

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. 662, Relating to Campaign Finance.**

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

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

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") §11-302 by repealing the exemption for a candidate's own funds from the definition of contribution. This would make a candidate's use of the candidate's own funds subject to the contribution limits in HRS §11-357. The measure amends HRS §11-359(b) by making contributions from the candidate's immediate family also subject to the contribution limits. Finally, the measure amends HRS §11-371(a) by limiting the amount of a loan from a candidate's own funds to \$2,000 and repealing the ability of a candidate's immediate family to loan the candidate up to \$50,000 (aggregated with contributions) during an election period.

The Commission is especially concerned of the constitutionality of subjecting a candidate's use of the candidate's own funds to contribution and loan limits. These limits on the use of a candidate's own funds would not prevent corruption or the appearance of corruption. The Commission suggests that this measure be deferred so that this committee can seek an opinion from the Department of the Attorney General

The Commission requests that this committee defer this measure.

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:30:01 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!

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 8:08:46 PM

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

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

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT. END RICH PEOPLE BUYING ELECTIONS.

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 10:50:33 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rynetta K	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support. Please PASS this bill.

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 9:24:15 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roy Tanaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB662! This bill helps make our elections fairer by limiting how much wealthy candidates and their families can spend of their own money. Right now, millionaires and billionaires can use huge sums of personal and family money to outspend everyday folks, which can drown out the voices of regular voters. Wealthy candidates cannot understand what working people in Hawai'i deal with every day, like affording housing and struggling to pay bills. By controlling the influence of big money, we give more people a chance to run for office, which means our government can better reflect our community.

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 10:35:35 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 bill will level the playing field. Millions of dollars, on behalf of millionaires, billionaires, have self funded campaigns for offices throughout the country. That is wrong. We do not need rich people, some of whom are autocrats, buying their elections. Please pass this bill. It is long overdue.

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 6:00:16 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aria Juliet Castillo	Individual	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Testimony in Support of Bill Relating to Campaign Finance HB 662

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

I wholeheartedly support the intent of HB 662, but I would like to highlight specific areas of improvement of proposed changes and additional suggestions for amendments.

The proposed \$2,000 aggregate loan limit for candidates' personal funds does not accurately reflect the financial demands of campaigns for various races and does not reflect current contribution limits for different races. Campaign costs differ significantly between local, district, and statewide races. Contribution and loan limits should be adjusted based on the scale of the race. Suggested adjustments include:

2 Year Terms: A loan limit of \$20,000 proportional to the \$2,000 max contribution limit

4 Year Terms, districts: A loan limit of \$40,000 proportional to the \$4,000 max contribution limit

Statewide campaigns: A loan limit of \$60,000, proportional to the \$6,000 max contribution limit, but to be honest, that realistically is not enough start up capital for a professionally run race at that size.

These increased loan amounts ensure candidates have the resources to run competitive campaigns while maintaining reasonable limits. This becomes especially important when factoring in outside influence on a campaign and running along incumbents who have been allowed to accumulate large campaign account balances over their careers, which I am hopeful this committee can address with other bills that will be heard during this session.

The requirement that loans be repaid within one year is unnecessarily restrictive, especially given the limitations on when incumbents can raise funds during legislative sessions. Campaign fundraising often intensifies closer to the election date, which may fall outside the one-year repayment period.

I propose amending the repayment deadline to align with the end of the campaign spending reporting cycle. This adjustment will give candidates sufficient time to manage funds and repay loans without undue pressure or disadvantage.

The proposed aggregate loan limited to other individuals who are not the candidate or immediate family or financial institutions creates an inequitable standard that I find slightly concerning. If candidates can secure loans from others up to the proposed limit, they should be afforded the same limit for loans from their personal or family funds.

This would insure that first-time candidates and those moving into higher office can adequately finance campaigns, particularly in the early stages.

