



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 345 SD1 WITH AMENDMENTS
RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawai'i State Capitol

February 26, 2025

10:03 AM

Conference Room 211

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS with amendments** SB345 SD1, which increases the amount of public funds available to candidates for public office who participate in the State's Partial Public Financing program under Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 11, Part J, and increases participating candidates' expenditure limits.

OHA generally supports public financing as a good government measure. The changes proposed in SB345 HD1 will make the public financing program a more viable option for candidates by increasing the funding available—and expenditure limits that candidates must agree to—in order to participate in the public financing system. Increased access to publicly financed campaigns makes elections more accessible, open, and fair.

At the same time, OHA objects to the continued disparity with which OHA is treated under the Partial Public Financing law and SB345 HD1. HRS § 11-423(d) sets forth the campaign expenditure limits under the partial public financing program through a multiplier. The multiplier also affects the amount of public financing available to a candidate. See HRS § 11-425. **OHA trustees are the only candidates who run statewide election campaigns that are not explicitly listed under HRS § 11-423(d), and thus default to the lowest multiplier category with “other offices.”**

Currently the multiplier is \$1.40 for the office of lieutenant governor and \$.20 (20 cents) for OHA candidates. HRS § 11-423(d)(2), (5). While SB345 SD1 increases the multiplier for the other category to 24 cents, this remains significantly lower than the multiplier for the office of Lieutenant Governor, which would increase to \$1.68 if SB345 is enacted. **As a matter of basic equity, OHA respectfully requests that Section 2 be amended on page 3, at line 16, by adding a category: “For the office of Hawaiian affairs” and setting the multiplier amount to \$1.68 in parity with the Lieutenant Governor, another candidate running a statewide campaign.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure that will enhance equity in our elections. We urge this committee to **pass SB345 HD1 with our proposed amendments**, to promote fair, transparent, and equitable governance in the State of Hawai'i.



STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 21, 2025

TO: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 345, S.D. 1, Relating to Public Financing.**

Wednesday, February 26, 2025
10:03 a.m., Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) supports the intent of this bill but has concerns regarding funding.

The bill increases the amount of funds available to qualified candidates participating in the partial public financing program by:

1. Increasing the expenditure limits for elected offices by 20%; and
2. Raising the maximum amount of public funds available from ten or fifteen percent of the expenditure limit to 67% of the expenditure limit.

The bill also increases the matching fund ratio from \$1 for each \$1 of qualifying contributions raised to \$2 for every \$1 of qualifying contributions raised in excess of the minimum qualifying contributions that a candidate must raise to participate in the partial public financing program.

Under this bill, if one candidate for each elected office qualified and received the maximum amount available, the maximum amount available for public financing would be

\$10,298,546 in the primary election and another \$10,298,546 in the general election.¹ Under the existing partial public financing program, if one candidate for each office qualified to receive funding in the 2026 elections, the maximum available for public financing would be \$1,474,306 in the primary election and another \$1,474,306 in the general election.

In Section 5 of the bill, the original version of the bill contained an appropriation of \$16,000,000 for this fiscal year and the same amount for the next fiscal year, into the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund. S.D. 1 blanked out the appropriation amount. The balance in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund is \$2,199,230.60 as of December 31, 2024. Obviously, that amount is insufficient to pay for the bill's enhancement of the partial public financing program. The original draft's appropriation of funds is necessary and should be restored.

Further, the Commission strongly recommends the insertion of a new Section 6 containing an appropriation of \$200,000 for this fiscal year and the same amount for the next fiscal year, for the Commission to hire two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) temporary positions to prepare for this much enhanced partial public financing in the 2026 elections.² The Commission has not had an increase in personnel for the past 29 years despite the number of candidate committees and noncandidate committees having almost doubled in size. Currently, there are only 5 staff members who oversee 700+ committees that have anywhere from 1-3 officers who require assistance on how to comply with the various requirements of campaign finance law thereby generating hundreds of staff hours assisting committees over the phone, in-person, and by email as well as a number of enforcement actions for violations. Under HRS §11-314(7), one of the Commission's 14 duties is to investigate and hold hearings for receiving evidence of any campaign finance violations. The Commission has no investigator on staff and has had to rely on contracts for investigative services with outside agencies.³ In comparison to other State and county good government agencies with compliance and enforcement duties, the Commission has had a modest budget and nominal staff despite a tremendous growth in committees, an expansion in its duties and responsibilities, and enforcement mandates. The Commission respectfully seeks

¹ By the Commission's calculations, the enhancements to the partial public financing program made by this bill increases the funds available to qualified candidates to an amount more than that offered by S.B. No. 51, the measure proposing a comprehensive publicly funded campaign program.

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

³ Act 10, Special Session 1995, was the single year that a sum of \$70,000 was appropriated for one investigator for the Commission for FY 1995-1996 and was then sunset.

your support so that the Commission may ensure that the integrity and transparency of the campaign finance process is upheld.

The Commission supports the intent of this bill so long as the necessary funds are appropriated.



Committee on Ways and Means
Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Vice Chair Sharon Y. Moriwaki]

February 26, 2025, 10:02 and Room 211
SB345 SD1 — RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB345 SD1. The League of Women Voters of the US believes that methods of financing political campaigns should enable candidates to compete equitably for public office and ensure that candidates have sufficient funds to communicate their messages to the public. Hawaii's Partial Public Funding Program (PPFP) is intended to support those goals.

Public financing of campaigns for political office is an investment in good governance, like budgeting for the Office of Elections or the Campaign Spending Commission or the Legislature itself. Public Financing can return the value invested in it by increasing the extent to which elected officials work for the benefit of all state residents, rather than wealthy businesses or individuals; increasing voter confidence in government; and encouraging more citizen participation in elections and communication with their representatives.

The cost of this investment is not large. Supporting SB345 SD1 would cost less than \$5million in the 2026 election year, even assuming a very large increase in the number of candidates seeking and qualified for public financing. That is a very small addition to the State budget, as this committee is well aware. It is also quite possible that legislative spending would be more effective and efficient when directed by the needs and values of the population, rather than being swayed by financial relationships with special interests. Please make this investment in good governance in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



LATE

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports: SB345
Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 10:05am; Conference Room 211**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

HAPA strongly supports Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) strongly supports SB 345, which strengthens our state's partial public campaign financing system by increasing the matching funds available to candidates and ensuring adequate funding for the program.

