



STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 27, 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. 371, Relating to Campaign Contributions.**

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.

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") §11-355 by extending the ban on contributions from state and county contractors to the officers of the contractor and their immediate family. It is common for contractors, the Commission believes, to get around the ban by having those persons connected to the contractor make political contributions. A few of these situations also involved false name contributions where the contributors were reimbursed for their contributions. The bill also extends the ban to HRS Chapter 42F grantees of the state and grantees of the counties via county charter or code, and the officers of the grantee and their immediate family. Grantees, similar to contractors, receive state and local funds and thus should be treated similarly in the context of political contributions. This bill will prevent the corruption, or at least the appearance of corruption, of elected officials.

A concern has been raised that candidates will not readily know who is a government contractor or grantee nor the identities of the officers and immediate family of these entities. The Commission thus recommends an amendment to this measure. On page 4, add a new subsection to read:

¹ The companion bill is S.B. No. 257.

“(h) Each state and county agency shall report to the commission the names of any state or county contractor or grantee and the names of the contractor’s and grantee’s officers and adult immediate family members. The commission shall periodically publish the names of the state and county contractors and grantees, and their officers and adult immediate family members on its website, as reported by the state and county agencies.”²

The Commission requests that this committee pass this measure, as amended.

² This language was modeled after the language contained in current H.B. No. 894 at page 2, lines 7-12.

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 8:50:46 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 HB371**, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.*

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

We appreciate a Yes vote on HB371.

Mahalo Nui !

Green Party of Hawai'i

Suasn RobertsEmery

Co Chair GPH

Paauilo

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:27:05 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 bill.

Mahalo!



150 Hamakua Drive #341
Kailua, HI 96734

our-hawaii.org

Testimony in Support of HB371

Submitted to the House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee
by Evan Weber, Managing Director, Our Hawai'i, 1/28/2025

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

On behalf of Our Hawai'i's over 38,000 members and supporters across the pae 'āina, we write in strong support of House Bill 371, 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.

Our supporters are not alone. Our corruption and public trust in government crisis has reached a tipping point. After years of the FBI putting our officials in handcuffs, resignations, and scandals, [Hawai'i voters as a whole in 2022 ranked government corruption as their number 3 top issue, only behind inflation and affordable housing.](#) In 2024 polling, [2 in 3 \(66%\) voters said they believe elected officials care more about "wealthy donors" than the "needs of their communities."](#) With public trust at or near all time lows, now is the time for action. While some progress has been made in recent years through the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct, there is more opportunity to take action in removing the influence of money in politics.

House Bill 371 aims to close the "pay-to-play" loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai'i's electoral and procurement systems.

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.



HOUSE BILL 371, RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

JANUARY 28, 2025 · JHA HEARING

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports HB 371, relating to campaign contributions, which prohibits state or county grantees, officers and immediate family members of state or county contractors, and officers and immediate family members of state or county grantees from contributing to candidate or noncandidate committees for the duration of the contract; requires candidates, candidate committees, or noncandidate committees to return any unlawful contribution to the contributor within 30 calendar days of receipt; and provides that if any unlawful contribution is not returned to the contributor within 30 calendar days, the unlawful contribution shall escheat to the Hawai'i Election Campaign Fund.

Our democracy belongs to we, the people. At a time when our nation is experiencing extreme political turmoil and basic civil liberties are under assault, we must take steps in Hawai'i to safeguard democratic participation. In the 2024 primary election, for example, our state experienced its lowest turnout in 65 years, with only 32.1 percent of registered voters filling out a ballot. This is, in part, a reflection of the public's deep cynicism with our electoral processes.

Hawai'i continues to be embroiled in public corruption scandals, following the bribery allegations that were levied against former Senate Majority Leader Kalani English and former State Representative Ty Cullen. Other public officials, such as employees at local permitting offices,

have also recently been ensnared in bribery scandals, in some cases with connections to Milton Choy, the lobbyist who was responsible for coordinating the bribery scheme that Sen. English and Rep. Cullen became a part of. These cases show that we have a moral crisis in our public institutions and must do all we can to restore integrity to government.

