns without my discretion and I urge all members of the Committee to **VOTE NO** on this Bill.

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 7:50:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judge Daniel Foley (ret.)	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

As former chair of the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct (Commission), I submit this testimony in support of HB 370 Relating to partial public funding of elections.

The Commission found "that publicly funded elections can help counter the repercussions of Citizens United because public funding expands the reach of many small donors and can relieve candidates of the need to rely on the support of special interest groups or large donors." Commission December 1, 2022 Report at page 32.

Mahalo, Judge Daniel Foley (ret.)

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 2:27:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 2:29:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lela Kalama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

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

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

Mahalo,

Lela Kalama, Kea'au, HI

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 4:37:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Robison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Members,

I am a voter who lives in Hilo. I am testifying in support of HB 370 RELATING TO PARTIAL PUBLIC FINANCING OF ELECTIONS.

This bill is one of many that grew out of the House Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct. The overarching goal of that commission is to restore the public's faith in our state government by discouraging the "pay to play" political culture that led to criminal convictions of corrupt legislators. This bill moves us toward that goal by providing the option of increased partial public financing to qualified candidates.

The amounts available to candidates in Hawaii's partial public financing program was last amended in 1995. This Act increases matching fund payments from \$1 for each \$1 of

qualifying contributions in excess of the minimum qualifying contribution amounts to \$2 for each \$1 of excess qualifying contributions.

According to its website, the Brennan Center for Justice believes that "the most effective and promising solution to the problem of big money in politics [is] small donor public financing, a system in which public funds match and multiply small donations...Designed right, small donor public financing also permits candidates to raise and spend what they need to compete in the super PAC era, should they choose to opt in."

I urge you to pass HB 370 RELATING TO PARTIAL PUBLIC FINANCING OF ELECTIONS and help to reduce the effect of big money in politics.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. Thank you for your service to the people of Hawai'i.

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 4:44:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

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

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

Mahalo for your consideration.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 5:24:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

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

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

Mahalo for your consideration!

Emelia Briscoe, Honolulu

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 6:12:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

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

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

Mahalo for your consideration.

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 6:44:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

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

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

By increasing welfare spending with public funds, you can receive affordable medical care through medical reform. And in Europe and Korea, for example, you can receive medical care at low prices!

Mahalo for your consideration!

kimdonghyeon

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 7:10:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I urge you to support of HB370, which will modernize and improve Hawaii's partial public financing program for elections. Big money has too much influence on politicians, making them beholden to their contributors instead of thier constituents. HB370 will help corect this problem by increasing the funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements. Doing so reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program.

Thank you

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 7:27:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
karolle t. bidgood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of the Committee,

I am in **strong** support of this bill because making it easier to qualify and cover campaign expenses may encourage a broader range of people to run for office. I would particularly like to see younger candidates participating in the electoral process.

Mahalo.

Karolle (Josie) Bidgood

Kahaluu, HI

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 10:29:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas,

Vice Chair Poepoe, and

Members of the Committee,

My name is Kimo Pestana, and I am writing in STRONG support of HB370, which will modernize and improve Hawaii's partial public financing program for elections.

By increasing the funding limits and adjusting qualifying contribution requirements, this measure encourages sincere citizens to run for elected office.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Paul Kimo Pestana

Diamond Head Road,

Honolulu

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 10:36:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elisa W Johnston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of a Partial Public Funding Increase because the need for private donations to run campaigns has perverted the democratic process. We must do better.

Mahalao,

Elisa W. Johnston

Makiki

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 6:16:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Kevin Kekoa Dolan-Ma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

*My name is [NAME], and I am writing in **STRONG support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawaii's partial public financing program for elections.*

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

Our future depends on election integrity.

Mahalo

Thomas

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:24:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Marrack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

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

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

Mahalo for your consideration!

Julia Marrack, Kamuela

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:45:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

*My name is Richard Janik. MD, and I am writing in **STRONG support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawaii's partial public financing program for elections.*

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:03:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB370. We need to get money out of Hawaii politics and instead have a true democratic system. Thank you.

Jane E Arnold

1763 Iwi Way, Apt D

Honolulu, HI 96816

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:11:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

ALOHA ALL,

I SUPPORT HB370.

MAHALO FOR CONSIDERING MY TESTIMONY,

ANN SAFFERY

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:16:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Pizzitola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express support for House Bill 370, which seeks to increase the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all state and county elective offices. The partial public financing system is long overdue for an update, and this legislation represents a significant step toward enhancing the integrity and accessibility of our electoral process — but it could go even further.