Hawai'i's partial public financing system has not been meaningfully updated in over two decades, despite inflation and the rising cost of running for office. The program was established in the public interest to reduce the influence of large private donors and ensure fairer elections. However, the current funding levels are inadequate, making it difficult for candidates to rely on public financing as a viable option.

SB 345 addresses this issue by increasing the cap on matching funds to 67% of the campaign expenditure limit, raising the expenditure limit itself by 20%, and doubling the public match to \$2 for every \$1 in qualifying contributions beyond the minimum threshold.

The proposed changes in SB345 align with other reform efforts in the state. In 2023, lawmakers passed many recommendations from the Foley Commission, including strengthening penalties for government fraud and reforming lobbying practices. However, some of the toughest reform measures, such as full public financing of elections and prohibiting campaign contributions during legislative sessions, have yet to be enacted.

This bill also ensures that the Campaign Spending Commission has the resources necessary to administer and oversee the program effectively. It appropriates \$16 million over the next two fiscal years to replenish the Hawai'i Election Campaign Fund, which has been underfunded for years. Without this investment, the program cannot function as intended.

We urge you to support SB345 as you have the opportunity to respond to public sentiment for an equitable and transparent electoral system.

Thank you for your support and consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:15:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalitoin strongly supports the expansion of financing of candidates who do not have the big money it takes to run for office. Let's get the public involved in government.

Mahalo for your time.



150 Hamakua Drive #341
Kailua, HI 96734

our-hawaii.org

Testimony in Support of SB345

Submitted to the Senate Ways and Means Committee
by Evan Weber, Managing Director, Our Hawai'i, 2/27/2025

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and all Committee members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify before you today. On behalf of Our Hawai'i's over 38,000 members and supporters across the pae 'āina, I write in strong support of Senate Bill 345, which expands the state's Partial Public Financing Program to reduce the influence of big money in politics and make elections more accessible to everyday people.

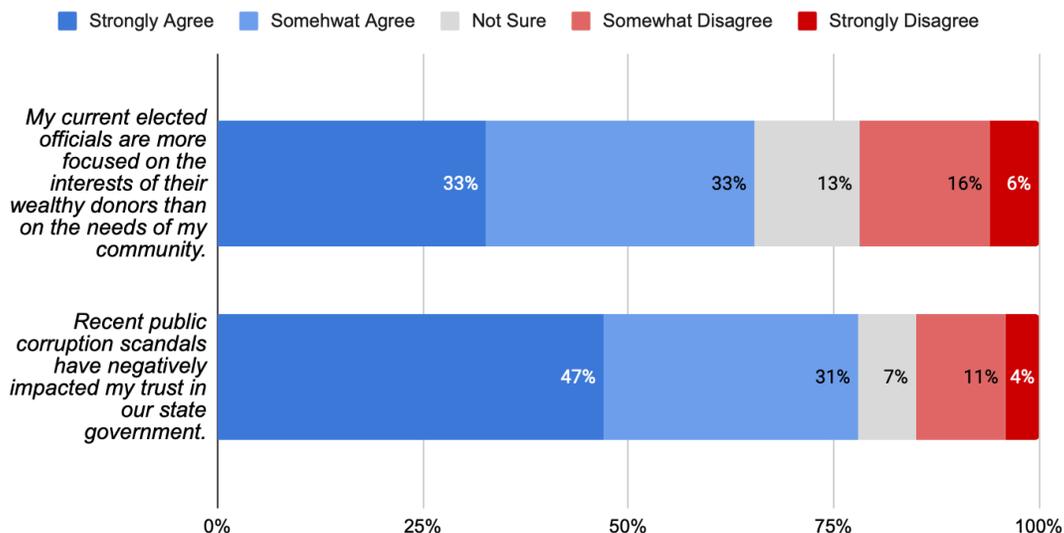
Our members and supporters are local people—kama'āina and kānaka maoli, keiki and kūpuna, from Kaua'i to Kohala, Kailua to Kapolei, and every place in between. They have joined our movement to fight for a Hawai'i that puts local people first—not wealthy donors and special interests. They see every day how money in politics distorts our government and keeps real solutions out of reach.

The Status Quo Has Failed, and Public Trust is at an All-Time Low

Hawai'i voters overwhelmingly believe our political system is broken. After years of corruption scandals, arrests, and resignations, people are losing faith in their government. In the 2022 election, [polling](#) found that voters ranked corruption as their third top issue—behind only inflation and affordable housing. A [2024 survey](#) by the Clean Elections Hawai'i Coalition found that two out of three voters (66%) believe elected officials care more about their wealthy donors than the needs of their communities. Worse, 90% of voters believe campaign contributions influence lawmakers, with over half believing they do so “greatly.”

We cannot afford to let this continue. If we want a government that works for the people, we need to change how campaigns are funded.

Two Out of Three Voters Say Elected Officials Care More About Wealthy Donors Than Needs of Communities