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

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

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

Contact: educationcaucusdph@gmail.com



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**

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Board Chair

Mary Ochs
Vice Chair

Dr. Arcelita Imasa
Secretary

Kami Yamamoto
Treasurer

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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. 371 Relating to RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.

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. 371 which prohibits state or county grantees, officers and immediate family members of state or county contractors, and officers and immediate family members of state or county grantees from contributing to candidate or noncandidate committees for the duration of the contract.

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. 371 is a common sense measure and an important step in the right direction towards good government reforms. It not only removes the inherent conflicts for legislators but more important, gives our working class interests a fighting chance.

Sincerely,

Sergio Alcubilla
Executive Director

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 8:14:34 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 support HB 371 Relating to campaign contributions.

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

HB 371, along with other bills recommended by the Commission (some which have become law and others now before your committee), would reduce the power of money in politics. Commission Report at pages 30-34.

Passage of HB 371 would go a long way in addressing the abuses of "pay to play" and help restore public trust in our government.

Mahalo, Judge Daniel Foley (ret.)

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 10:16:30 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 2:30:44 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 cannot believe we allow state or county grantees, officers and immediate family members of state or county contractors, and officers and immediate family members of state or county grantees to contribute to candidate or noncandidate committees for the duration of the contract. This is just common sense legislation. Mahalo for your support.

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 2:33:31 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 HB371**, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.*

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

By removing a conflict of interest, this bill makes our elections more fair and transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Please support!

Mahalo,

Lela Kalama, Kea'au, HI

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 3:59:20 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*I am writing in **STRONG support of HB371**, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.*

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

By removing a conflict of interest, this bill makes our elections more fair and transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Mahalo,

Bobbie Best, Wailuku

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 4:48:39 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 HB371**, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.

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

By removing a conflict of interest, this bill makes our elections more fair and transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 4:58:09 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 Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

I am a voter who lives in Hilo. I am testifying in support of HB 371 RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.

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 prohibiting “state or county grantees, officers and immediate family members of state or county contractors, and officers and immediate family members of state or county grantees from contributing to candidate or noncandidate committees for the duration of the contract.”

I urge you to pass HB 371 RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS and help to discourage the “pay to play” political culture in Hawai`i.

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

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 5:29:39 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 HB371, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.

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

By removing a conflict of interest, this bill makes our elections more fair and transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Emelia Briscoe, Honolulu

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 6:19:34 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia 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 HB371**, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.*

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

By removing a conflict of interest, this bill makes our elections more fair and transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 6:30:22 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mishka Sulva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

*My name is Mishka Sulva, and I am writing in **FULL support of HB371**, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active. This is a common sense, much needed reform that can only benefit our state and our democracy.*

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

By removing a conflict of interest, this bill makes our elections more fair and transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Mishka Sulva, Honolulu 96816

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 7:31:31 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 HB371, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active. This bill serves many purposes: it ensures public funds are used for their intended purposes, builds trust, makes our elections more fair and transparent and allows contractors and grantees stay focused on their work.

Thank you

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 7:53:52 PM

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

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

Comments:

Please support

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 8:01:08 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 **strongly** support this bill. Prohibiting contractors and their related parties from making campaign contributions during the term of the contract will help reduce the possible impression of undue influence on elected officials.

Mahalo,

Karolle Bidgood

Kahaluu, HI

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 10:49:45 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 support Closing the Contractor Donation Loophole because it will help prevent contractors and grantees from donating to political campaigns, thus reducing the chances of favoritism in the awarding of grants and contracts.

Mahalo,

Elisa W. Johnston

Makiki

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 6:53:24 AM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Representative Tarnas, Vice Chair Representative Poepoe and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs.

Please support HB371, a good government reform measure, which, to my understanding, would restrict campaign contributions.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:26:42 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 HB371**, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.*

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

By removing a conflict of interest, this bill makes our elections more fair and transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Julia Marrack, Kamuela

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:28:42 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

*I am writing in **STRONG support of HB371**, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.*

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

[PROVIDE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OR ANY ADDITIONS HERE]

By removing a conflict of interest, this bill makes our elections more fair and transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Sven Sorge

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:48:48 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 of Lihue, Kauai and I am writing in **STRONG support of HB408**, which extended the mail-in voter registration deadline to 10 days before the election. By allowing more time to register, it will ensure that more people have the opportunity to participate in the democratic process.*

This bill is supported by the Office of Elections, the agency responsible for registering voters. We should support their initiatives to increase access and accessibility to voting.