The major issue with the current partial public financing system is that for state legislative races, the caps are too low to make a meaningful contribution to a candidate's campaigning. House and Senate candidates who opt-in limit their fundraising abilities while not getting much out of the program, making it not worth much to participate. This is not the case for certain county council races like Maui or Kaua'i where at-large voting means that the caps — calculated based on the number of registered voters in the "district" in the prior election — are much higher.

To make the partial public financing system fairer to state legislative races.

- 1. Raise the expenditure limits: In addition to adjusting the match amount based on inflation, the multiplier for different races should also be doubled from its current \$1.40 to \$2.80 to track inflation. When combined with the other changes in the bill, this would bring house races up from their current amount you receive in a primary of ~\$3,000 to around \$10,000. Still not enough to run a race on, but a significant improvement.*
- 2. Further increase the percentage of the expenditure limits that can be matched by the state: While the increase to 22.5% is a welcome step in the right direction, the advent of Citizens United suggests we should be bolder. Increasing this to 50% or even 30% would mean that candidates would be eligible for funds that are truly getting closer to supporting them to run a competitive campaign. Increasing public financing can help restore public trust in our political system.*

When elected officials are less dependent on private contributions, constituents can have greater confidence that policy decisions are made in the public's best interest, rather than being swayed by major donors.

I urge you to support HB 370 with the above amendments. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:20:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kahi Pacarro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express support for House Bill 370, which seeks to increase the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all state and county elective offices. The partial public financing system is long overdue for an update, and this legislation represents a significant step toward enhancing the integrity and accessibility of our electoral process — but it could go even further.

The major issue with the current partial public financing system is that for state legislative races, the caps are too low to make a meaningful contribution to a candidate's campaigning. House and Senate candidates who opt-in limit their fundraising abilities while not getting much out of the program, making it not worth much to participate. This is not the case for certain county council races like Maui or Kaua'i where at-large voting means that the caps — calculated based on the number of registered voters in the "district" in the prior election — are much higher.

To make the partial public financing system fairer to state legislative races.

- 1. Raise the expenditure limits: In addition to adjusting the match amount based on inflation, the multiplier for different races should also be doubled from its current \$1.40 to \$2.80 to track inflation. When combined with the other changes in the bill, this would bring house races up from their current amount you receive in a primary of ~\$3,000 to around \$10,000. Still not enough to run a race on, but a significant improvement.*
- 2. Further increase the percentage of the expenditure limits that can be matched by the state: While the increase to 22.5% is a welcome step in the right direction, the advent of Citizens United suggests we should be bolder. Increasing this to 50% or even 30% would mean that candidates would be eligible for funds that are truly getting closer to supporting them to run a competitive campaign. Increasing public financing can help restore public trust in our political system.*

When elected officials are less dependent on private contributions, constituents can have greater confidence that policy decisions are made in the public's best interest, rather than being swayed by major donors.

I urge you to support HB 370 with the above amendments. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:21:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra M Javar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully SUPPORT HB370

Mahalo

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:31:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing to express support for House Bill 370, which seeks to increase the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all state and county elective offices. The partial public financing system is long overdue for an update, and this legislation represents a significant step toward enhancing the integrity and accessibility of our electoral process — but it could go even further.

The major issue with the current partial public financing system is that for state legislative races, the caps are too low to make a meaningful contribution to a candidate's campaigning. House and Senate candidates who opt-in limit their fundraising abilities while not getting much out of the program, making it not worth much to participate. This is not the case for certain county council races like Maui or Kaua'i where at-large voting means that the caps — calculated based on the number of registered voters in the "district" in the prior election — are much higher.

To make the partial public financing system fairer to state legislative races.

- 1. Raise the expenditure limits: In addition to adjusting the match amount based on inflation, the multiplier for different races should also be doubled from its current \$1.40 to \$2.80 to track inflation. When combined with the other changes in the bill, this would bring house races up from their current amount you receive in a primary of ~\$3,000 to around \$10,000. Still not enough to run a race on, but a significant improvement.*
- 2. Further increase the percentage of the expenditure limits that can be matched by the state: While the increase to 22.5% is a welcome step in the right direction, the advent of Citizens United suggests we should be bolder. Increasing this to 50% or even 30% would mean that candidates would be eligible for funds that are truly getting closer to supporting them to run a competitive campaign. Increasing public financing can help restore public trust in our political system.*

When elected officials are less dependent on private contributions, constituents can have greater confidence that policy decisions are made in the public's best interest, rather than being swayed by major donors.