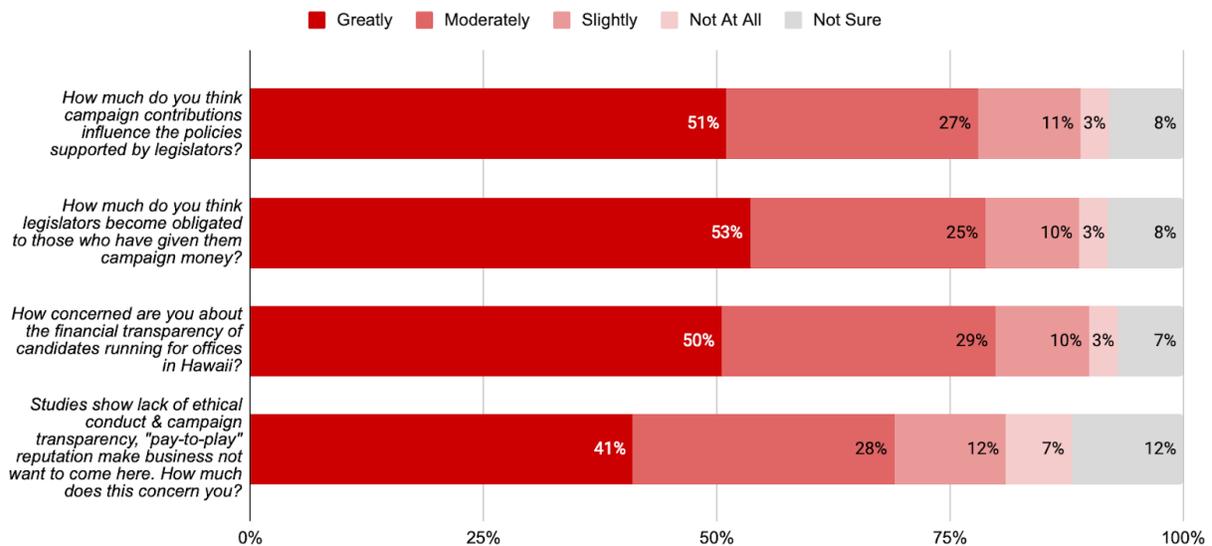


150 Hamakua Drive #341
Kailua, HI 96734

our-hawaii.org

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

"Great" Concern Over Money In Politics and Private Campaign Spending for Majorities



SB 345 Strengthens Our Democracy by Expanding Public Financing

While progress has been made in recent years, it is not enough. SB 345 builds on Hawai'i's existing Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the amount of public funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the match ratio. These changes will make it a real alternative to relying on wealthy donors and special interests to fund campaigns.

Expanding public financing will allow more grassroots candidates—those without deep-pocketed backers—to run competitive campaigns. It will free elected officials from the constant pressure of fundraising and instead allow them to focus on what truly matters: delivering for their constituents. That's how democracy is supposed to work!

This bill does not radically upend our system; instead, it improves an existing, underutilized program. Incumbents will still be able to compete, and the overall partisan makeup of the legislature will not significantly shift. What will change is who has influence—moving power away from big donors and lobbyists and back to the people.

The people of Hawai'i are tired of a system where wealthy donors call the shots. Expanding public financing won't fix everything overnight, but it is a necessary step toward a government that truly represents the people—not just those who can afford to bankroll campaigns. Mahalo nui loa for your leadership and commitment to restoring trust in our democracy. Together, we can move toward a brighter future for Hawai'i.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 11:34:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Love	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A hundred percent increase in taxpayer funds toward campaigning. No, absolutely not.

Thank you

Mrs Ruth Love

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:10:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a citizen guided by principles of championing free markets, fiscal responsibility, and fair elections, I submit this testimony in strong opposition to SB345. This bill hikes public campaign financing to 67% of expenditure limits, boosts matching funds from \$1 to \$2 per qualifying dollar, raises spending caps (e.g., governor from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per voter), and appropriates taxpayer dollars for it. It claims to curb private influence but balloons government interference. I urge you—Republicans and Democrats alike—to **VOTE NO**. Here’s why this bill fails Hawaii.

It Drains Taxpayer Dollars from Real Needs

Jumping public funding to 67% of limits—potentially millions annually starting 2025-2026—siphons cash from struggling families to political campaigns. Hawaii’s 2023 budget already strains to fund schools (underfunded by \$200 million, DOE data) and housing. Democrats, you’ve fought for working-class relief—why divert their hard-earned taxes to pad candidate war chests when kids need books and rents soar? This isn’t fairness; it’s waste.

It Favors Big Government Over Grassroots

Doubling matching funds to \$2 per \$1 and hiking caps (e.g., \$1.68 per voter for senators) tilts elections toward well-connected insiders who hit thresholds like \$100,000 for governor, sidelining small donors. In 2020, private contributions totaled \$14 million (Campaign Spending Commission)—proof grassroots works. Democrats, you’ve pushed for small-donor power—why drown it out with a taxpayer-funded megaphone for establishment players? This stacks the deck, not levels it.

It Grows Bureaucracy, Not Democracy

Raising funding from 10% to 67% of limits and adding staff via appropriations bloats the Campaign Spending Commission when we should cut waste. Trump’s tax cuts grew revenue 10% (2017-2019) by shrinking government, not expanding it. Democrats, you’ve demanded efficient services—why pile on a costly program that’s ballooned spending 300% since 2004 (state data) instead of trimming fat? We need lean governance, not handouts.

It Ignores Private Funding’s Success

Hawaii's elections thrive without this overreach—2022 saw 60% voter turnout with \$12 million privately raised (Commission stats). Caps like \$3.00 per voter for governor just juice up campaigns, not competition. Democrats, you've sought corporate accountability—why not cap big donors instead of taxing families to fund ads? Free markets, not public wallets, should drive elections.

It Undermines Our Shared Values

Committee members, we all want fair elections—Republicans prize liberty and thrift, Democrats seek equity and access. SB345 fails both by misusing taxes, favoring insiders, and growing government. **VOTE NO** to keep Hawaii's campaigns accountable to voters, not bureaucrats. Let's invest in people—schools, homes, jobs—not a 67% taxpayer-funded political machine that drowns out the little guy.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 5:52:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

My name is Brett Kulbis, I'm a 26yr Navy Veteran and Retired Civil Servant. I live in Ewa Beach.

I OPPOSE SB-345.

SB-345 proposes significant changes to Hawaii's Partial Public Financing Program. There are several concerns with expanding this program which I strongly suggest you consider:

1. **Fiscal irresponsibility:** Increasing public funding for campaigns places an additional burden on taxpayers. As a taxpayer I don't want my tax dollars going to a candidate I don't support.
2. **Effectiveness concerns:** There is extremely limited evidence that increased public financing leads to significant improvements in electoral outcomes or reduces the influence of special interests. We already have partial public financing and less than 1% of 141 candidates in the 2024 election opted-in for program, suggesting that simply increasing funding may not address underlying issues.
3. **Complexity:** The existing rules are already complex and confusing, as demonstrated by former Congressman Kai Kahele's failure to file appropriate paperwork for his 2022 gubernatorial campaign. Increasing the matching fund ratio may further complicate the system.
4. **Unintended consequences:** Raising the expenditure cap by 20% will lead to more expensive campaigns overall, potentially increasing the influence of money in politics rather than reducing it.