Lastly, I must reiterate that these changes would be an improvement, but they will not benefit anyone but those already with campaign money and in power and who have access to others with money and power. We must address candidate-to-candidate contributions and accumulation of campaign coffers, improve publicly funded options, and better regulate non-candidate committee expenditures.

Please consider incorporating these recommendations into the final version of the bill.

Mahalo,

Aria Juliet Castillo, Kailua O'ahu

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:22:56 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 HB662, a good government reform measure, which, to my understanding, would restrict campaign contributions.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:34:54 AM

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

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

Comments:

I support this good government bill. Prohibiting rich people from buying elections is a no-brainer.

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:06:50 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 HB662. 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-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:16:39 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 STRONGLY SUPPORT HB662.

MAHALO FOR CONSIDERING MY TESTIMONY,

ANN SAFFERY

HB-662

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

HB662 - Disallows self-funded campaigns by wealthy candidates*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-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:23:22 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 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-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:33:25 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 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-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:42:54 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:

*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-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:49:12 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 HB662. I believe this will help to alleviate the rampant political corruptions.

Mahalo

Debra M Javar

Kona, HI

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:06:28 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-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:38:40 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-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:40:18 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 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.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō‘ili‘ili, HI 96826

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:44:30 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:

It's time to stop self-funded campaigns by wealthy candidates. Get money out of politics!

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:50:19 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 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.**Emily Gambino*

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:54:03 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 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-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:04:47 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, I generally support this bill, but I do feel that in due time it would be best to have public financing to avoid any undue influence by lobbyists and outsiders. However, this is a great start and seems to at least attempt to negate the influence of nepotism and oligarchic maneuvering. Mahalo.

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:25:09 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 HB662.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Eileen McKee, Kihei

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:45:48 AM

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 and Members of the Committee,

I **strongly support** this bill. Although a wealthy candidate who can self finance her/his campaign without donors may not intend it, others could see this option as "buying an election".

With limitations and prohibitions in place, other candidates have a more level playing field.

Please support this bill so that wealthy individuals do not have an undue advantage.

Mahalo,

Karolle Bidgood

Kahaluu, HI

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:22:43 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-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:44:08 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-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:47:28 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-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 1:08:26 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:

by definition, this bill speaks for itself ...a government by the wealthy is exacty what we have in Federal governement ..

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:36:18 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:

As a resident and voter in Hawaii, I urge your support for HB662. This bill will help level the playing field for those who seek office by preventing a candidates' ability to use personal family wealth to fund a campaign for office in Hawaii government. This will increase voter confidence in the process: big money can't buy elections.

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:37:45 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, which helps to level the field for those running for public office!

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:51:08 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-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:23:23 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:

We 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.

Mahalo, Bill & Barbara Best, Wailuku

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 5:07:27 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 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.

Mark Jakubowski

808.371.4382

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 6:03:44 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 Committee Members:

I am writing in support of HB 662, which places limits on the amount of loans that a candidate may receive from themselves and other parties.

Importantly, this bill repeals the provision where an immediate family member of the candidate may loan up to \$50,000, which is an excessive sum for given the costs of campaigns for non-statewide or county-wide offices.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:53:13 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:

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-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:11:20 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 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.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Lum

‘Ewa Beach, Hawai‘i

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:17:11 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 HB662, 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 HB662

Dear Chair Tarnas and Committee Members—

This bill closes a major loophole in Hawaii's campaign spending laws allowing wealthy individuals and their families to fund their own campaigns. It eliminates the unfair advantage that candidates can use to, in effect, buy their way into office.

With HB662, people of modest means can raise enough money for a competitive campaign through donors who support their ideas. In a democracy, ideas should always count more than money. This bill would go far in making that principle a reality in Hawaii.

Please pass this much-needed bill.

Sincerely,

Brodie Lockard
Common Cause Hawaii Board Member

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:39:14 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:

"That government is the strongest of which every man feels himself a part." - Thomas Jefferson

It's hard for most folks to feel a part of a government that is made up of wealthy, self-funded politicians.

- Dan Freund, Kapaa