I urge you to support HB 370 with the above amendments. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:34:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:39:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing to express support for House Bill 370, which seeks to increase the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all state and county elective offices. The partial public financing system is long overdue for an update, and this legislation represents a significant step toward enhancing the integrity and accessibility of our electoral process — but it could go even further.

The major issue with the current partial public financing system is that for state legislative races, the caps are too low to make a meaningful contribution to a candidate's campaigning. House and Senate candidates who opt-in limit their fundraising abilities while not getting much out of the program, making it not worth much to participate. This is not the case for certain county council races like Maui or Kaua'i where at-large voting means that the caps — calculated based on the number of registered voters in the "district" in the prior election — are much higher.

To make the partial public financing system fairer to state legislative races.

- 1. Raise the expenditure limits: In addition to adjusting the match amount based on inflation, the multiplier for different races should also be doubled from its current \$1.40 to \$2.80 to track inflation. When combined with the other changes in the bill, this would bring house races up from their current amount you receive in a primary of ~\$3,000 to around \$10,000. Still not enough to run a race on, but a significant improvement.*
- 2. Further increase the percentage of the expenditure limits that can be matched by the state: While the increase to 22.5% is a welcome step in the right direction, the advent of Citizens United suggests we should be bolder. Increasing this to 50% or even 30% would mean that candidates would be eligible for funds that are truly getting closer to supporting them to run a competitive campaign. Increasing public financing can help restore public trust in our political system.*

When elected officials are less dependent on private contributions, constituents can have greater confidence that policy decisions are made in the public's best interest, rather than being swayed by major donors.

I urge you to support HB 370 with the above amendments. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:01:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sulara James	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

Mahalo, Sulara

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:07:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill. Legislators have to learn to serve the people not the lobbyinsts,

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:38:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello,

I am writing to express support for House Bill 370, which seeks to increase the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all state and county elective offices. The partial public financing system is long overdue for an update, and this legislation represents a significant step toward enhancing the integrity and accessibility of our electoral process — but it could go even further.

The major issue with the current partial public financing system is that for state legislative races, the caps are too low to make a meaningful contribution to a candidate’s campaigning. House and Senate candidates who opt-in limit their fundraising abilities while not getting much out of the program, making it not worth much to participate. This is not the case for certain county council races like Maui or Kaua‘i where at-large voting means that the caps — calculated based on the number of registered voters in the “district” in the prior election — are much higher.

To make the partial public financing system fairer to state legislative races.

1. Raise the expenditure limits: In addition to adjusting the match amount based on inflation, the multiplier for different races should also be doubled from its current \$1.40 to \$2.80 to track inflation. When combined with the other changes in the bill, this would bring house races up from their current amount you receive in a primary of ~\$3,000 to around \$10,000. Still not enough to run a race on, but a significant improvement.
2. Further increase the percentage of the expenditure limits that can be matched by the state: While the increase to 22.5% is a welcome step in the right direction, the advent of Citizens United suggests we should be bolder. Increasing this to 50% or even 30% would mean that candidates would be eligible for funds that are truly getting closer to supporting them to run a competitive campaign. Increasing public financing can help restore public trust in our political system.

When elected officials are less dependent on private contributions, constituents can have greater confidence that policy decisions are made in the public’s best interest, rather than being swayed by major donors.

I urge you to support HB 370 with the above amendments.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō‘ili‘ili, HI 96826

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:39:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalai Hanohano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:42:11 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kris Bordessa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support public financing of the elections system!

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:50:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing to express support for House Bill 370, which seeks to increase the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all state and county elective offices. The partial public financing system is long overdue for an update, and this legislation represents a significant step toward enhancing the integrity and accessibility of our electoral process — but it could go even further.

The major issue with the current partial public financing system is that for state legislative races, the caps are too low to make a meaningful contribution to a candidate's campaigning. House and Senate candidates who opt-in limit their fundraising abilities while not getting much out of the program, making it not worth much to participate. This is not the case for certain county council races like Maui or Kaua'i where at-large voting means that the caps — calculated based on the number of registered voters in the "district" in the prior election — are much higher.