Instead of expanding the public financing program, I urge the committee to consider focusing on voter education initiatives to increase informed participation in the electoral process.

Respectfully, I encourage you to vote NO on SB-345.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 11:05:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB345**, which increases the amount of matching funds in Hawai‘i’s partial public financing program for elections.

This bill is a critical step in making our electoral process more accessible to grassroots candidates who are deeply connected to their communities. By raising the matching funds ratio to 2-to-1, we enable more diverse voices to run for office—voices that might otherwise struggle against the influence of big money in politics. Candidates who rely on smaller donations from everyday residents are more likely to focus on the real issues affecting our communities, such as the high cost of living, environmental protections, and Indigenous rights.

The partial public financing program has existed since 1978, but its funding limits have remained unchanged for over two decades. Meanwhile, the cost of living in Hawai‘i has skyrocketed, making it increasingly difficult for candidates to run competitive campaigns. SB345 ensures that campaign funds reflect the financial realities of today, covering essential costs like outreach materials, venue rentals, and advertising.

By strengthening this program, we uphold our state constitution’s directive to provide public funding for elections and reaffirm our commitment to a fair and representative democracy. I urge the committee to pass SB345 to support a political system that is truly by and for the people of Hawai‘i.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

Mō‘ili‘ili, HI 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Executive Commission Member

Board Member, Hawai‘i Workers Center

Kanaka Maoli/Lineal Descendant of the Hawaiian Kingdom

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:06:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:07:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:09:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Dedely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:19:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joelle Seashell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:32:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cari Sasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill. Taxpayer money shouldn't be going to fund political campaigns at all, but we certainly shouldn't be increasing the amount of taxpayer money spent in this manner.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:51:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madeleine D Fernandez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill!

This bill jacks up taxpayer funding for political campaigns to 67% of spending limits, handing liberals a bigger megaphone to drown out conservatives voices.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:20:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin D. Ganitano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB345 which this bill jacks up taxpayer funding for political campaigns to 67% of spending limits.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:52:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlies Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose,

a waste of our tax money

take care of Maui

no pay increase

Marlies Lee

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:07:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deven English	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of this bill

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:24:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bart Burford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this measure - Sincerely, Bart

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:35:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ailanna Lagmay-josiah	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Us taxpayers should not be funding for political campaign spending let alone not no 67% the political opponents should funding their own political campaign.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:28:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Littleton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB345

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:01:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Wyand	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill jacks up taxpayer funding for political campaigns to 67% of spending limits, handing liberals a bigger megaphone to drown out conservative voices. VOTE NO!

Committee on WAYS AND MEANS
Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Y. Moriwaki

Wednesday, February 26, 2025, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

SB 345 SD! — RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING

TESTIMONY

Janet Mason, Honolulu

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members:

I strongly support SB 345, SD1 that raises the cap on the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates for the Hawaii Partial Public Financing Program. The bill increases the cap on the amount of expenditures a candidate can make and increases the matching fund ratio from \$1 for each \$1 of qualifying contributions raised by a candidate to \$2 for each \$1 of qualifying contributions raised above the minimum qualifying contributions that a candidate must raise.

I served on the 2022 State Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct; having a robust public financing of elections program in Hawaii was one of our top priorities, if not the very top priority. Yet three years later the promise of “Improved Standards of Conduct” remains unfulfilled because this foundational recommendation has not been a State priority. While there is no guarantee that improvements in Hawaii’s public financing program would prevent public corruption, no reasonable person would deny it would help.

I call public financing of campaigns “foundational,” underlaying all other reform measures. For example, this year your legislature is poised to strengthen lobbyist disclosures, also a major recommendation of the 2022 Commission. This is important progress, as Robert Harris, Executive Director of our State Ethics Commission, has pointed out. But disclosure doesn’t provide an alternative economic basis for paying campaign expenses, while public financing of campaigns does. What if candidates could campaign without worrying about raising money to pay for the campaign? More time with the community could be expected, and that’s a good thing for democracy.

Your Committee juggles many worthwhile requests for funding State programs, but I hope you will fund this bill. Show the rest of the United States that Hawaii citizens believe in democracy; ours is a State “of the people by the people and for the people.”

I hope the Campaign Spending Commission already has sufficient staff resources to run this program and defer to the Commission about an adequate appropriation for this bill. Please make the effective date of the bill correspond with the 2026 elections.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:49:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:45:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirk Powles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Tax payers shouldn't be paying for any campaigning, let alone increase the amount available to them.

Fund your own campaign with your own money.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:46:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharron VanDeusen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose!

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:47:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey F Mizuno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:12:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bronson Teixeira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in strong opposition to this bill. Mahalo

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:47:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Wing	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:43:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Giles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB345,

Paul Giles

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:45:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Sutherland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:45:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

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Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:52:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai'i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Fred Hofer

Hilo

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:53:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert H. Pahia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha , please support SB345 and create transparency and equity in the political and legislative arena. Mahalo for your support

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:56:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai'i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:57:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 2:59:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for moving this bill thru ~ the public's trust must be regained!

best, Linda Legrande

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:01:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:02:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities. This shift toward grassroots support is crucial for building trust and ensuring that the political process remains inclusive and representative.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government, where the voices of all residents, regardless of their financial means, are heard and valued.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Lum, ‘Ewa Beach

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:04:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Ann V Saffery

Honolulu, HI

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:12:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Egbo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support **SB 345**, which seeks to **enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program** by increasing the **maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates**, raising **expenditure limits**, and improving the **matching fund ratio**. These reforms are **crucial** to ensuring **fairer elections** and **reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests** in our political system.

Currently, candidates must **rely heavily on private contributions**, which can lead to **unequal representation** and policies that **favor the affluent over everyday citizens**. **SB 345 levels the playing field** by increasing the cap on **matching funds** and **adjusting expenditure limits**, empowering **qualified candidates—regardless of personal wealth or donor connections—to run competitive campaigns**. This fosters **greater diversity in leadership** and ensures that **elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, not just major donors**.

Expanding **public financing** also **amplifies the voices of regular citizens** by prioritizing **grassroots voter engagement** over **large-scale donations**. Candidates will be encouraged to **connect with a broader base of supporters**, leading to **policies that better reflect the needs of our communities**.