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:04:57 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 HB371. 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-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:13:41 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 HB371.

MAHALO FOR CONSIDERING MY TESTIMONY,

ANN SAFFERY

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:18:57 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:

*Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,**I am writing in strong support of House Bill 371, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.**Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, HB 371 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.**This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.**In conclusion, I urge the committee to support HB 371. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.*

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:20:43 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:

HB371 - Closes a major loophole allowing for pay-to-play campaign contributions from government contractors*Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,**I am writing in strong support of House Bill 371, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.**Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, HB 371 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.**This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.**In conclusion, I urge the committee to support HB 371. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.**Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.*

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:29:57 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 HB371. There is too much corruption in our political system. It needs to be changed.

Mahalo

Debra M Javar

Kona, HI

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:32:19 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:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:39:08 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

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:40:58 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:

*Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,**I am writing in strong support of House Bill 371, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.**Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, HB 371 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.**This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.**In conclusion, I urge the committee to support HB 371. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.**Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.*

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:48:22 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aloha Paakaula	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,**I am writing in strong support of House Bill 371, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.**Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, HB 371 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.**This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.**In conclusion, I urge the committee to support HB 371. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.**Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.*

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:03:15 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-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:08:29 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 legislation. Legislators, support the people not the lobbyists

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:35:52 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 proposed measure.

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:39:13 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:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

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

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

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

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

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō‘ili‘ili, HI 96826

HB-371

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

Please support HB371 to close a major loophole allowing for pay-to-play campaign contributions from government contractors!

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:48:34 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Gambino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

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

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

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

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

*Mahalo**Emily Gambino*

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:51:42 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:

*Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,**I am writing in strong support of House Bill 371, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.**Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, HB 371 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.**This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.**In conclusion, I urge the committee to support HB 371. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.**Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.*

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:17:42 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 HB371. Look where Citizens United has gotten us!

Thank you, Linda Legrande

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:20:45 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 HB371, fixing the existing loophole that allows pay-to-play campaign contributions from government contractors.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Eileen McKee, Kihei

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:39:47 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 HB371**, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.

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

I would like more transparency and to be able to trust in my elected government officials and this bill supports that. By removing a conflict of interest, this bill makes our elections more fair and transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Keala Fung, Honolulu Hawaii

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:26:52 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 in strong support of House Bill 371, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.**Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, HB 371 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.**This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.**In conclusion, I urge the committee to support HB 371. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.**Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.*

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:42:09 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 pass this bill to get Big Money out of Hawaii politics, and restore our democracy. Mahalo.

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:45:43 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 House Bills (370, 372, 772, 662) that are 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-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:50:11 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 from Wainiha, Kaua'i. My name is Joell Edwards and I am writing in **STRONG support of HB371**, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.*

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

By removing a conflict of interest, this bill makes our elections more fair and transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Joell Edwards, Wainiha

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 1:05:50 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:

government contractors that contribute campaigns must avoid the perception of ‘buying‘ a contract...

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:25:25 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 this bill (HB 371). It takes a step in the right direction to eliminate "pay to play" in politics. The electorate must be confident that there are backstops in place to prevent politicians from using public office to enrich themselves to the detriment of the public they serve.

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:35:05 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 helping to put an end to
corruption in our State and local government!

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:49:49 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-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:31:08 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,

My name is Maki Morinoue, and I write in **strong support of HB371**, which closes the loophole allowing state and county contractors, grantees, and their immediate family members to contribute to political campaigns during the duration of their contracts or grants.

What Does HB371 Do?

- Prohibits contractors, grantees, their officers, and immediate family members from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.
- Prevents indirect political influence tied to contracts or grants.
- Requires political committees to return unlawful contributions within 30 days or have them transferred to the Hawai'i Election Campaign Fund.

Why Is This Important?

- Reduces undue influence and favoritism in awarding government contracts and grants.
- Ensures public funds are used solely for their intended purposes, not to sway political decisions.
- Builds public trust by making government decisions and elections fairer and more transparent.

Closing this loophole strengthens the integrity of our elections and ensures contractors and grantees remain focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Maki Morinoue

Holualoa, HI

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:50:16 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 HB371**, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.

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

By removing a conflict of interest, this bill makes our elections more fair and transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Stacey Alapai, Makawao Maui

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 4:49:22 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

Yes, close the loopholes

Fred Hofer

Hilo

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 5:05:54 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:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mark Jakubowski

808.371.4382

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 5:47:27 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JarraeTehani Manasas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in **STRONG support of HB371**, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.

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

By removing a conflict of interest, this bill makes our elections more fair and transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Mahalo for your consideration!

JarraeTehani Manasas, Kailua Kona Hawai'i

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:50:33 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 in strong support of House Bill 371, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:09:01 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:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Jennifer Lum

‘Ewa Beach, Hawai‘i

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:16:03 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:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee. My name is Christine Andrews from Wailuku, Maui. I submit this testimony in SUPPORT of HB371, and request that you vote to pass this bill. It is one of the Foley Commission measures that has not yet been made law. Now is the time to consider and pass all of the Foley Commission measures and support a vibrant democratic process in Hawaii.

Thank you for your time,

Christine L. Andrews, J.D.

Wailuku, Maui

To: Judiciary Chair Tarnas and Committee Members
From: Brodie Lockard, Common Cause Hawaii Board Member
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025

In strong support of HB371

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

Public Corruption In The Land Of Aloha

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

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

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

A reform like HB371 has been due in Hawaii for many years. With 2022's convictions of Senator J. Kalani English and Representative Ty Cullen for cash bribes, ethics in our state government has leapt to the front of the public's collective mind.

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

HB371 prohibits contractors and their close contacts from contributing to candidates while a contract is in effect. It's simple and stops the kind of quid pro quo that Hawaii's government is infamous for. The need for it is obvious to anyone who reads Hawaii news. It's been obvious for years.

Please pass this much-needed bill.

Sincerely,

Brodie Lockard
Common Cause Hawaii Board Member

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:24:14 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:

Aloha, I am writing in STRONG support of HB371, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active. Closing this loophole is important because it ensures public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

Thank you,
Kevin Faccenda

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:53:58 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:

This is another way to limit the toxic influence of money in our politics. Please do not squander this opportunity to close off another way in which money changes hands and in the process betrays the public trust. The state of our democracy demands that we act with urgency. Please pass this bill now.

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 1:11:31 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carmela Resuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to make our elections more fair and transparent.

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 5:32:59 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 HB371.

- Preventing contractors and grantees from donating to political campaigns reduces the risk of undue influence or favoritism in government decisions and in the awarding of contracts and grants.
- When the public sees that government contracts and grants are free from political influence, their trust in their elected officials and government increases.

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:15:17 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 HB371**, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.*

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

We do not need Builders telling our legislators what to do.

By removing a conflict of interest, this bill makes our elections more fair and transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Please support!

Mahalo for your consideration!

Susan, Lawai, Kauai

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:29:25 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 HB371, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.

By removing a conflict of interest, this bill makes our elections more fair and transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:48:42 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamra Hayden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. We have a small community and many times we have seen legislature representatives awarded one to several contracts during the sessions and the appearance of favoritism isboffensive to me as a voter. It will at least appear that awarding contracts is a more fair process, with no special treatment to lawmakers who receives these lucrative contracts. Even if there is no violations, that appearance to the community is negative. This bill will hopefully end the appearance of quid pro quo. I am tired of seeing legislatures being paid close to a \$100,000 a year for their second job and then be awarded lucrative contracts during the legislative session. This bill will hopefully be able the stop, or quell the favoritism, for businesses that have benefitted from a position in the legislature We know corruption exists, it is time to end this practice.

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:16:37 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 HB371**, which prevents state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.

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

By removing a conflict of interest, this bill makes our elections more fair and transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Na,

Leo Nahe

HB-371

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:49:36 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:

You rub my back and I'll rub yours. And everyone else pays the price. It's a bad look. Time to end this practice. - Dan Freund, Kapaa