To make the partial public financing system fairer to state legislative races.

- 1. Raise the expenditure limits: In addition to adjusting the match amount based on inflation, the multiplier for different races should also be doubled from its current \$1.40 to \$2.80 to track inflation. When combined with the other changes in the bill, this would bring house races up from their current amount you receive in a primary of ~\$3,000 to around \$10,000. Still not enough to run a race on, but a significant improvement.*
- 2. Further increase the percentage of the expenditure limits that can be matched by the state: While the increase to 22.5% is a welcome step in the right direction, the advent of Citizens United suggests we should be bolder. Increasing this to 50% or even 30% would mean that candidates would be eligible for funds that are truly getting closer to supporting them to run a competitive campaign. Increasing public financing can help restore public trust in our political system.*

When elected officials are less dependent on private contributions, constituents can have greater confidence that policy decisions are made in the public's best interest, rather than being swayed by major donors.

I urge you to support HB 370 with the above amendments. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:50:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

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

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

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

Mahalo for your consideration,

Shannon M.

Hawai'i Island Resident

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:06:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

I support of HB370.

Keith Neal

Waimea

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:10:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Legrande	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in STRONG support of HB370. Look where Citizens United has gotten us!

Thank you, Linda Legrande

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:16:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eileen McKee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB370, public financing for our election system.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Eileen McKee, Kihei

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:22:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, as a citizen who is in favor of getting big money out of politics, I am writing in **STRONG support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawai'i's partial public financing program for elections. It's a great start to getting dark money and corporate away from our elections, and back to way our democracy should be, one vote for one person.

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

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

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:25:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

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

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

I support this bill because I believe it is important that more candidates who don't have large financial backers, have the ability to run for office. This helps to lower the financial barriers and brings more voices and allows more members of community to participate in the political process.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Keala Fung, Honolulu HI

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:38:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michele Mitsumori, and I am writing in **support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawaii's partial public financing program for elections.

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

The U.S. has the largest gap between the richest and the poorest in the world. We are seeing daily what happens when our decision makers lack personal connect to and empathy with those who are the most vulnerable, whether immigrants, LGBTQM+, or women. We are also seeing what happens when our leaders have life experience as single mothers, as members of the trans community, as family members of immigrants or as immigrants themselves. Our public officials must reflect the diversity of our experiences, including the diversity of impacts caused by public policies and distribution of resources.

We are also seeing the disproportionate impact of mega-donors on elected officials, as never before, with consequences including the amplification of disinformation and increased suffering and hardship through trade wars and climate change.

BH370 will help bring in new voices, especially grassroots candidates, into the political process by lowering financial barriers through public funding and higher matching rates. For elected officials, HB370 will help decrease the burden of fundraising and so enable public officials to focus more on community concerns and be less vulnerable to the influence of large donors. I urge you to pass HB370.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of HB370.

Mahalo,

Michele Mitsumori, Hilo

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:24:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

*Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,**I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 662, which seeks to disallow self-funded campaigns for elective office in Hawai‘i. This legislation represents a significant step toward ensuring fairness and equity in the electoral process.**By prohibiting self-funded campaigns, HB 662 addresses the disproportionate advantage that wealthy candidates may have in elections. It levels the playing field by encouraging all candidates to rely on broader public support rather than personal wealth. This change promotes a more inclusive political process, enabling individuals from diverse economic backgrounds to compete on equal footing.**Furthermore, reducing the role of personal wealth in campaigns fosters greater public confidence in our democracy. It ensures that candidates are accountable to their constituents rather than solely advancing their own interests through significant financial means.**In conclusion, I strongly urge you to support HB 662. This bill is an essential step towards leveling the playing field for local working families in our politics. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.*

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:28:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this bill. It is well past time to get big money out of Hawaii politics, and restore democracy.

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:42:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Spadaro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is one of four that is important to making public campaign financing work the way it is intended to and to accomplish a level playing field for all candidates. This is how democracy is supposed to work. I hope you will pass this bill.

Sincerely, Mary Spadaro

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:43:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

*Aloha from Wainiha, Kaua'i. My name is Joell Edwards, a resident, small business owner, community organizer and a former campaign manager. I am writing in **STRONG support of HB370**, which will modernize and improve Hawaii's partial public financing program for elections.*

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

Public funding allows an opportunity for local community organizers and activists to be able to run for office knowing they can compete with other candidates who may have a bigger pool of donors.