Implementing these changes is a **proven, cost-effective investment** in the **integrity of our democracy**. Similar programs in other states have **increased voter participation and public trust** without imposing significant costs. **By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a major step toward a more equitable, representative, and accountable government**.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that **all Hawai‘i residents have a voice in their government**.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:13:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chamundi Sabanathan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I beg you to support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai'i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, leading to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and helps ensure that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of ordinary citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai'i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai'i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee,

Strong support for SB 345

Enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Respectively submitted,

Keith Neal
Waimea

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:21:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Barbour	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:23:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lory Ono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

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Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Lory Ono

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:24:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

I fully support this change.

Richard Janik, MD Lihue, Kauai

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:32:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:35:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

I am a voter!

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:48:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Please do not let money be the deciding factor for whom to vote!

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 3:49:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha committee members,

I strongly support SB 345. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

By adopting SB 345, Hawai'i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

Democracy is a dream worth fighting for.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

pamela burrell, Kalihiwai, Kaua'i, 96754

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:01:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:19:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TOM DIGRAZIA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:21:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Ann Napualani Furtado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha all!

I support this!

mahalo!

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:37:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:38:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Langham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:44:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I strongly support this bill and hope you will too.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai'i residents are heard.

Mahalo,

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:48:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:58:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kumella Aiu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Kumella Aiu

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:11:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Valdez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:18:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Grandinetti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:54:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai'i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai'i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai'i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

R A Culbertson

Honokaa

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 5:58:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:01:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Keala Fung and i strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Keala Fung, Honolulu

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:12:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

****Testimony in Opposition to SB345****

Aloha e nā Senators,

My name is Tiare Smith, a proud Native Hawaiian and resident of Kahalu‘u, O‘ahu, where I have lived for 45 years. As a kama‘āina deeply rooted in this community, I write to express my unequivocal opposition to Senate Bill 345 (SB345), a measure that purports to enhance the partial public financing program for election campaigns but, in practice, threatens to precipitously undermine the democratic integrity and equitable representation that Hawai‘i’s electoral system should uphold. While the intent to mitigate the influence of large private donors is laudable, the mechanisms proposed in this bill are fundamentally flawed, antithetical to the public interest, and disproportionately disadvantageous to grassroots candidates like those I have witnessed emerge from our rural and Native Hawaiian communities over decades.

My opposition rests on three principal arguments: first, the bill’s dramatic increase in public funding caps and expenditure limits distorts the electoral playing field; second, it disenfranchises smaller, community-driven campaigns by prioritizing well-resourced candidates; and third, it squanders taxpayer resources on a system that fails to address the root causes of electoral inequity.

First, SB345 proposes raising the maximum amount of matching public funds to sixty-seven percent of the expenditure limit—a six-fold increase from the current ten percent for most offices—and elevates the matching fund ratio to \$2 for every \$1 of qualifying contributions beyond the minimum threshold. Simultaneously, it increases expenditure caps by twenty percent across all offices. This escalation is not a mere adjustment; it is a tectonic shift that tilts the electoral landscape toward candidates already capable of amassing significant private contributions. For instance, a gubernatorial candidate could now access up to \$4,020,000 in

public funds (based on 1,000,000 registered voters at \$3.00 per voter, capped at sixty-seven percent), provided they raise sufficient qualifying contributions. Such a structure rewards those with pre-existing networks of affluent supporters, rendering the system less a tool for equity and more a subsidy for entrenched political elites. This is antithetical to the constitutional mandate of 1978, which envisioned public financing as a leveling mechanism, not a multiplier of privilege.

Second, this bill effectively disenfranchises the very candidates it claims to support: those from underserved communities, including Native Hawaiian and rural constituencies like Kahalu‘u. Over my 45 years here, I have seen local leaders—teachers, farmers, cultural practitioners—step forward to run for office with modest means but profound community trust. These candidates often struggle to meet even the current minimum qualifying contribution thresholds, let alone compete in a system where matching funds balloon to favor opponents who can leverage urban donor bases or professional fundraising apparatuses. By inflating both funding and expenditure limits, SB345 ensures that grassroots campaigns, already constrained by time and resources, will be drowned out by the cacophony of well-financed rivals. This is not empowerment; it is exclusion masquerading as reform.

Third, the appropriation of unspecified millions from the general fund to the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund—without rigorous justification or oversight—represents an imprudent diversion of taxpayer resources. In an era when our state grapples with housing crises, educational disparities, and the preservation of ‘āina sacred to Native Hawaiians, it is unconscionable to funnel such sums into a program that disproportionately benefits candidates least in need of public support. The legislature must interrogate whether this expenditure truly serves the public interest or merely entrenches a political class insulated from the struggles of everyday residents like those in Kahalu‘u. Without addressing the underlying disparities in fundraising capacity—such as access to donor networks or campaign infrastructure—this bill offers a superficial fix that belies its stated purpose.

In conclusion, SB345, while cloaked in the rhetoric of fairness, portends a future where electoral influence is further concentrated among the already powerful, where community voices are marginalized, and where public resources are squandered on a flawed experiment. I urge this body to reject this measure and instead pursue reforms that genuinely amplify the voices of Native Hawaiians, rural residents, and all underrepresented citizens of our state. Let us not sacrifice the democratic ideals of equity and inclusion on the altar of misguided policy.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiare Smith

Kahalu'u, O'ahu

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:25:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I SUPPORT SB 345 SD1 which raises the cap on the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates for the Hawai'i Partial Public Financing Program. Increases the cap on the amount of expenditures a candidate can make in the Program. Increases the matching fund ratio from \$1 for each \$1 of qualifying contributions raised by a candidate to \$2 for each \$1 of qualifying contributions raised in excess of the minimum qualifying contributions that a candidate must raise to participate in the Program. Appropriates funds. Effective 4/23/2057. (SD1)

This will be a cost-effective way to enhance the voice of the citizens of our islands. Personal wealth and large donor base should not be the determining factors for a person to be in the legislature.