I know from experience, that the use of public funds allowed my candidate to get mailers out that we would not have the funds for by our other fundraising methods.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Joell M Edwards, Wainiha

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 1:04:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mary drayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

we need a to make running for office available to all who are interested - regardless of financial situation ...mahalo.

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:15:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill! Level the playing field -

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:16:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire	Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Here's an analysis of House Bill No. 370:

Overview of the Bill:

- Purpose: The bill seeks to update Hawaii's partial public financing program for elections by increasing the amount of public funds available to candidates, adjusting the matching fund ratio, lowering some minimum qualifying contribution thresholds, and providing additional funding for the campaign spending commission.
- Key Provisions:
 - Increases the maximum public funds available to candidates for various offices.
 - Adjusts the qualifying contribution amounts for candidates to access public funding, generally increasing them but lowering them for some local offices.
 - Changes the matching fund rate from \$1 for \$1 to \$2 for \$1 for contributions exceeding the minimum qualifying amounts.
 - Appropriates funds for the campaign financing program and for additional staff at the campaign spending commission.

Analysis:

Good Aspects:

1. Inflation Adjustment: The bill acknowledges the inflation since 1995, attempting to adjust the public financing to reflect current economic conditions, which could make public financing more relevant and effective.
2. Encouraging Participation: By increasing the matching funds and adjusting qualifying contributions downwards for some offices, it might encourage more candidates to participate in the public financing system, potentially reducing the influence of private money in politics.

3. **Fairness in Funding:** Increasing public funds for candidates of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to a percentage of an expenditure limit rather than a fixed amount could provide fairer access to funds based on campaign costs.
4. **Resource Allocation:** Appropriating funds for additional staff at the campaign spending commission could improve oversight and administration of the program, ensuring compliance and transparency.

Bad or Concerning Aspects:

1. **Increased Public Spending:** The bill significantly increases state expenditure on elections, which might be seen as a negative by those concerned about public spending, especially without specifying exact amounts for appropriation.
2. **Potential for Misuse:** With more funds available, there's a risk of increased spending on less substantive campaign activities if not monitored closely. This could lead to a perception of wasted taxpayer money.
3. **Inequity in Funding Adjustments:** While some adjustments lower qualifying amounts, others increase them, potentially creating disparities in how candidates from different offices can access public funds.
4. **Complexity and Bureaucracy:** The changes might complicate the existing system, potentially leading to administrative burdens or confusion among candidates and voters.

Improvements or Considerations:

1. **Transparency and Accountability:** Ensure there's a robust system for tracking how these public funds are spent, with public reporting requirements.
2. **Cap on Total Spending:** Consider implementing or reinforcing spending caps to prevent an arms race in campaign expenditures even with public financing.
3. **Balanced Adjustments:** Review the adjustments to qualifying contributions to ensure they are equitable across all offices, perhaps with a formula that considers population size or district wealth.
4. **Educational Campaign:** Given the changes, an educational campaign for candidates and voters might be necessary to explain the new system, its benefits, and how to participate or support candidates using public funds.
5. **Performance Evaluation:** Include provisions for a periodic review of the financing program's impact on election outcomes, candidate participation rates, and public perception to allow for future adjustments.

Conclusion:

- Overall Quality: The bill has good intentions in updating the public financing system to be more relevant and accessible. However, its success will depend on careful implementation, oversight, and ensuring that the additional public spending genuinely leads to fairer elections without opening avenues for misuse or increased bureaucracy.
- Potential for Improvement: Focus on transparency, equitable distribution of benefits, and mechanisms for ongoing evaluation could enhance the effectiveness of this legislative update.

Sincerely,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire

Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, HRM

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:20:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing to express my support for HB 370, a measure headed in the right direction to reduce the impact of outside money in politics. I want to see the day when politicians no longer have to hob-nob with wealthy donors to win and stay in office. I want to see the day when every politician uses the massive amount of time now spent fundraising to instead hob-nob with their at-large constituents. I want to see the day when politicians don't have to consider whether their vote might insult a big donor. I want to see the day when politicians act in the electorate's best interests.

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:48:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill. Mahalo!

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:22:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB 370, which increases partial public campaign financing for state and county offices. Updating this system is critical to improving the integrity and accessibility of our electoral process, but the bill could go further to make public financing more impactful.