C. Burghardt

Kou Oahu

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:44:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

I prefer entirely financing elections publicly. However I would support this only if the other bill fails. We need to have faith in our legislatures and legislation. Right now after so many corruption cases over the past decade in Hawai'i, there is not a lot of faith or the desire to vote when so many believe that there is dark money behind elections. Or one politician gets more air time because they get most of the money and maybe the most honest candidate gets less time, and therefore the politicians that has more "connections" and the ability to scam voters wins. A common comment I hear is "why bother, it's already decided. People want to believe elections are fair. This bill and the bill for totally using public finance in elections will go a long way to developing more faith in you all and in future elections. After the recent Civil Beat article on how few bills are actually passed during each session caused an uproar among voters. We pay increasingly high salaries, and yet very few bills get passed. The voters need to feel heard. I would like to feel heard. Please pass some form of public financing for elections.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:57:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa Landreau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai'i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:08:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Klyman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill makes sense as funding campaigns have gotten much more expensive over the years. Updating this HRS statute is needed to help provide meaningful funding for candidates seeking an elected office. I encourage you to approve this bill that will allow a more realistic amount of funding expenditure for a campaign.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:11:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:28:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James K. Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 7:59:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Caroline Kunitake

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:19:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorna Holmes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 345, which would improve the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and upping the matching fund ratio. These reforms will help reduce the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Enhancing public financing also amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over seeking big donors. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard. Mahalo for your attention.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:58:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
carol lee kamekona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I highly support this bill. As a Candidate who has run 3 times for Maui County Council and have had Super Pacs donate an astronomical amount of money to my opponent in each of those elections, it makes it very hard for a grassroots Candidate to even come close to being able to run a successful campaign.

again, I wholeheartedly support this bill. Mahalo!

Carol Lee Kamekona

Kahului, Maui

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:28:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayna Matsumura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is a waste of tax payer money.

Oppose,

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:29:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace Vizcarra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HELL NO!! WE SHOULD NOT BE PROVIDING ANYMORE TAX DOLLARS TOWARD POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS THAT HAVE SHOWN TO PROVE NOTHING BUT A BIG WASTE OF HARD EARNED MONEY!! NO THANK YOU. GOD KNOWS & SEES ALL!!

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:35:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai'i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai'i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai'i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Andrew Isoda

Lahaina, Mau'i

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:39:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cardenas Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai'i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai'i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai'i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Cardenas (Cards) Pintor

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:42:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J Miles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill and do not want my tax dollars going to fund candidates I may not agree with.

Thank you.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:45:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emerson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I dont want my tax dollars going to funding politcal campaigns. This is a waste of my tax dollars and money laundering. They already have boosters to assist with that. Not my tax dollars. Fix the potholes. Liberals are just going to abuse it and skew the polls. Fair polling is required just like fair voting.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:47:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:55:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which strengthens Hawai'i's Partial Public Financing Program by increasing matching funds, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching ratio. These reforms level the playing field, making it easier for candidates without wealthy donors to run competitive campaigns and ensuring elected officials are accountable to the people, not special interests.

Public financing empowers grassroots candidates, increases voter engagement, and strengthens trust in our democracy. SB 345 is a smart, cost-effective step toward fairer elections. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:59:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill. Do not use our tax money for people who will lie to us to stay in power. Fix Maui, fix our roads and infrastructure. Do not pass this bill.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:00:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanna Maile Pokipala Resurrection	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am unsure why anyone thinks this is how I want to spend my tax money. I am disappointed in the lower level thinking in this bill. I oppose this bill. Please do not make me pay for people that I wouldn't support at all.

Mahalo,

Joanna M P Resurrection

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:01:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Pang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Opposition to Hawai'i Senate Bill 345

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 345, which seeks to raise the cap on the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates in the Hawai'i Partial Public Financing Program. While the intention behind this legislation may be to promote equitable campaign financing, I believe it poses significant concerns that could adversely affect our electoral process.

Firstly, increasing the cap on matching funds and expenditures could lead to an escalation in campaign spending, which may contradict the original purpose of public financing—making elections more accessible and fair. By allowing candidates to utilize higher amounts of public funds, we risk creating an environment where only those who can attract substantial donations can compete effectively. This could marginalize grassroots candidates who rely on smaller contributions and community support, ultimately undermining the democratic process.

Moreover, the proposed matching fund ratio of \$2 for every \$1 of qualifying contributions raises concerns about the sustainability of public financing in our state. As we are all aware, taxpayer resources are finite, and diverting more funds to political campaigns could strain our budget and limit the availability of resources for essential public services such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure. It is critical that our government prioritizes the needs of its citizens over funding political campaigns.

Additionally, the bill may inadvertently favor candidates who can raise large sums of money, which could lead to an imbalance in the competitiveness of elections. This could discourage diverse voices and perspectives from participating in the political arena, ultimately harming the representation of our community's interests.

In conclusion, while Senate Bill 345 aims to enhance public financing, I believe it would have the opposite effect by increasing campaign spending, straining public resources, and potentially skewing the electoral landscape in favor of well-funded candidates. I urge lawmakers to reconsider this bill and explore more effective ways to promote equitable campaign financing that truly supports all candidates.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this crucial issue.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:19:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vernelle Oku	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Respectfully request no additional taxpayer funding for political campaigns.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:36:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alika Valdez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:44:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariana Monasi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:51:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB345.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:54:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gioia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL SB345 THIS IS NOT A BILL THAT WILL BENEFIT US WE THE PEOPLE AS TAX PAYERS!!!

A USELESS BILL BECAUSE YOU PEOPLE ALREADY WANT RAISES AND US RESIDENTS AND PEOPLE OF HAWA'II PAY ALOT TO JUST SURVIVE HERE YOU GUYS ARE NOT HELP US PEOPLE YOU GUYS ARE GREEDY AND WANT MONEY FOR YOURSELVES!!! THIS BILL IS NONSENSE WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THE OTHER MONEY YOU STILL DIDN'T PAY CITY AND COUNTY WORKERS WHO WORK IN THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT DURNING COVID AND YOU GUYS WANT TAX PAYER DOLLARS TO FUND WHATEVER YOU GUYS WANT WITH OUR MONEY I DON'T THINK SO !!!! SO CORRUPT YOU GUYS BETTER LISTEN TO US PEOPLE ABOUT WHAT OUR TESTIMONY SAYS AND IF YOU GUYS DON'T ABIDE BY THE PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP YOU GUYS WILL NOT BE FUNDED AT ALL !!!!