Currently, the caps for state legislative races are too low to make participation worthwhile. Candidates limit their fundraising but receive insufficient support, unlike at-large county council races where funding caps are higher due to larger voter bases.

To make public financing fairer and more effective, I urge you to:

1. Raise expenditure limits: Adjust the match multiplier from \$1.40 to \$2.80 to account for inflation. This change, along with other updates in HB 370, would increase primary funds for House races from ~\$3,000 to ~\$10,000—a significant improvement.
2. Increase match percentages: While raising the match to 22.5% is a good step, increasing it to 30% or even 50% would better support candidates in running competitive campaigns and help level the playing field.

Expanding public financing strengthens trust in our democracy by reducing reliance on private contributions. When candidates are funded by public resources, voters can be more confident that decisions are made for the public good—not influenced by major donors.

Please support HB 370 with these amendments. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Maki Morinoue
Holualoa, HI 96725

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:47:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

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

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

We've all seen the negative impacts big money donors have on our political systems and trust in the elections process. Passing this bill would be a small step to repairing the public trust and faith in our political systems.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Stacey Alapai, Makawao, Maui

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 4:46:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this Bill

Fred Hofer

Hilo

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 5:04:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Jakubowski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express support for House Bill 370, which seeks to increase the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all state and county elective offices. The partial public financing system is long overdue for an update, and this legislation represents a significant step toward enhancing the integrity and accessibility of our electoral process — but it could go even further.

The major issue with the current partial public financing system is that for state legislative races, the caps are too low to make a meaningful contribution to a candidate's campaigning. House and Senate candidates who opt-in limit their fundraising abilities while not getting much out of the program, making it not worth much to participate. This is not the case for certain county council races like Maui or Kaua'i where at-large voting means that the caps — calculated based on the number of registered voters in the "district" in the prior election — are much higher.

To make the partial public financing system fairer to state legislative races.

- 1. Raise the expenditure limits: In addition to adjusting the match amount based on inflation, the multiplier for different races should also be doubled from its current \$1.40 to \$2.80 to track inflation. When combined with the other changes in the bill, this would bring house races up from their current amount you receive in a primary of ~\$3,000 to around \$10,000. Still not enough to run a race on, but a significant improvement.*
- 2. Further increase the percentage of the expenditure limits that can be matched by the state: While the increase to 22.5% is a welcome step in the right direction, the advent of Citizens United suggests we should be bolder. Increasing this to 50% or even 30% would mean that candidates would be eligible for funds that are truly getting closer to supporting them to run a competitive campaign. Increasing public financing can help restore public trust in our political system.*

When elected officials are less dependent on private contributions, constituents can have greater confidence that policy decisions are made in the public's best interest, rather than being swayed by major donors.

I urge you to support HB 370 with the above amendments. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Mark Jakubowski

808.371.4382

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 5:10:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Warmest Aloha,

I support this bill. It is a start in our campaign reform giving the "Everyman" a chance to contribute to our community/state.

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

Mahalo,

pamela Burrell's, Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 5:26:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of this measure, which expands Hawaii's current system of partial public financing in available dollars for certain offices and authorizes additional funding for the Campaign Spending Commission for additional staff positions.

Every election after Citizens United has increased the role of larger contributions in electoral contests, limiting the extent to which candidates feel the need to engage voters and members of the community. While non-statewide elections in Hawaii are relatively inexpensive as a general matter, the state should make public financing a more attractive and accessible option.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:48:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments: I am writing to express support for House Bill 370, which seeks to increase the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all state and county elective offices. The partial public financing system is long overdue for an update, and this legislation represents a significant step toward enhancing the integrity and accessibility of our electoral process — but it could go even further. The major issue with the current partial public financing system is that for state legislative races, the caps are too low to make a meaningful contribution to a candidate's campaigning. House and Senate candidates who opt-in limit their fundraising abilities while not getting much out of the program, making it not worth much to participate. This is not the case for certain county council races like Maui or Kaua'i where at-large voting means that the caps — calculated based on the number of registered voters in the "district" in the prior election — are much higher. To make the partial public financing system fairer to state legislative races. Raise the expenditure limits: In addition to adjusting the match amount based on inflation, the multiplier for different races should also be doubled from its current \$1.40 to \$2.80 to track inflation. When combined with the other changes in the bill, this would bring house races up from their current amount you receive in a primary of ~\$3,000 to around \$10,000. Still not enough to run a race on, but a significant improvement. Further increase the percentage of the expenditure limits that can be matched by the state: While the increase to 22.5% is a welcome step in the right direction, the advent of Citizens United suggests we should be bolder. Increasing this to 50% or even 30% would mean that candidates would be eligible for funds that are truly getting closer to supporting them to run a competitive campaign. Increasing public financing can help restore public trust in our political system. When elected officials are less dependent on private contributions, constituents can have greater confidence that policy decisions are made in the public's best interest, rather than being swayed by major donors. I urge you to support HB 370 with the above amendments. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:04:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine L. Andrews, J.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good afternoon Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs, my name is Christine Andrews, from Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii, and I am submitting this testimony in support of HB370 because I believe that public financing of elections helps secure an active democracy free from financial influence over legislators. Legislators whom represent their constituents, and whom are committed to public service free of inappropriate influence by financial motives from donors, is a cornerstone of our democracy.

I ask that you pass HB370 in its current form.

Thank you for your time.

Christine L. Andrews, J.D.

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:07:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing to express support for House Bill 370, which seeks to increase the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all state and county elective offices. The partial public financing system is long overdue for an update, and this legislation represents a significant step toward enhancing the integrity and accessibility of our electoral process — but it could go even further.

The major issue with the current partial public financing system is that for state legislative races, the caps are too low to make a meaningful contribution to a candidate's campaigning. House and Senate candidates who opt-in limit their fundraising abilities while not getting much out of the program, making it not worth much to participate. This is not the case for certain county council races like Maui or Kaua'i where at-large voting means that the caps — calculated based on the number of registered voters in the "district" in the prior election — are much higher.

To make the partial public financing system fairer to state legislative races.

- 1. Raise the expenditure limits: In addition to adjusting the match amount based on inflation, the multiplier for different races should also be doubled from its current \$1.40 to \$2.80 to track inflation. When combined with the other changes in the bill, this would bring house races up from their current amount you receive in a primary of ~\$3,000 to around \$10,000. Still not enough to run a race on, but a significant improvement.*
- 2. Further increase the percentage of the expenditure limits that can be matched by the state: While the increase to 22.5% is a welcome step in the right direction, the advent of Citizens United suggests we should be bolder. Increasing this to 50% or even 30% would mean that candidates would be eligible for funds that are truly getting closer to supporting them to run a competitive campaign.*

Increasing public financing can help restore public trust in our political system. When elected officials are less dependent on private contributions, constituents can have greater confidence that policy decisions are made in the public's best interest, rather than being swayed by major donors.

I urge you to support HB 370 with the above amendments. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Lum

‘Ewa Beach, Hawai‘i

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:21:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill to reduce the influence of big money in our elections.

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:51:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The dark turn taken by our national politics should drive us to work harder than ever to preserve and strengthen democracy here in Hawaii. The public financing of elections will help address the toxic impact of money in shaping how elected officials represent the interests of those who put them in office. Please move this bill forward and ensure that we don't miss this opportunity to take steps towards cleansing our political system. The need is urgent. The time is now to act. Mahalo.

To: Judiciary Chair Tarnas and Committee Members

From: Brodie Lockard, Common Cause Hawaii Board Member

Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025

In strong support of HB370

Dear Chair Tarnas and Committee Members—

HB370 will modernize and improve Hawaii's partial public financing program for elections.

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

Please pass this much-needed bill.

Sincerely,

Brodie Lockard
Common Cause Hawaii Board Member

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 5:30:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
The Rev. Prof. GREGORY JOHNSON	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PLEASE vote in FAVOR of HB370.

- Increasing the amount of public funding and providing higher matching rates means that more candidates, especially those without large financial backers, can afford to run for office.
- With stronger public financing, elected officials can focus more on community concerns rather than on fundraising from large donors.
- Lowering the financial barriers helps bring new voices, including grassroots candidates, into the political process.

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:10:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

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

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

Hawaii needs a government that answers to the people not the big money interests of this state.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Susan, Lawai

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:33:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Honorable Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you support HB370, which will modernize and improve Hawaii's partial public financing program for elections.

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

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:14:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

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

Na,

Leo Nahe

HB-370

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:54:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 1/28/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

The cost of campaigning these days means that candidates spend a substantial amount of their time "dialing for dollars" instead of making their case to the voters. Either that or they're self-funding, giving the rich an undemocratic leg up over the common folks. Time to move to public funding. - Dan Freund, Kapaa