ALREADY BUILDING WORTHLESS THINGS ON OUR AINA!!!!

I OPPOSE THIS BILL SB345!!!!

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:58:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Curt Oishi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB345. We don't need to give our politicians more money in pay and for campaigning. We have bigger issues such as Education.

Mahalo

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:21:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lionel Delos Santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legisalture i oppose bill sb345 because not fair to give tax money to funds campaign that most people that we dont vote for , and spending money on useless thing.

thank you

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:35:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dorinda Ohelo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:42:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jon DS	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill SB345

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:46:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blaine De Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB345.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:47:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerald Tariao Montano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gerald Montano. I am a resident of Maui.

I **strongly support** SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens, such as the working class, racial & ethnic minorities, and members of the MVPFAFF/2SLGBTQIA+ community. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. *Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs.* By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to **pass SB 345** to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Gerald Montano

Kahului, HI

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 11:55:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matt Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

taxpayers do not need to contribute more of our tax dollars to politicians seeking re-election.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 12:48:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kainani Clark	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Using tax payer money to fund certain individuals campaigns is not pono. I strongly oppose this bill.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 2:02:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL!!!

This bill has a DOGE Audit written all over it. DOGE is coming soon to really start regulating state government fundings, and the fact that you want to jack up tax payer dollars for political agendas, is just WRONG! Raise your own funds for political campaigns, and use OUR taxes for things like education, homelessness, and lowering cost of living in this state.

This Government just proves that you are NOT for the people!!! All I see is more power, more greed, more control.

I highly oppose this bill!

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 2:53:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Llanes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai'i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process. Elon Musk is the perfect example!

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai'i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 3:43:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai'i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Jane Arnold

1763 Iwi Way, Apt D

Honolulu HI. 96816

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:15:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kim santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote no on this bill. Thank you

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:58:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl M Nakagawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time to support this critical bill.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:19:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Javellana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 7:52:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MaryAnn Wagner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB345 as a good way to safeguard our elections and ensure that our politicians are paying attention to what the community wants, and not big donors.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:22:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reid Oya	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB345

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:26:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Nichols	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm against S.B. No. 345 because it's a wasteful expansion of an already questionable system that dumps more taxpayer money into political campaigns, and I don't trust the Campaign Spending Commission to manage it worth a damn. I get the idea—leveling the playing field sounds nice—but why should I fork over my hard-earned cash to prop up candidates I might not even support? Raising the expenditure caps and jacking up the matching funds to \$2 for every \$1 feels like a handout to politicians who can already fundraise. The old limits worked fine for decades; this just smells like greed dressed up as reform. Plus, that 67% cap on public funds is a huge leap from 10%—where's the proof we need to triple down on this? I've seen how the commission fumbles; they can barely keep track of what's already on their plate, let alone handle a bigger pot of money without screwing it up or playing favorites. Hawaii's got bigger problems than juicing up campaign budgets; our roads are crumbling, and housing's a nightmare. Throwing unspecified millions into the election fund for 2025-2027, when the bill doesn't even kick in until 2057—or is that a typo?—is sloppy and reeks of mismanagement. I'd rather see that money fix something real, not pad some politician's ad budget while the commission bumbles through it. This isn't fairness; it's a cash grab I don't trust, especially not in their shaky hands.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:48:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
gabrielle davidson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:01:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Wagner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As we have seen in the current presidency, money has the influence to let you buy your way into positions of power. Voters in Hawai'i deserve to be protected from this abuse of power, and it is the legislature's duty to protect residents and voters. I strongly support SB345 because it would ensure that elections in Hawai'i cannot be bought.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:07:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ranee Jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

345 SB RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING.

This is not right. I oppose this bill.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:15:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and WAM Committee Members Henry Aquino, Lynn DeCoite, Lorraine Inouye, Dru Kanuha, Michelle Kidani, Donna Kim, Chris Lee, Sharon Moriwaki, Maile Shimabukuro, Glenn Wakai, and Kurt Fevella,

I am a voter who lives in Hilo. I am testifying in strong support of SB 345 RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING.

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

The amounts available to candidates in Hawaii’s partial public financing program was last amended in 1995. This Act increases matching fund payments from \$1 for each \$1 of qualifying contributions in excess of the minimum qualifying contribution amounts to \$2 for each \$1 of excess qualifying contributions.

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

I urge you to pass SB 345 RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING and help to reduce the effect of big money in politics.

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

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:38:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry Murakami	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose. We don't need more taxpayers money to be funding political campaigns.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:43:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn O'Brien	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives of We the Citizens of Hawai'i~

Mahalo for taking precious time to read & review these letters on matters of importance, I appreciate it takes time on your part & i do appreciate it, GOD BLESS YOU!

I stand in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to SB345 re: public financing of campaigns as it increases the **TAXPAYER FUNDING** for political campaigns to a whopping 67% of spending limits. **WOW! WHAT? WOW AGAIN!** This leads to serious questions of fairness for the average everyday citizen of Hawaii to be heard by our representatives when the dollars dictate voice of votes.

Why is this being proposed when our State coffers are already being drained by the Rail project and then also a proposal to increase State leaders' paychecks by 60-80%? Most longtime residents and people of Hawaiian ancestry are not able to make a living here due to Highest Cost of Living as well as **HIGHEST TAXES**, we are moving to the continental USA in droves every day. How will this help the regular citizen with our sustainable living? Why is this funding needed when we the people cannot even afford to live here?

Perhaps a more positive plan, and powerful one, would be to invest this amount of creativity in coming up with this "bad bill" to be reinvested in resolving our living costs, sustainable housing, better infrastructure so we don't hear about water main breaks on every Traffic Report or Brown Water Warnings after a rain. Where is all this money really going to? Let us move in a more positive & powerful way to resolve real living issues, not these campaign spending issues that have gotten us poor living quality for so many decades in Hawaii. "Want different? **DO DIFFERENT!**"

In summary, I strongly oppose SB345 as a proposal for yet further poor ideas in the face of real problems for living quality in our Aloha State that will only further destroy our people, place & state. **AUWE!** Please oppose SB345.

Aloha & Malama Always,

Dawn O'Brien

President, HOPE HI, Inc.

Lifelong resident & taxpaying citizen

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:49:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pamela Vera	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I absolutely OPPOSE this bill.

We already have a Pay-to-Play, and Purchased Platforms.... we really need to keep the deep pockets out of Politics - so all our voices can be heard and included.

This bill will certainly drown out the peoples choice and big funders will have free reign.

Aren't we all to have a voice in democracy?

I urge you to emphatically vote NO on this bill.

Respectfully,

Pamela Vera

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:50:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marley Alexandra Kalikopuanoheaokalani Aiu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai‘i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Currently, candidates often rely heavily on private contributions, which can lead to unequal representation and policies that favor the affluent over everyday citizens. By increasing the cap on matching funds and adjusting expenditure limits, SB 345 empowers candidates with limited personal wealth or access to large donors to run competitive campaigns. This fosters a more diverse pool of candidates and ensures that elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than to major donors.

Moreover, enhancing public financing amplifies the voices of regular citizens by prioritizing voter engagement over large-scale donations. Candidates will be encouraged to connect with a broader base of supporters, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and desires of our communities.

Implementing these changes is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai‘i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

I urge you to pass SB 345 to strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure that the voices of all Hawai‘i residents are heard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:51:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jr Tupai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for you folks service to the people. I understand the narrative behind the bill and although well meaning I feel it is not the best use of taxpayer dollars therefore I urge you to vote no on SB345. There are many other initiatives and policies that this money could go towards. Mahalo for your time and aloha!

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:52:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Massey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and members of the Committee,

I am writing you in strong support of SB345 to strengthen the public financing of elections. We need to do anything we can to reduce the overreaching influence of big money in our politics.

Enhancing public financing of campaigns is a proven, cost-effective investment in the integrity of our democracy. Similar programs in other states have successfully increased voter participation and trust in the electoral system without imposing significant costs. By adopting SB 345, Hawai'i can take a significant step toward a more equitable and representative government.

Therefore I urge you to pass SB345 to strengthen our democratic process and ensure everybody in Hawaii gets heard.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Rita Massey

Kihei

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:59:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

I firmly support the Bill because it is a positive choice for our children. Our children should never be starving because their living situation isn't able to afford school lunch. For some children school breakfast and lunch are their only meals. Monies should be appropriated to feed all children in school. Mahalo

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:59:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Healy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Using tax dollars for political campaigns is a misappropriation of funds. Hawaii has many infrastructure projects yet to be complete. The state should not have the power to use fund from the public to give a platform to any political campaign.

Vote no

Mahalo

Mary Healy

LATE

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:06:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noela von Wiegandt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

LATE

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:47:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 51, which would strengthen Hawaii's public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Hawai'i's political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 51 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

By providing full public financing for qualified candidates, SB 51 will break the link between private money and electoral success. This will create a fairer and more honest system where elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than big donors. Importantly, similar programs in other states show that public financing does not lead to higher incumbent turnover or drastic shifts in political makeup, but it does change who holds influence in government—ensuring that everyday people, not just the wealthy few, have a voice.

Public financing is both popular and cost-effective. Three out of four voters support a clean elections program. States like Connecticut and Maine have successfully run similar programs for decades, and Hawai'i County piloted a version in 2010 and 2012. Even if Hawai'i saw higher participation rates than any other state, estimates show the cost would be less than \$10 million per year—just 0.05% of the state budget. That's under \$7 per resident or less than \$1 per tourist—a small price to pay for a more transparent, accountable government.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 51. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Diane Ware, 96785

LATE

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 10:50:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pohaikealoha George	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I do not support this bill as I don't believe it's fair for political campaigns to be funded by taxpayers. If politicians have the support of the community then they should have no problem with funding, and if they don't have support from the community then they need to figure it out on their own.

Mahalo

LATE

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:00:52 AM
Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB345.

Thank you,
Carla Allison

LATE

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:12:52 AM
Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ihilani Buffett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. The government uses enough of the tax payers for campaigns! Use the funds in other places that are productive please!

LATE

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:20:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am in favor of this bill SB345 as the financial limits for public financing have been unchanged for two decades, and I like the idea of rewarding candidates who engage with the community directly as this compensation will incentivize candidates to be more in touch with community concerns. Mahalo.

LATE

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:21:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert I Nehmad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of the State of Hawaii and support SB345

I hope you sign and implement SB345

Mahalo

LATE

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 11:32:24 AM
Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Bolger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support sb345 as a way of allowing more diverse and community-driven candidates to run for office without the barrier of big-money fundraising. By reducing the influence of corporations and big-money special interest groups, our government will more accurately reflect the will of the people.

LATE

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 2:30:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Toro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB345. Our tax paying money can be used for better things like Houseless issues or mental health.

LATE

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 2:37:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
RENEE KOMOMUA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose

LATE

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 5:14:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
robert Petty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support sb345 sd1

LATE

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 6:37:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marsha Hee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB 345, which seeks to enhance the Hawai'i Partial Public Financing Program by increasing the maximum amount of matching funds available to candidates, raising expenditure limits, and improving the matching fund ratio. These reforms are essential to promoting fairer elections and reducing the undue influence of wealthy donors and special interests in our political process.

Sincerely, Marsha Hee, citizen of Hawaii

LATE

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 8:10:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james wallace	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB345. This bill will fund political campaigns to 67% and will give liberals the edge. Will make these bad politicians have the advantage. They already cheat, what more this?

LATE

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 12:31:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle R Stefanik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I emphatically oppose SB345! I do not want my tax dollars going to fund a political campaign at all. All campaign contributions should come from private citizens who volunteer their support for candidates that they want to support. Using MY tax dollars to fund campaigns means that I would potentially pay for providing funding for someone that does not align with my views. I urge you to not WASTE TAX Dollars on ANY political campaigns. If someone wants to run for office they should be able to gather enough support from the constituents that they will be representing. I oppose this bill and ask you to vote NO!

Respectfully

Michelle Stefanik

LATE

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 5:52:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brent	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose.

SB-345-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2025 8:22:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Tiritas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill