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March 11, 2008

TO: The Honorable Brian Taniguchi
The Honorable Clayton Hee
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Barbara U. Wong, Executive Director
Campaign Spending Commission

SUBJECT: Testimony on H.B. No. 661, H.D. 1 Relating to Campaign Spending

Tuesday, March 11, 2008
9:30 a.m. in Conference Room 016

Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

This bill[1] proposes to allow "comprehensive public funding" for county council candidates[2] and has a defective effective date of July 1, 2112.[3]

While the Campaign Spending Commission ("Commission") supports public campaign financing, we do not support this bill as drafted.

- The Committee should consider the provisions in other bills which carried over to the 2008 Regular session (S.B. No. 1068, S.D. 1, H.D. 1[4] and S.B. No.1549[5]) which propose to raise the expenditure limits for the first time in twelve years. This will increase the

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[1] H.B. No. 661 is virtually identical to H.B. No. 765, a bill that was introduced in the 2007 Regular session but did not carry over to the 2008 Regular session. S.B. No. 1055, the companion bill to H.B. No. 765, also did not carry over to the 2008 Regular session. The main difference is that H.B. No. 765 and S.B. No. 1055 proposed to amend the general excise tax law to provide a $2 million annual deposit into the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund; while H.B. No. 661 does not have that language.

[2] H.B. No. 661, as originally introduced, allowed candidates for the House of Representatives to qualify for comprehensive public funding.

[3] Section 22, page 51.

[4] S.B. 1068, S.D.1, H.D. 1 passed both the Senate and House in 2007 and is presently in Conference.

[5] S.B. No. 1549 was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor and carried over to the 2008 Regular session.

amount of partial public funding available to candidates without creating a second system of public financing.

- The general public should be allowed an opportunity to "weigh-in" on this issue by voting on a Constitutional amendment to authorize comprehensive public funding.[6]
- If the Committee makes a policy decision to pass this bill to provide comprehensive public funding for county council candidates:
    - There must be adequate funds to avoid interruption of the comprehensive and partial public financing programs from year to year;[7]
    - The superfluous concepts and terms proposed in this bill should be deleted;
    - The ambiguities and concerns that we discuss below in our testimony should be addressed; and
    - Adequate time must be provided to administer the comprehensive public funding program, including hiring new employees, developing manuals, forms and procedures; modifying the new candidate filing system; and training of staff and candidates.

I. CURRENT LAW (PARTIAL PUBLIC FUNDING)

Hawaii currently provides a partial public financing (matching funds) program which allows candidates to raise private contributions which are matched with public funds if the candidate agrees to limit campaign expenditures.

The current program has been in place for fourteen elections since 1980 and implements the following provision in the Hawaii Constitution:

> The legislature shall establish a campaign fund to be used for partial public financing of campaigns for public offices of the State and its political subdivisions, as provided by law. The legislature shall provide a limit on the campaign spending of candidates.[8] (Emphasis added.)

The program, generally, operates as follows:

- A candidate, including a county council candidate, must agree to expenditure limits which are calculated by multiplying the number of voters in the last preceding general election (2006) by the amount that can be spent on each voter, as set by statute.
- If the candidate receives the minimum amount of qualifying contributions (aggregate monetary contribution of $100 or less from Hawaii residents), the candidate is provided

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[6] S.B. No. 754 was introduced in the 2007 Legislature to authorize a question on the 2008 general election ballot that asks if the constitution should be amended to allow a full range of public financing levels for campaigns for public offices of the State and its political subdivisions.

[7] A certified candidate who is opposed in an election may receive (1) a "base amount" in the primary election; (2) "equalizing funds" in the primary election; and (3) the base amount and equalizing funds in the general election.

[8] Art. II, section 5 of the Hawaii State Constitution.

with matching public funds, up to a statutorily determined maximum amount of public funds.

The candidate may receive both qualifying contributions and private contributions, and spend these funds subject to the expenditure limits. If the candidate exceeds the expenditure limits, the candidate must pay the full filing fee; notify opponents, the Commission, chief election officer, opponents and contributors; and return all public funds.[9] By contrast, there is no expenditure limit in this H.B. No. 661, H.D. 1.

S.B. No. 1068, S.D. 1, H.D. 1[10] and S.B. No.1549 both propose to raise the expenditure limits in the current program for the first time in twelve years, which will increase the amount of public funding available to candidates without creating a second system of public financing.

II. COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC FUNDING PROPOSED IN H.B. No. 661, H.D. 1 (HB 661)

A. Initial requirements - $5,000,000 in the Hawaii election campaign fund; and certification

"On September 1 of each odd-numbered year before a general election year, the commission shall determine whether there is a minimum of $5,000,000 in the Hawaii election campaign fund to certify participating candidates during the next election and provide funding for comprehensive public funding."[11] Moreover, "(t)he commission shall not distribute comprehensive public funding to certified candidates that exceeds the total amount of $5,000,000 for all candidates subject to this subpart in any given election year in which this subpart is operative."[12]

Concern: These provisions ignore funding requests from candidates who qualify for the partial public funding program under the current law (discussed in Part I).

A "participating candidate"[13] for any county council in the State[14] is qualified to receive comprehensive public funding if the candidate, among other things:[15]

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[9] HRS section 11-209(b).

[10] S.B. 1068, S.D.1, H.D. 1 passed both the Senate and House and was assigned to a Conference Committee.

[11] Section 2, §11-B, page 9. This H.D. 1 reduced the trigger from $6 million to $5 million.

[12] Section 2, §11-K(f), page 21.

[13] "Participating candidate" means a candidate who is seeking certification for comprehensive public funding under this subpart. Section 2, §11-A, page 7. "Candidate" means an individual who seeks nomination for election or seeks election in any county council in the State, and who meets the criteria of section 11-C. Section 2, §11-A, page 4.

[14] H.B. No. 661, as introduced, was applicable to candidates for the House of Representatives.

- Resides in the district from which election is sought as of the date of the filing of nomination papers for the primary election;
- Is a registered voter in the district;
- Files a declaration of intent with the Commission between January 1 of the election year and thirty days[16] before the closing date to file nomination papers;
- Collects unspecified amounts for a "district qualifying contribution in accordance with §11-F." The contribution must be from a contributor who is a registered voter and resides in the county district to which the candidate seeks nomination at the time the contribution is given;[17]
- Accepts only "seed money" and "qualifying contributions" prior to filing the declaration of intent with the Commission.
    - "Seed money" can only be used to determine whether "sufficient support exists to run for office as a comprehensive publicly funded candidate." [18] The amount of seed money is capped at $3,000; personal funds or surplus campaign funds may be used for seed money.[19]
    - The "qualifying contribution" may be a "monetary contribution;" while the term is not defined, it appears that a cash contribution may be made. The Maine law, by contrast, requires that the contribution be "in the form of a check or a money order payable to the fund, signed by the contributor in support of a candidate."[20]
- Submits an application that contains signatures, addresses, and contributions from registered voters in the district.[21]

The county council candidate must submit an application for certification of qualification to the Commission no later than thirty days prior to the primary election and the Commission must issue a decision regarding the application within five business days following receipt of the completed application. The application must include signatures and qualifying contributions.[22]

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[15] Section 2, §11-C, pages 9-11.

[16] While the term "days" is used here, the term "business days" elsewhere in the bill. See section 2, §11-B; section 2, §11-G; and section 2, §11-P.

[17] Section 2, §11-F, page 13-14. Qualifying contributions are deposited in the Hawaii election campaign fund.

[18] See section 11-D. "Seed money" means contributions made to a participating candidate by a person in accordance with section 11-D that shall be expended for the purpose of determining campaign viability. Section 2, §11-A, page 8

[19] Section 2, §11-D (d), page 12.

[20] "Qualifying contribution means a donation:
A. Of $5 in the form of a check or a money order payable to the fund, signed by the contributor and made in support of a candidate..." Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21A, 21-22

[21] Section 2, §11-G (a), pages 14-15.

[22] Section 2, §11-G, pages 14-16.

In the case of a council candidate for the county of Hawaii, two hundred signatures and qualifying contributions (unspecified amounts in the bill) must be submitted by the candidate and reviewed and examined in order for the Commission to issue a decision.

"Surplus campaign funds"[23] may be used for:

- $3,000 in "seed money;"[24] and
- "In-office constituent communications"[25] (an undefined term). The bill does not specify whether there are limits on the use of surplus campaign funds for in-office communications during a campaign.

A candidate may also "accept in-kind contributions aggregating less than $200 in any single month from any single source."[26] It is not clear whether the candidate is limited to accepting less than $200 in aggregate from various sources or may accept less than $200 from each single source.

Upon certification and until the end of the general election period, a candidate shall not accept for use in the campaign:[27]

- Contributions from any source, except for "in-kind contributions aggregating less than $200 in any single month from any single source;
- Loans from any person, including a certified candidate;
- Contributions from political parties (the use of this term appears to be redundant as the term 'source' includes political parties); and
- Any campaign material purchased or held from a date prior to the declaration of intent to run for office as a comprehensive publicly funded candidate."

If a certified comprehensive publicly funded candidate is elected to office, a surplus "up to $12,000 may be carried over to cover in-office constituent communications not to exceed $6,000 annual allotment or $12,000 for a two-year term."[28]

"If the total surplus from a publicly funded campaign falls under $12,000 the certified comprehensive publicly funded office holder will be allowed to raise the difference pursuant to *subpart (B)* while in office."[29] The reference to "subpart (B)" is not clear. It may refer to the

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[23] "Surplus campaign funds" means any campaign contributions not spent during a prior election period by a participating candidate who previously sought election as a privately funded candidate. Section 2, §11-A, page 8.

[24] Section 2, §11-D(d), page 12.

[25] Section 2, §11-E, page 13.

[26] Section 2, §11-H(a)(1)(A), page 16.

[27] Section 2, §11-H, pages 16-17.

[28] Section 2, §11-J(c), page 19.

[29] Section 2, §11-J(d), page 19.

current law in "subpart B"; or it may refer to §11-J(b) which specifies that a "certified comprehensive publicly funded candidate who wins office will be allowed to fundraise no more then $6,000 per year with individual contributions of no greater then $500." Both the current law and §11-J (b) do not require the participating candidate to receive these funds in the form of "district qualifying contributions," in contrast to §11-C.

B. Public funding for certified candidates (Section 2, §§11-K and 11-L)

A certified candidate is authorized to receive:

- The base amount; and
- "Equalizing funds."

1. Base amount

The base amount in a contested primary election is the "average of the amount spent by winning candidates in the previous two county council elections of the same county county council, reduced by ten per cent."

The base amount in a contested general election is the "average of the amount spent by winning candidates in the previous two county council general elections for the same county council, reduced by ten per cent."[30]

The base amount in an uncontested primary election is "thirty percent of the amount provided in a contested election;" no funding is provided in an uncontested general election.[31]

Funds may be disbursed the Commission by check or electronic transfer.[32]

If "revenues are insufficient to meet distributions to certified candidates under this section, the commission shall either (sic) permit certified candidates to accept and spend contributions, subject to the campaign contribution limitations set forth in section 11-204, up to the applicable amounts, including equalizing funds the certified candidate would have received from comprehensive public funding."[33]

Comments:

- The term "elections" is used to determine the base amount in the primary elections; while the term "general elections" is used to determine the base amount in the general election.

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[30] Section 2, §11-K, page 20.

[31] Section 2, §11-K(c), page 21.

[32] Section 2, §11-K(d), page 21. By contrast, the bill requires equalizing funds to be disbursed by electronic transfer. Section 2, §11-L(e), page 24.

[33] Section 2, §11-K, page 22. There is an identical provision for equalizing funds in section 2, §11-L(j), page 27

- It is difficult to accurately determine the amount spent in a general election as expenses may be paid for during the primary election and used in the general election.
- Using different elections (the primary and the general election) to calculate the amount of public funding is contrary to the current partial funding law which calculates the amount of funding available to candidates in both the primary and general election based upon the number of voters in the prior general election multiplied by the amount that can be spent on each voter.

2. Equalizing funds

Equalizing funds "means additional public funds released by the commission to a comprehensive publicly funded candidate to allow the publicly funded candidate to stay financially competitive with a nonparticipating candidate in a contested election."[34]

(a) Trigger for equalizing funds

Equalizing funds shall be distributed to a candidate "whenever any campaign report filed pursuant to subpart B shows that the sum of

- an opposing "nonparticipating candidate"[35] and the nonparticipating candidate's committee's expenditures and obligations, or campaign contributions received or borrowed, whichever is greater,
- added to any independent expenditures made in support of that nonparticipating candidate or against the opposing certified candidate reported by any noncandidate's committee, party, or any other person

exceeds one hundred per cent of the amount of comprehensive public funding previously allotted and distributed to the opposing certified candidate in a contested election, including any equalizing funds previously distributed."[36] (Emphasis added).

(b) Amount of equalizing funds; comments

- Four subsections discuss the total amount of equalizing funds with overlapping, if not redundant terms.
    - Equalizing funds are "limited to an amount equal to the base amount."[37]
    - "In an uncontested primary election where a comprehensive publicly funded candidate has a private funding opponent from another party or an independent

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[34] Section 2, §11-A, page 5.

[35] "Nonparticipating candidate" means a candidate who does not qualify for or receive public funding during an election period and is involved in a contested election with a certified participating candidate. Section 2, §11-A, page 7.

[36] Section 2, §11-L, pages 22-23.

[37] Section 2, §11-L(b), page 23. H.B. No. 661 allowed a participating candidate to receive 200% of the base amount.

who spends above the base allotment, the certified candidate shall receive equalizing funds limited to two hundred per cent of the base amount allotted."[38]

- "If the election will be decided in the primary election, equalizing funds shall be limited to a maximum amount equal to the base amount of comprehensive public funding allotted to a certified candidate in a contested election."[39]
- "At any reporting period, if the privately funded candidate spends more then the entire comprehensive public fund original allotment, the comprehensive publicly funded candidate shall receive an amount equal to but not to exceed two times the original allotment."[40]

- It is not clear what standard the Commission must apply when the bill specifies that the Commission "shall not base any calculation on independent expenditures that, although containing words of express advocacy, also contain other words or phrases that have no other reasonable meaning other than to contradict the expressed advocacy."[41]
- The Commission must "electronically transfer equalizing funds to a certified candidate within twenty-four hours of the filing with the commission of the report indicating the certified candidate's entitlement to equalizing funds."[42]
- "If a nonparticipating candidate and the candidate's committee fails to file or files a false excess report or supplemental excess reports...the commission, within twenty-four hours of verifying the failure or falsity, shall automatically disburse equalizing funds."[43]
- If the Commission "determines there are insufficient funds to meet the potential need for equalizing funds for all certified candidates, the commission shall permit each certified candidate to accept and spend private contributions, subject to the campaign contribution limitations set forth in section 11-204, up to the equalizing funds the certified candidate would have received from comprehensive public funding."[44]

Comments:

- The bill does not address multiple nonparticipating candidates. Is the "opposing nonparticipating candidate" the candidate that spends the most? If so, at what point in time is this measured, as candidate expenditures fluctuate daily?
- If a participating candidate is the beneficiary of independent expenditures, are these expenditures subtracted from the participating candidate's equalizing funds?

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[38] Section 2, §11-L(c), page 23

[39] Section 2, §11-L(d), page 23

[40] Section 2, §11-L(f), page 24.

[41] Section 2, §11-L(k), page 27.

[42] Section 2, §11-L(e), page 24.

[43] Section 2, §11-L(h), page 26

[44] Section 2, §11-L (j), page 27.

- It will take more than twenty-four hours to verify a request for funds, process the request, and to pay a candidate.
- The Commission is not authorized to issue funds; only the Department of Accounting and General Services is authorized to issue funds.

C. Additional reporting requirements for nonparticipating candidates and any other person whose independent expenditures exceed $1,000 because of equalizing funds provision

In order for the Commission to determine whether a participating candidate is eligible to receive equalizing funds, all nonparticipating candidates and any other person making independent expenditures exceeding $1,000 that expressly advocate the nomination, election, or defeat of a certified candidate must file reports.[45]

- "Commencing forty-five days before the primary election day, nonparticipating candidates and their candidate's committees shall file an initial excess report with the commission within twenty-four hours after cumulative contributions are received, or expenditures are made or committed to be made, including verbal commitments, in an election period that exceeds one hundred one per cent of the base amount of comprehensive public funding allotted to an opposing certified candidate in a contested election. Nonparticipating candidates and the candidate's committees shall file supplemental excess reports within twenty-four hours after any encumbrances or expenditures that exceed $1,000 in aggregate."(Emphasis added).
- "Commencing forty-five days before the general election day, noncandidate committees, parties, and any other persons that incur independent expenditures that expressly advocate the nomination, election, or defeat of a certified candidate shall file an independent expenditure report with the commission within twenty-four hours when expenditures exceed $1,000 in aggregate in an election period. Thereafter, noncandidate committees, parties, and any other persons that incur independent expenditures, including verbal expenditure commitments, shall file supplemental independent expenditure reports within twenty-four hours whenever the aggregate expenditures exceed $100. The independent expenditure reports shall identify the nonparticipating candidate or certified candidate for whom the independent expenditure is intended to influence the nomination, election, or defeat." (emphasis added)

These reporting requirements in H.B. No. 661 are in addition to the reporting requirements in the current law. Moreover, the requirement to file "initial" excess reports commences forty-five days before the primary election date for nonparticipating candidates. As to noncandidate committees, the requirement commences forty-five days before the general election day.

The combined reporting requirements under the current law and this bill are set forth below.

[45] Section 2, §11-L(g), pages 24-26.

1. Candidate committee reports

Nonparticipating candidates, including candidates who receive partial public funding, therefore, would be required to file the reports required under both the current law and this bill as follows:

Current law			H.B. 661, H.D. 1
Due date	Reporting period	Report	
July 31, 2008	January 1 through June 30, 2008	1st Preliminary Primary	
August 6, 2008			"Commencing forty-five days before the primary election day, nonparticipating candidates and their candidate's committees shall file an initial excess report with the commission within twenty-four hours after cumulative contributions are received, or expenditures are made or committed to be made, including verbal commitments, in an election period that exceeds one hundred one per cent of the base amount of comprehensive public funding allotted to an opposing certified candidate in a contested election. Nonparticipating candidates and the candidate's committees shall file supplemental excess reports within twenty-four hours after any encumbrances or expenditures that exceed $1,000 in aggregate."[46]
September 10, 2008	July 1 through September 5, 2008	2nd Preliminary Primary	
September 17, 2008	September 5 through September 16, 2008	Late Contributions Report[47]	
October 10, 2008	September 6 through 20, 2008	Final Primary Report	
October 10, 2008	January 1 through September 20, 2008	Expenditures of Public Funds[48]	
October 24, 2008	September 21 through October 20, 2008	Preliminary General Report[49]	

[46] Section 2, §11-L (g) (1), pages 24-25.

[47] This form is for reporting contributions from any person or entity that aggregates more than $500 and made to a candidate during the period of fourteen calendar days through four calendar days prior to the Primary Election. Late contributions must also be reported on the Final Primary Report. The report is not required if there are no late contributions.

[48] This form is required for candidates who received partial public financing in the primary election.

[49] This form is for candidates that were successful in the Primary Election and have advanced to the General Election. This report is not required for candidates that won outright or were unsuccessful in the Primary Election. See the Final Election Period Report

October 24, 2008	January 1 through October 20, 2008	Preliminary General Report[50]	
October 31, 2008	October 20 through October 31, 2008	Late Contributions Report[51]	
December 4, 2008	October 21 through November 4, 2008	Final Election Period Report;[52] or	
December 4, 2008	September 21 through November 4, 2008	Final Election Period Report[53] or	
December 4, 2008	January 1 through November 4, 2008	Final Election Period Report[54]	

It appears that participating candidates would file only the reports required under the current law as the reporting requirements in sections 11-212 and 11-213, HRS, are not amended in H.B. No. 661.

2. Noncandidate committee reports

A "noncandidate committee"[55] must register "within ten days of receiving contributions or making expenditures that amount to more than $1,000, in the aggregate, in a two-year election

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[50] This is the first report for candidates for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

[51] This form is for reporting contributions from any person or entity that aggregates more than $500 and made to a candidate during the period of fifteen calendar days through four calendar days prior to the General Election. Late Contributions must also be reported on the Final Election Period Report. The report is not required if there are no Late Contributions or if a candidate won outright or was unsuccessful in the Primary Election.

[52] For candidates that filed the Preliminary General Report.

[53] For candidates that won outright or were unsuccessful in the Primary Election and who did not file the Preliminary General Report.

[54] For candidates whose aggregate contributions and aggregate expenditures for the election period total $1,000 or less. All previous reports, with the exception of the Organizational Report, are not required to be filed.

[55] See HRS section 11-191. "Noncandidate committee" means a committee as defined in this section that has the purpose of making contributions or expenditures to influence the nomination for election, the election of any candidate to political office, or for or against any issue on the ballot, but does not include a candidate's committee. "Committee" means:

(1) Any organization, association, or individual that accepts or makes a contribution or makes an expenditure for or against any:

(A) Candidate;

(B) Individual who files for nomination at a later date and becomes a candidate; or

(C) Party;

with or without the authorization of the candidate, individual, or party. In addition, the term "committee" means any organization, association, or individual who accepts or makes a contribution or makes an expenditure for or against any question or issue appearing on the ballot at the next applicable election; or

(2) Any organization, association, or individual that raises or holds money or anything of value for a political purpose, with or without the consent or knowledge of any:

(A) Candidate;

(B) Individual who files for nomination at a later date and becomes a candidate; or

period; except that within the thirty day period prior to an election, a noncandidate committee shall file an organizational report within two days of receiving contributions or making expenditures that amount to more than $1,000, in the aggregate, in a two-year election period."[56]

The noncandidate committee also must file periodic reports.

This bill specifies that "all noncandidate committees, parties, and any other persons that incur independent expenditures that expressly advocate the nomination, election, or defeat of a certified candidate" must file a report with the Commission within twenty-four hours of exceeding $1,000 in an election period; and supplemental independent expenditure reports must be filed within twenty four hours of aggregate expenditures exceeding $100.[57] (emphasis added)

- An individual making a contribution or expenditure of the individual's own funds is not required to register with the Commission and report under the current law except in one circumstance.[58] But the individual appears to be a "person" required to register and report under this bill if the individual's independent expenditures exceed $1,000 in an election period.
- Individuals incurring more than $1,000 in independent expenditures and existing noncandidate committees would be required to file the reports required under both the current law and this bill as follows:

Current law			H.B. 661, H.D. 1
Due date	Reporting period	Report	
July 30, 2008	January 1 through June 30, 2008	1st Preliminary Primary	
September 10, 2008	January 1 through September 5, 2008	Preliminary Primary	
September 17,	September 6 through September	Late Contributions Report	

(C) Party; and

subsequently contributes money or anything of value to, or makes expenditures on behalf of, the candidate, individual, or party.

Notwithstanding any of the foregoing, the term "committee" shall not include any individual making a contribution or expenditure of the individual's own funds or anything of value that the individual originally acquired for the individual's own use and not for the purpose of evading any provision of this subpart, or any organization, which raises or expends funds for the sole purpose of the production and dissemination of informational or educational advertising.

[56] HRS section 11-194(e).

[57] Section 2, §11-L(g), page 25.

[58] A "committee" does not "include any individual making a contribution or expenditure of the individual's own funds or anything of value that the individual originally acquired for the individual's own use and not for the purpose of evading any provision of this subpart, or any organization, which raises or expends funds for the sole purpose of the production and dissemination of informational or educational advertising." HRS section 11-191. "Every person who makes a disbursement for electioneering communications in an aggregate amount greater than $2,000 during any calendar year" must file a statement of information with the Commission. HRS section 11-207.6.

2008	16, 2008		
September 20, 2008			"Commencing forty-five days before the general election day, noncandidate committees, parties, and any other persons that incur independent expenditures that expressly advocate the nomination, election, or defeat of a certified candidate shall file an independent expenditure report with the commission within twenty-four hours when expenditures exceed $1,000 in aggregate in an election period. Thereafter, noncandidate committees, parties, and any other persons that incur independent expenditures, including verbal expenditure commitments, shall file supplemental independent expenditure reports within twenty-four hours whenever the aggregate expenditures exceed $100. The independent expenditure reports shall identify the nonparticipating candidate or certified candidate for whom the independent expenditure is intended to influence the nomination, election, or defeat."[59]
October 10, 2008	September 6 through September 20, 2008	Final Primary Report	
October 27, 2008	September 21 through October 20, 2008	Preliminary General Report	
November 3, 2008	October 21 through October 31, 2008	Late Contributions Report	
December 4, 2008	October 21 through November 4, 2008	Final Election Period Report	

D. $5 million cap for all comprehensive public funding candidates

"The commission shall not distribute comprehensive public funding to certified candidates that exceeds the total amount of $5,000,000 for all candidates subject to this subpart in any given election year in which this subpart is operative."[60] This cap is read together with the initial trigger for funding for comprehensive public funding: "On September 1 of each odd-numbered year before a general election year, the commission shall determine whether there is a minimum

[59] Section 2, §11-L (g) (2). The $1,000 threshold was added in this HD 1; the bill, as introduced, did not specify an amount.

[60] Section 2, §11-L (g) (2), page 25.

of $5,000,000 in the Hawaii election campaign fund to certify participating candidates during the next election and provide funding for comprehensive public funding."[61]

The $5 million cap must be read together with the current law to integrate the requests from candidates who qualify under the partial public funding program (discussed in Part I).

Section 5 of this bill (pages 31-32) proposes to amend HRS section 11-217.5, relating to depletion of fund, as follows:

> "**§11-217.5 Depletion of fund.** (a) The Hawaii election campaign fund shall be under no obligation to provide moneys to [~~qualified~~] eligible candidates [~~in the event that~~] if in the partial public funding program or comprehensive public funding for elections to the county councils moneys in that fund have been depleted.
>
> (b) [~~In the event that~~] For purposes of the partial funding program, if the Hawaii election campaign fund is close to depletion, as determined by the commission, the commission shall determine the amounts available to [~~qualified~~] eligible candidates based on their order of eligibility in qualifying for partial public funds, as determined by the date of filing of an application for public funds with the commission pursuant to section 11-222; provided that the application has been accepted by the commission.
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> (c) For the purposes of the comprehensive public funding for elections to the county councils, if the Hawaii election campaign fund is close to depletion, the commission shall determine whether that program shall be operative in accordance with subpart __."

E. If amounts in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund are not sufficient for base funds or equalizing funds, certified candidates may accept private contributions

If "revenues are insufficient to meet distributions to certified candidates under this section, the commission shall either permit certified candidates to accept and spend contributions, subject to the campaign contribution limitations set forth in section 11-204, up to the applicable amounts, including equalizing funds the certified candidate would have received from comprehensive public funding."[62]

If the commission "determines there are insufficient funds to meet the potential need for equalizing funds for all certified candidates, the commission shall permit each certified candidate to accept and spend private contributions, subject to the campaign contribution limitations set

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[61] Section 2, §11-B, page 9. This H.D. 1 reduced the trigger from $6 million.

[62] Section 2, §11-K, page 22

forth in section 11-204, up to the equalizing funds the certified candidate would have received from comprehensive public funding."[63]

Thus, if amounts in the Hawaii Election Campaign funs are not sufficient (e.g., multiple participating candidates), all candidates would have to raise private contributions.

III. COMMMENTS REGARDING H.B. No. 661, H.D. 1

A. Adequate funding must be provided for the comprehensive public funding program

1. Current status of the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund

The Hawaii Election Campaign Fund (Fund) had a balance of $5,469,345 as of December 31, 2007.

The current sources of funding are:

- The voluntary state income tax return check-off;
- Fines and penalties;
- Interest; and
- Excess, surplus, false name and anonymous contributions.

The income tax check-off is the primary source of revenue for the Fund. The percentage of taxpayers that use the check-off has steadily declined since the inception of the program and currently is less than 15%. The check-off provides funding of approximately $200,000 per year.

Fines and penalties provided a greater amount of funding in the past year, but this source may not be sustainable because compliance with laws should increase.

Interest income was about $220,000, based upon the current 3% rate and the Fund's current balance.

Moneys in the Fund may be used for partial public financing; and operating expenses of the Commission. $122,000 in public funds were paid out to twenty-one candidates in 2006; nine were elected to office. Current operating expenses are approximately $600,000 per year.

[63] Section 2, §11-L(j), page 27.

2. H.B. No. 661's impact on the Fund

a. Increase Fund's receipts[64]

Section 16 of this bill appropriates an unspecified amount to the Fund for fiscal year 2007-2008.[65]

This bill also would result in other small sources of revenue for the Fund,[66] primarily the deposit of candidates' qualifying contributions in the Fund;[67] and fines for violating the new law.

b. Increase Fund's expenditures

(1) Administrative expenditures

Section 17 of this bill appropriates an unspecified amount "for fiscal year 2006-2007, for the campaign spending commission to provide three additional staff positions and other assistance to support comprehensive publicly funded elections for any county council as follows:

(1) Two staff positions for computer analysis of campaign contributions for auditing and monitoring and the creation of an online digital filing system for campaign spending reports for all candidates running for any county council;
(2) One staff position to administer the comprehensive public funding program; and
(3) Funding for the office of elections, or its designate, to verify the qualifying contributions from registered voters in a candidate's district.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of accounting and general services for the purposes of this Act."[68]

The fiscal year that the funding is available would have to be changed. Moreover, the appropriation must provide funding for these four positions; and funding should be provided directly to the Commission as operational funds originate with the Hawaii Election Campaign Funds. The computer filing system would have to be modified.

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[64] H.B. No. 661 is virtually identical to another bill that would provide comprehensive public funding - H.B. No. 765 (S.B. No. 1055 is the companion bill). The main difference is that H.B. No. 765 amends the general excise tax law to provide a $2 million annual deposit into the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund; while H.B. No. 661 does not have that language.

[65] H.B. 661 proposed to amend section 523A-23.5, HRS, relating to the unclaimed property trust fund, by authorizing an annual appropriation of $2,500,000 to the Fund. Section 17 of the bill appropriates $2,500,000 to the Fund for fiscal year 2007-2008.

[66] Section 2, §11-O.

[67] Section 2, §11-F(d).

[68] H.B. 661, as introduced, proposed appropriating $200,000.

(2) Amount of comprehensive public funding requests

There will be expenditures for certified candidates who receive the base amount;[69] and "equalizing funds"[70] in the primary and general elections. Those expenditures would depend on a number of factors and vary from election to election. Among the factors affecting expenditures would be the number of participating candidates, the number of nonparticipating candidates, the amount of expenditures by nonparticipating candidates, and the amount of "independent expenditures made in support of that nonparticipating candidate or against the opposing certified candidate."

We offer the following comments:

- The average winner in 2006 for four Honolulu Council seats spent approximately $94,000 during the four-year election period.[71] If that number is reduced by 10%, the base amount is approximately $85,000 for each candidate for each seat. Equalizing funds may add $85,000 to $170,000 per candidate.
- The average winner in 2006 for the Hawaii County Council spent approximately $23,450 during the two-year election period. If that number is reduced by 10%, the base amount is approximately $21,105 for each candidate for each seat. Equalizing funds may add $21,105 to $42,210 per candidate.
- There were twenty-three candidates for the Hawaii County Council in 2006.
    - Assuming that there are twenty three candidates in 2008 and all candidates applied for comprehensive public funding, the expenditures for base amounts would be $485,415.
    - The amount required for equalizing funds would range from $485,415 to $970,830.

3. Increases in partial public funding will impact on the Fund

S.B. No. 1068, S.D. 1, H.D. 1[72] and S.B. No.1549[73] propose to raise the expenditure limits for the first time in twelve years, which will raise the amount of public financing.

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[69] Section 2, §11-K.

[70] Section 2, §11-L.

[71] The four winners spent approximately $375,000.

[72] S.B. 1068, S.D.1, H.D. 1 passed both the Senate and House in 2007 and is presently in Conference. The S.D. 1 version of the bill proposed to amend section 11-218 to increase the expenditure limit to 50% for candidates for the House of Representatives and the expenditure limits by 4% for other offices. The H.D. 1 version of the bill proposed to amend section 11-218 to increase the expenditure limit to 50% for candidates for the House of Representatives and the expenditure limits by an unspecified amount for other offices.

[73] S.B. No. 1549 proposed to increase the maximum amount of public funds available by amending HRS §11-218, relating to candidate funding, amounts available. The amounts available are determined by multiplying the expenditure limits for offices (established in HRS §11-209) by percentage amounts which vary according to the office sought (under current law, 10% for the office of the governor, lieutenant governor, and mayor; and 15% for

One of the charts that are attached shows the amount of increased public funds available under H.B. No. 1130, S.D. 1 to candidates for all offices. Assuming that there are two candidates for each office (e.g., governor, mayor, council) and that each candidate qualifies for the maximum amount of partial public financing in the primary and general election, expenditures from the Fund could increase to $4 million for a two-year election period, for partial public financing alone.

4. 2008 Legislative proposal to decrease source of funding

S.B. No. 2579 proposes that fines paid for campaign law violations be deposited into the general fund, rather than the Fund.

5. 2008 Legislative proposals to increase funding requests

- SB No. 2607 provides full public funding for candidates for delegates for the constitutional convention.
- S.B. No. 2617 allows candidates for delegates for the constitutional convention to qualify for partial public financing.

B. Adequate time must be provided to administer and implement a comprehensive public funding program

This bill has an effective date of January 1, 2112.[74]

If the Committee intends to pass this bill, we note that there will be additional duties and responsibilities for the Commission. In our preliminary review, we have identified the following:

1. All qualifying contributions shall be deposited in the Hawaii Election campaign fund. This may result in the preparation and mailing of thousands of receipts.
2. The application for certification must have 200 signatures and addresses which must be reviewed and verified, in the case of a Hawaii county council candidate. Applications may be submitted to the Commission up to 30 days prior to the primary election.
3. The Commission must make a decision to certify within five business days of receiving an application.
4. Seed money is limited to $3,000. These amounts will have to be tracked.
5. Surplus campaign funds may be used for seed money and limited in-office communications. Other uses are prohibited and separate reports will have to be filed if a candidate has surplus fund. Surplus funds will have to be tracked.
6. The Commission must post on its website, beginning on January 1 in the election year, monthly reports stating, by district the number of declarations of intent to seek public

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the office of state senator, state representatives, council member, and prosecuting attorney). S.B. No.1549 proposed to increase those amounts by 4%.

[74] H.B. 661, as introduced, would have been effective on July 1, 2007.

financing received, the number of applications received, the number of candidates certified for public funds, the base amount certified for each candidate, and the amount available for additional certified candidates.

7. Equalizing funds must be disbursed when a nonparticipating candidate's expenditures and independent expenditures supporting the nonparticipating candidate or opposing the certified candidate exceed the base amounts allotted to the participating candidate. The Commission, therefore, must track and investigate all independent expenditures of all committees and individuals that support the nonparticipating candidates. This would encompass, among other things, daily review of all media advertisements (e.g., television, radio, and newspaper).
8. Equalizing funds must be disbursed within 24 hours; the processing must be done immediately without sufficient time to verify information that is provided. The Commission has no authority or mechanism to disburse funds; this must be done by the Department of Accounting and General Services.
9. To implement the initial excess report, the Commission will have to develop a new report form and business requirements for modifications to the electronic filing system. When filed, the Commission must review these new reports, send appropriate letters where required, track responses, and investigate for violations.
10. To implement the supplemental excess reports, the Commission will have to develop a new report form for the electronic filing system, review these new reports, send appropriate letters where required, track responses, and investigate for violations.
11. To implement the independent expenditure report, the Commission will have to develop a new report form for the electronic filing system, review these new reports, send appropriate letters where required, track responses, and investigate for violations.
12. To implement the supplemental independent expenditure report, the Commission will have to develop a new report form for the electronic filing system, review these new reports, send appropriate letters where required, track responses, and investigate for violations.
13. Within 24 hours of verifying the failure to file a report, or falsity of report, the Commission shall automatically disburse equalizing funds.
14. The Commission must conduct investigations of failure to file a report (which would be a misdemeanor) and false reports.
15. The Commission must adopt rules to compute the equalizing funds and then compute all funds.
16. The Commission must hire, train and supervise an auditor and systems analyst; create new reports and integrate the reports into the online filing system; and purchase equipment for the new staff members; and locate additional office space.
17. The Commission must hire, train and supervise an employee to administer the public funding program; create an online filing system; and purchase equipment for the administrator.
18. The Commission must create all forms and receipts, create a candidate's guide, and provide training classes.
19. The Commission must establish an independent, nonpartisan review committee for the comprehensive public funding program; and provide administrative and staff support to the committee.

20. The Commission must develop a comprehensive report for the legislature on the comprehensive public funding program.

Attachments

2008 Expenditure Limits and Maximum Public Fund Amounts Under the Current Law

Office	2006 Gen. Election Registered Voters	HRS §11-209	Primary Election Expend. Lmt.	General Election Expend. Lmt.	HRS §11-218	Primary Election Max. Public Funding	General Election Max. Public Funding
Governor	584,690	$2.50	$1,461,725	$1,461,725	10%	$146,173	$146,173
Lt. Governor	584,690	$1.40	$818,566	$818,566	10%	$81,857	$81,857
Mayor							
Honolulu	397,390	$2.00	$794,780	$794,780	10%	$79,478	$79,478
Hawaii	82,626	$2.00	$165,252	$165,252	10%	$16,525	$16,525
Maui	70,275	$2.00	$140,550	$140,550	10%	$14,055	$14,055
Kauai	34,399	$2.00	$68,798	$68,798	10%	$6,880	$6,880
County Council							
Honolulu							
District 1	41,413	$1.40	$57,978	$57,978	15%	$8,697	$8,697
District 2	40,305	$1.40	$56,427	$56,427	15%	$8,464	$8,464
District 3	51,315	$1.40	$71,841	$71,841	15%	$10,776	$10,776
District 4	54,386	$1.40	$76,140	$76,140	15%	$11,421	$11,421
District 5	44,780	$1.40	$62,692	$62,692	15%	$9,404	$9,404
District 6	44,108	$1.40	$61,751	$61,751	15%	$9,263	$9,263
District 7	29,497	$1.40	$41,296	$41,296	15%	$6,194	$6,194
District 8	45,962	$1.40	$64,347	$64,347	15%	$9,652	$9,652
District 9	45,624	$1.40	$63,874	$63,874	15%	$9,581	$9,581
Hawaii							
District 1	8,846	$1.40	$12,384	$12,384	15%	$1,858	$1,858
District 2	8,855	$1.40	$12,397	$12,397	15%	$1,860	$1,860
District 3	9,551	$1.40	$13,371	$13,371	15%	$2,006	$2,006
District 4	8,302	$1.40	$11,623	$11,623	15%	$1,743	$1,743
District 5	9,258	$1.40	$12,961	$12,961	15%	$1,944	$1,944
District 6	8,910	$1.40	$12,474	$12,474	15%	$1,871	$1,871
District 7	9,726	$1.40	$13,616	$13,616	15%	$2,042	$2,042
District 8	9,311	$1.40	$13,035	$13,035	15%	$1,955	$1,955
District 9	9,867	$1.40	$13,814	$13,814	15%	$2,072	$2,072
Maui	70,275	$1.40	$98,385	$98,385	15%	$14,758	$14,758
Kauai	34,399	$1.40	$48,159	$48,159	15%	$7,224	$7,224
State Senate							
District 1	27,611	$1.40	$38,655	$38,655	15%	$5,798	$5,798
District 2	28,001	$1.40	$39,201	$39,201	15%	$5,880	$5,880
District 3	27,014	$1.40	$37,820	$37,820	15%	$5,673	$5,673
District 4	22,370	$1.40	$31,318	$31,318	15%	$4,698	$4,698
District 5	21,960	$1.40	$30,744	$30,744	15%	$4,612	$4,612
District 6	25,945	$1.40	$36,323	$36,323	15%	$5,448	$5,448
District 7	34,399	$1.40	$48,159	$48,159	15%	$7,224	$7,224
District 8	29,414	$1.40	$41,180	$41,180	15%	$6,177	$6,177
District 9	25,118	$1.40	$35,165	$35,165	15%	$5,275	$5,275
District 10	22,086	$1.40	$30,920	$30,920	15%	$4,638	$4,638
District 11	20,767	$1.40	$29,074	$29,074	15%	$4,361	$4,361
District 12	18,130	$1.40	$25,382	$25,382	15%	$3,807	$3,807
District 13	21,937	$1.40	$30,712	$30,712	15%	$4,607	$4,607
District 14	18,185	$1.40	$25,459	$25,459	15%	$3,819	$3,819
District 15	19,723	$1.40	$27,612	$27,612	15%	$4,142	$4,142
District 16	25,925	$1.40	$36,295	$36,295	15%	$5,444	$5,444
District 17	24,982	$1.40	$34,975	$34,975	15%	$5,246	$5,246

2008 Expenditure Limits and Maximum Public Fund Amounts Under the Current Law

District 18	18,449	$1.40	$25,829	$25,829	15%	$3,874	$3,874
District 19	22,022	$1.40	$30,831	$30,831	15%	$4,625	$4,625
District 20	19,416	$1.40	$27,182	$27,182	15%	$4,077	$4,077
District 21	17,010	$1.40	$23,814	$23,814	15%	$3,572	$3,572
District 22	21,212	$1.40	$29,697	$29,697	15%	$4,455	$4,455
District 23	22,403	$1.40	$31,364	$31,364	15%	$4,705	$4,705
District 24	25,179	$1.40	$35,251	$35,251	15%	$5,288	$5,288
District 25	25,432	$1.40	$35,605	$35,605	15%	$5,341	$5,341
State House							
District 1	11,543	$1.40	$16,160	$16,160	15%	$2,424	$2,424
District 2	11,508	$1.40	$16,111	$16,111	15%	$2,417	$2,417
District 3	12,771	$1.40	$17,879	$17,879	15%	$2,682	$2,682
District 4	11,998	$1.40	$16,797	$16,797	15%	$2,520	$2,520
District 5	11,567	$1.40	$16,194	$16,194	15%	$2,429	$2,429
District 6	11,368	$1.40	$15,915	$15,915	15%	$2,387	$2,387
District 7	11,871	$1.40	$16,619	$16,619	15%	$2,493	$2,493
District 8	11,378	$1.40	$15,929	$15,929	15%	$2,389	$2,389
District 9	10,992	$1.40	$15,389	$15,389	15%	$2,308	$2,308
District 10	10,400	$1.40	$14,560	$14,560	15%	$2,184	$2,184
District 11	11,560	$1.40	$16,184	$16,184	15%	$2,428	$2,428
District 12	13,468	$1.40	$18,855	$18,855	15%	$2,828	$2,828
District 13	12,477	$1.40	$17,468	$17,468	15%	$2,620	$2,620
District 14	11,256	$1.40	$15,758	$15,758	15%	$2,364	$2,364
District 15	11,794	$1.40	$16,512	$16,512	15%	$2,477	$2,477
District 16	11,349	$1.40	$15,889	$15,889	15%	$2,383	$2,383
District 17	14,731	$1.40	$20,623	$20,623	15%	$3,094	$3,094
District 18	13,671	$1.40	$19,139	$19,139	15%	$2,871	$2,871
District 19	14,011	$1.40	$19,615	$19,615	15%	$2,942	$2,942
District 20	12,001	$1.40	$16,801	$16,801	15%	$2,520	$2,520
District 21	11,245	$1.40	$15,743	$15,743	15%	$2,361	$2,361
District 22	9,016	$1.40	$12,622	$12,622	15%	$1,893	$1,893
District 23	9,127	$1.40	$12,778	$12,778	15%	$1,917	$1,917
District 24	13,058	$1.40	$18,281	$18,281	15%	$2,742	$2,742
District 25	11,040	$1.40	$15,456	$15,456	15%	$2,318	$2,318
District 26	12,499	$1.40	$17,499	$17,499	15%	$2,625	$2,625
District 27	10,671	$1.40	$14,939	$14,939	15%	$2,241	$2,241
District 28	9,344	$1.40	$13,082	$13,082	15%	$1,962	$1,962
District 29	8,183	$1.40	$11,456	$11,456	15%	$1,718	$1,718
District 30	8,991	$1.40	$12,587	$12,587	15%	$1,888	$1,888
District 31	10,701	$1.40	$14,981	$14,981	15%	$2,247	$2,247
District 32	10,908	$1.40	$15,271	$15,271	15%	$2,291	$2,291
District 33	10,946	$1.40	$15,324	$15,324	15%	$2,299	$2,299
District 34	11,558	$1.40	$16,181	$16,181	15%	$2,427	$2,427
District 35	10,270	$1.40	$14,378	$14,378	15%	$2,157	$2,157
District 36	11,771	$1.40	$16,479	$16,479	15%	$2,472	$2,472
District 37	12,820	$1.40	$17,948	$17,948	15%	$2,692	$2,692
District 38	14,910	$1.40	$20,874	$20,874	15%	$3,131	$3,131
District 39	10,253	$1.40	$14,354	$14,354	15%	$2,153	$2,153
District 40	13,305	$1.40	$18,627	$18,627	15%	$2,794	$2,794
District 41	9,922	$1.40	$13,891	$13,891	15%	$2,084	$2,084
District 42	8,358	$1.40	$11,701	$11,701	15%	$1,755	$1,755
District 43	12,295	$1.40	$17,213	$17,213	15%	$2,582	$2,582
District 44	9,228	$1.40	$12,919	$12,919	15%	$1,938	$1,938
District 45	8,547	$1.40	$11,966	$11,966	15%	$1,795	$1,795
District 46	10,793	$1.40	$15,110	$15,110	15%	$2,267	$2,267
District 47	12,513	$1.40	$17,518	$17,518	15%	$2,628	$2,628
District 48	13,128	$1.40	$18,379	$18,379	15%	$2,757	$2,757

2008 Expenditure Limits and Maximum Public Fund Amounts Under the Current Law

District 49	13,061	$1.40	$18,285	$18,285	15%	$2,743	$2,743
District 50	12,496	$1.40	$17,494	$17,494	15%	$2,624	$2,624
District 51	12,019	$1.40	$16,827	$16,827	15%	$2,524	$2,524
BOE							
District 1 (Oahu)	397,390	$0.20	$79,478	$79,478		$50	$50
District 2	187,300	$0.20	$37,460	$37,460		$50	$50
OHA	584,690	$0.20		$116,938		$0	$1,500
						$713,422	$714,922

Proposed 2008 Expenditure Limits and Maximum Public Fund Amounts

Office	2006 Gen. Election Registered Voters	HRS §11-209	Primary Election Expend. Lmt.	General Election Expend. Lmt.	HRS §11-218	Primary Election Max. Public Funding	General Election Max. Public Funding
Governor	584,690	$2.60	$1,520,194	$1,520,194	14%	$212,827	$212,827
Lt. Governor	584,690	$1.50	$877,035	$877,035	14%	$122,785	$122,785
Mayor							
Honolulu	397,390	$2.10	$834,519	$834,519	14%	$116,833	$116,833
Hawaii	82,626	$2.10	$173,515	$173,515	14%	$24,292	$24,292
Maui	70,275	$2.10	$147,578	$147,578	14%	$20,661	$20,661
Kauai	34,399	$2.10	$72,238	$72,238	14%	$10,113	$10,113
County Council							
Honolulu							
District 1	41,413	$1.50	$62,120	$62,120	19%	$11,803	$11,803
District 2	40,305	$1.50	$60,458	$60,458	19%	$11,487	$11,487
District 3	51,315	$1.50	$76,973	$76,973	19%	$14,625	$14,625
District 4	54,386	$1.50	$81,579	$81,579	19%	$15,500	$15,500
District 5	44,780	$1.50	$67,170	$67,170	19%	$12,762	$12,762
District 6	44,108	$1.50	$66,162	$66,162	19%	$12,571	$12,571
District 7	29,497	$1.50	$44,246	$44,246	19%	$8,407	$8,407
District 8	45,962	$1.50	$68,943	$68,943	19%	$13,099	$13,099
District 9	45,624	$1.50	$68,436	$68,436	19%	$13,003	$13,003
Hawaii							
District 1	8,846	$1.50	$13,269	$13,269	19%	$2,521	$2,521
District 2	8,855	$1.50	$13,283	$13,283	19%	$2,524	$2,524
District 3	9,551	$1.50	$14,327	$14,327	19%	$2,722	$2,722
District 4	8,302	$1.50	$12,453	$12,453	19%	$2,366	$2,366
District 5	9,258	$1.50	$13,887	$13,887	19%	$2,639	$2,639
District 6	8,910	$1.50	$13,365	$13,365	19%	$2,539	$2,539
District 7	9,726	$1.50	$14,589	$14,589	19%	$2,772	$2,772
District 8	9,311	$1.50	$13,967	$13,967	19%	$2,654	$2,654
District 9	9,867	$1.50	$14,801	$14,801	19%	$2,812	$2,812
Maui	70,275	$1.50	$105,413	$105,413	19%	$20,028	$20,028
Kauai	34,399	$1.50	$51,599	$51,599	19%	$9,804	$9,804
State Senate							
District 1	27,611	$1.50	$41,417	$41,417	19%	$7,869	$7,869
District 2	28,001	$1.50	$42,002	$42,002	19%	$7,980	$7,980
District 3	27,014	$1.50	$40,521	$40,521	19%	$7,699	$7,699
District 4	22,370	$1.50	$33,555	$33,555	19%	$6,375	$6,375
District 5	21,960	$1.50	$32,940	$32,940	19%	$6,259	$6,259
District 6	25,945	$1.50	$38,918	$38,918	19%	$7,394	$7,394
District 7	34,399	$1.50	$51,599	$51,599	19%	$9,804	$9,804
District 8	29,414	$1.50	$44,121	$44,121	19%	$8,383	$8,383
District 9	25,118	$1.50	$37,677	$37,677	19%	$7,159	$7,159
District 10	22,086	$1.50	$33,129	$33,129	19%	$6,295	$6,295
District 11	20,767	$1.50	$31,151	$31,151	19%	$5,919	$5,919
District 12	18,130	$1.50	$27,195	$27,195	19%	$5,167	$5,167
District 13	21,937	$1.50	$32,906	$32,906	19%	$6,252	$6,252
District 14	18,185	$1.50	$27,278	$27,278	19%	$5,183	$5,183
District 15	19,723	$1.50	$29,585	$29,585	19%	$5,621	$5,621
District 16	25,925	$1.50	$38,888	$38,888	19%	$7,389	$7,389
District 17	24,982	$1.50	$37,473	$37,473	19%	$7,120	$7,120

Proposed 2008 Expenditure Limits and Maximum Public Fund Amounts

District 18	18,449	$1.50	$27,674	$27,674	19%	$5,258	$5,258
District 19	22,022	$1.50	$33,033	$33,033	19%	$6,276	$6,276
District 20	19,416	$1.50	$29,124	$29,124	19%	$5,534	$5,534
District 21	17,010	$1.50	$25,515	$25,515	19%	$4,848	$4,848
District 22	21,212	$1.50	$31,818	$31,818	19%	$6,045	$6,045
District 23	22,403	$1.50	$33,605	$33,605	19%	$6,385	$6,385
District 24	25,179	$1.50	$37,769	$37,769	19%	$7,176	$7,176
District 25	25,432	$1.50	$38,148	$38,148	19%	$7,248	$7,248
State House							
District 1	11,543	$1.50	$17,315	$17,315	19%	$3,290	$3,290
District 2	11,508	$1.50	$17,262	$17,262	19%	$3,280	$3,280
District 3	12,771	$1.50	$19,157	$19,157	19%	$3,640	$3,640
District 4	11,998	$1.50	$17,997	$17,997	19%	$3,419	$3,419
District 5	11,567	$1.50	$17,351	$17,351	19%	$3,297	$3,297
District 6	11,368	$1.50	$17,052	$17,052	19%	$3,240	$3,240
District 7	11,871	$1.50	$17,807	$17,807	19%	$3,383	$3,383
District 8	11,378	$1.50	$17,067	$17,067	19%	$3,243	$3,243
District 9	10,992	$1.50	$16,488	$16,488	19%	$3,133	$3,133
District 10	10,400	$1.50	$15,600	$15,600	19%	$2,964	$2,964
District 11	11,560	$1.50	$17,340	$17,340	19%	$3,295	$3,295
District 12	13,468	$1.50	$20,202	$20,202	19%	$3,838	$3,838
District 13	12,477	$1.50	$18,716	$18,716	19%	$3,556	$3,556
District 14	11,256	$1.50	$16,884	$16,884	19%	$3,208	$3,208
District 15	11,794	$1.50	$17,691	$17,691	19%	$3,361	$3,361
District 16	11,349	$1.50	$17,024	$17,024	19%	$3,234	$3,234
District 17	14,731	$1.50	$22,097	$22,097	19%	$4,198	$4,198
District 18	13,671	$1.50	$20,507	$20,507	19%	$3,896	$3,896
District 19	14,011	$1.50	$21,017	$21,017	19%	$3,993	$3,993
District 20	12,001	$1.50	$18,002	$18,002	19%	$3,420	$3,420
District 21	11,245	$1.50	$16,868	$16,868	19%	$3,205	$3,205
District 22	9,016	$1.50	$13,524	$13,524	19%	$2,570	$2,570
District 23	9,127	$1.50	$13,691	$13,691	19%	$2,601	$2,601
District 24	13,058	$1.50	$19,587	$19,587	19%	$3,722	$3,722
District 25	11,040	$1.50	$16,560	$16,560	19%	$3,146	$3,146
District 26	12,499	$1.50	$18,749	$18,749	19%	$3,562	$3,562
District 27	10,671	$1.50	$16,007	$16,007	19%	$3,041	$3,041
District 28	9,344	$1.50	$14,016	$14,016	19%	$2,663	$2,663
District 29	8,183	$1.50	$12,275	$12,275	19%	$2,332	$2,332
District 30	8,991	$1.50	$13,487	$13,487	19%	$2,562	$2,562
District 31	10,701	$1.50	$16,052	$16,052	19%	$3,050	$3,050
District 32	10,908	$1.50	$16,362	$16,362	19%	$3,109	$3,109
District 33	10,946	$1.50	$16,419	$16,419	19%	$3,120	$3,120
District 34	11,558	$1.50	$17,337	$17,337	19%	$3,294	$3,294
District 35	10,270	$1.50	$15,405	$15,405	19%	$2,927	$2,927
District 36	11,771	$1.50	$17,657	$17,657	19%	$3,355	$3,355
District 37	12,820	$1.50	$19,230	$19,230	19%	$3,654	$3,654
District 38	14,910	$1.50	$22,365	$22,365	19%	$4,249	$4,249
District 39	10,253	$1.50	$15,380	$15,380	19%	$2,922	$2,922
District 40	13,305	$1.50	$19,958	$19,958	19%	$3,792	$3,792
District 41	9,922	$1.50	$14,883	$14,883	19%	$2,828	$2,828
District 42	8,358	$1.50	$12,537	$12,537	19%	$2,382	$2,382
District 43	12,295	$1.50	$18,443	$18,443	19%	$3,504	$3,504
District 44	9,228	$1.50	$13,842	$13,842	19%	$2,630	$2,630
District 45	8,547	$1.50	$12,821	$12,821	19%	$2,436	$2,436
District 46	10,793	$1.50	$16,190	$16,190	19%	$3,076	$3,076
District 47	12,513	$1.50	$18,770	$18,770	19%	$3,566	$3,566
District 48	13,128	$1.50	$19,692	$19,692	19%	$3,741	$3,741

Proposed 2008 Expenditure Limits and Maximum Public Fund Amounts

District 49	13,061	$1.50	$19,592	$19,592	19%	$3,722	$3,722
District 50	12,496	$1.50	$18,744	$18,744	19%	$3,561	$3,561
District 51	12,019	$1.50	$18,029	$18,029	19%	$3,425	$3,425
BOE							
District 1 (O:	397,390	$0.25	$99,348	$99,348		$50	$50
District 2	187,300	$0.25	$46,825	$46,825		$50	$50
OHA	584,690	$0.25		$146,173		$0	$1,500
						$1,007,521	$1,009,021

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
802 LEHUA AVENUE
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782
www.hawaii.gov/elections

KEVIN B. CRONIN
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE

CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

ON HOUSE BILL NO. 661, H.D. 1

RELATING TO CAMPAIGN SPENDING

March 11, 2008

Chair Taniguchi and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 661, H.D. 1. The purpose of this bill is to create comprehensive public funding for elections to any county council.

Presently, all county candidates file with the respective county clerk's office and not the Office of Elections (OE). With this in mind, the OE takes no position on the bill but would like to provide the following comments:

- If the OE is becomes responsible for verifying qualifying contributions from registered voters in a candidate's district, funding in section 17 of the bill must be appropriated. Presently, the OE does not have the resources to make these verifications.

- If this bill is limited to only candidates for the various city/county councils, perhaps it should be more appropriate to require each county clerk's office to verify the contributors' registration. This would eliminate the need for candidates who seek public funding from going to the clerk's office and the OE.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 661, H.D. 1.

Respectfully Submitted:

By Kevin Cronin

BOB JACOBSON
Councilmember
Chair, Environmental Management Committee
Vice-Chair, Finance Committee
Vice-President Hawai'i State Association of Counties

333 Kīlauea Avenue, Second Floor
Ben Franklin Building, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Mailing Address: 25 Aupuni Street, Suite 200
Phone: (808) 961-8263
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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i

March 9, 2008

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair

Hearing Tuesday, March 11, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 016
State Capitol

Re: HB 661 HD 1, Relating to Campaign Spending

I strongly support House Bill 661 HD1 and urge you to pass this Bill with the amendments. The Hawaii County Council passed Resolution 439-08 to have publicly funded elections in place for the 2010 County Council elections. I support amending HB 661 HD 1 to create comprehensively funded elections and to have the Big Island elections be a pilot project for this program. I believe that public funding will allow non-traditional candidates who don't have the economic means or connections to people with money to run for public office.

I also want to thank Senator Taniguchi for hearing this important bill and urge the Committee on Judiciary and Labor to pass this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Bob Jacobson

Bob Jacobson
Hawaii County Council
District 6
Puna, Ka'u, and South Kona

The Senate
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
Regular Session of 2008

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Hearing
Tuesday, March 11, 2008
9:30 a..m.

Testimony by: Ralph C. Boyea, Legislative Advocate, Hawai'i County Council

Testimony in favor of HB 661, HD1 RELATING TO CAMPAIGN SPENDING

Chairperson Taniguchi and Vice Chair Hee
and Honored Senators

On behalf of the Hawai'i County Council, I urge you to pass House Bill 661, HD1. House Bill 661 creates comprehensive public funding for elections to any county council. It establishes qualifications, limitations on funding and the use of funds; reporting requirements; and, it amends chapter II part XII, HRS, to reflect these changes.

The Hawai'i County Council is fully supportive of HB 661. The Hawai'i County Council passed Resolution 41-07 on February 22, 2007 and Resolution 439-08 on January 24, 2008 supporting the purpose and intent of HB 661. Hawai'i County residents testified in strong support of these Resolutions, and it is our understanding that petitioners have gathered over 1400 signatures from Hawai'i County residents in support of publicly funded elections.

Resolution 439-08 clearly states the Hawai'i County Council's position that the Council "does embrace the establishment of a "Comprehensive Public Funding for Elections" process for elections to the County Council of the County of Hawai'i and urges the 2008 Legislature of the State of Hawai'i to pass HB661 HD1 in an amended form that would allow for Comprehensive Public Funding of the 2010 Hawai'i County Council elections".

The Hawai'i County Council offers the elections to Hawai'i Council seats to be a pilot project for the testing of the viability of comprehensive public funding for elections. The Hawai'i County Council stands behind the concept and behind amendments that would limit the appropriation of funds, for funding limited to Hawai'i County Council races, to no more than $500,000; requiring that each candidate collect a donation of $5.00 from each registered voter signing a petition in support of that candidate; require that these signatures and donations come from at least 200 registered voters in the district in which the candidate is running for election; and, that the publicly funded election process be implemented in the year 2010.

The Hawai'i County Council does not object to the inclusion of other counties in this process, they just want to make it clear that they are willing to be a pilot project for publicly funded elections.

We urge you to pass HB 661, HD 1 with the amendments we are requesting.

LATE

COUNTY OF HAWAI'I STATE OF HAWAI'I

RESOLUTION NO. 41 07

RESOLUTION URGING LEGISLATORS TO SUPPORT PUBLICLY FUNDED ELECTIONS.

WHEREAS, a democratic government derives its power from the consent of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, corporate and other special interest donations account for the vast majority of campaign donations; both locally and nationally; and

WHEREAS, voter participation among Hawai'i constituents is the lowest in the United States; and

WHEREAS, publicly funded elections hold politicians accountable to community interests rather than to special interests; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive publicly funded campaign finance system such as voter-owned elections has opened up elections to fair competition and spiked voter participation in cities in Maine, Arizona, Oregon, New Mexico and as many as four other states; and

WHEREAS, pono use of public resources, such as through a publicly funded campaign system, serves to include large numbers of citizens, particularly women and minorities, in the political process; and

WHEREAS, participants in publicly funded campaigns no longer need to spend the majority of their time in office raising funds for the next campaign; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Issues Caucus further includes Hawaiian values as the basis for our Statement of Principles: 'aloha', 'kuleana', 'mālama aina', 'ho'okipa', and 'pono', values guiding personal and professional conduct when in service to the community; and

WHEREAS, such values resonate with the concept of publicly funded campaigns, political accountability to the community, pono use of resources, and greater participation by women and minorities in the political process.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF HAWAI'I that our state legislators are urged to support publicly funded elections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation, the members of the Hawai'i State Legislature, Governor Linda Lingle and the County Councils of Maui, Kauai, and Honolulu.

Dated at, Kona Hawaii, this 22nd day of February 2007.

INTRODUCED BY:

COUNCIL MEMBER, COUNTY OF HAWAII

COUNTY COUNCIL
County of Hawai'i
Hilo, Hawai'i

I hereby certify that the foregoing RESOLUTION was by the vote indicated to the right hereof adopted by the COUNCIL of the County of Hawai'i on February 22, 2007.

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK CHAIRMAN & PRESIDING OFFICER

ROLL CALL VOTE

	AYES	NOES	ABS	EX
FORD	X			
HIGA			X	
HOFFMANN	X			
IKEDA		X		
JACOBSON	X			
NABOLE			X	
PILAGO	X			
YAGONG	X			
YOSHIMOTO			X	
	5	1	3	0

Reference: C-103/PWIRC - 3

RESOLUTION NO. 41 '07

LATE

COUNTY OF HAWAI'I STATE OF HAWAI'I

RESOLUTION NO. 439 08

(DRAFT 2)

A RESOLUTION URGING OUR STATE LEGISLATORS TO PASS HB661 HD1 WITH AMENDMENTS THAT ESTABLISH COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC FUNDING FOR ELECTIONS TO HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL.

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i County Council finds that the democratic process is best served through the availability of a full public funding option for the elections of our county, state and national representatives; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i County Council finds that HB661 HD1 addresses the economic disparities that are inherent in the current elections process; and

WHEREAS, as the policy making body for Hawai'i County this Council wishes to use this resolution as a vehicle to express our strong support for HB661 HD1 and express support for it to be amended with language that will create a comprehensive public funding for elections process for election to Hawai'i County Council; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i County Council finds that establishing and embracing a "Comprehensive Public Funding For Elections" process for the Hawai'i County Council elections is prudent and preferred as indicated by its adoption of Resolution 41-07 on February 22, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i County Council is desirous of applying "Comprehensive Public Funding for Elections" for elections to the Hawai'i County Council and is requesting the Legislative Research Bureau submit language to amend HB661 HD1 to accomplish this; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF HAWAI'I that it does embrace the establishment of a "Comprehensive Public Funding for Elections" process for elections to the County Council of the County of Hawai'i and urges the 2008 Legislature of the State of Hawai'i to pass HB661 HD1 in an amended form that would allow for Comprehensive Public Funding of the 2010 Hawai'i County Council elections; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Clerk of the County of Hawai'i transmit copies of this resolution to the Govenor and members of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives and the Hawai'i State Senate.

Dated at Hilo, Hawai'i, this 24th day of January 2007

INTRODUCED BY:

COUNCIL MEMBER, COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

COUNTY COUNCIL
County of Hawai'i
Hilo, Hawai'i

I hereby certify that the foregoing RESOLUTION was by the vote indicated to the right hereof adopted by the COUNCIL of the County of Hawai'i on January 24, 2008

ATTEST:

COUNTY CLERK CHAIRMAN & PRESIDING OFFICER

ROLL CALL VOTE

	AYES	NOES	ABS	EX
FORD	X			
HIGA		X		
HOFFMANN	X			
IKEDA		X		
JACOBSON	X			
NAEOLE	X			
PILAGO	X			
YAGONG	X			
YOSHIMOTO	X			
	7	2	0	0

Reference: C-839.8/PWIRC-49

RESOLUTION NO. 439 08

testimony

From: Barbara Polk [ednbarb8@earthlink.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 9:48 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 661 HD 1

For: JDL Hearing, March 11, 9:30 am, Conference Room 016

TO: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Barbara Polk, Legislative Committee Chair
Americans for Democratic Action, Hawaii Chapter

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR HB 661, WITH AMENDMENTS

Thank you for hearing HB 661 HD 1 Relating to Campaign Spending. Americans for Democratic Action, Hawaii Chapter, strongly supports publicly financed elections. In States and communities where public financing is available to candidates, the result has been a broader representation of the public among political candidates, greater trust in government, and more active citizen participation—in other words, increased democracy. Public financing of election campaigns, on a voluntary basis, can go far to restore faith in our democracy in the State of Hawaii.

We are pleased that the Hawaii County Council has requested the State Legislature to allow it to become a test case for public financing of elections. There is no reason not to grant this request: funds, which have been donated for this purpose, are available in the Election Campaign Fund and candidates can choose whether or not to participate.

We strongly urge you to amend HB661 as requested by the County Council of Hawaii and pass the bill as amended.

fax 586-4459

Conservation Council for Hawai'i

Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 9 am
Conference Room 312

Support for HB 661 HD 1 Relating to Campaign Spending

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 661 HD 1, which provides public financing for county council races. Publicly financed campaigns will allow more people to run for office because they will be able to afford it. Publicly financed campaigns will allow elected officials to focus on their jobs and the public interest instead of raising money for the next election.

The Hawai'i County Council recently passed a resolution asking for publicly financed campaigns for its elections. But the Legislature must authorize this. Therefore, please pass HB 661 HD 1 out of committee. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler

Marjorie Ziegler

Working Today for the Nature of Tomorrow!

Telephone/Fax 808.593.0255 • email: info@conservehi.org • web: www@conservehi.org
P.O. Box 2923 • Honolulu, HI 96802 • Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 212 • Honolulu, HI 96814

Hawai'i Affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB661

From the Democratic Party of Hawaii
Bart Dame, Co-Chair, Legislative Committee

Good Morning Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Hee and Members of the Committee

My name is Bart Dame. I am co-chair of the Legislative Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii and I have been asked by Chair Jeani Withington to present testimony on behalf of the Party in strong support of HB661.

The Democratic Party strongly supports providing the option of public financing as a way for candidates to fund their campaigns. We recognize that this puts us in a different position from many Democratic elected officials. We share a desire to elect --and to re-elect-- Democrats to office. We believe public financing is good for the Party, good for the public and good for most elected officials. It frees elected officials up from having to solicit funds from special corporate interests or to worry about which interests they might offend when voting on public policy.

In addition, the move to public financing along the lines proposed by HB661 is likely to lead to a decline in escalating campaign costs, as more candidates, both incumbent and challenger, opt to use public financing.

It has been difficult passing public financing in the face of the reluctance of elected officials. Fortunately, a large majority of Big Island County Council members have asked to be allowed to use public financing for their races. This will allow us to use the Big Island as a "pilot project" to evaluate the benefits and possible problems of such a system without having to adopt it statewide and over the objections of most elected officials. We suspect a limited, Big Island pilot project will convince many elected officials, potential candidates and members of the general public that public financing is a cost-effective means of running elections, recruiting new political talent and reducing the influence of special interests in the legislative process.

We urge the legislature to pass HB661, with amendments limiting its implementation to the Big Island. We predict support will grow for establishing a statewide system once the results on the Big Island have been evaluated by Hawaii's people. And we expect elected officials will also come to recognize the benefits and stop fearing the public financing of elections.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

1050 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite D-26 Honolulu, HI 96814 (808) 596-2980
www.hawaiidemocrats.org

testimony

From: Seatree Osage [seatree@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 10:09 AM
To: testimony
Cc: Sen. Brian Taniguchi; Sen. Mike Gabbard
Subject: JDL Tuesday March 11, 2008, 9:30AM - Support for HB661HD1

March 9, 2007

Aloha Senators,

On behalf of the members of our organization, we are asking that you make a commitment to support HB 661/SB 1068 allowing the Hawaii County Council to have a comprehensive public finance pilot program. We have thousands of signatures, from the residents of the County of Hawaii, asking for your help.

The Comprehensive Public Funding bill (HB 661, SB 1068) would be a way for candidates to have the choice to run for office without having to accept any special interest money. This has been a huge success in many other states, and candidates that have used the clean elections option have found that this frees up their time, and allows them to campaign instead of fundraise. This also allows our elected officials to make decisions that are best for their constituents without having to worry about it conflicting with the interests of their campaign donors.

There are also many benefits to the community. Our county and state suffers from the lowest voter turnout in the nation, and many residents have lost faith in our democracy and in their elected officials. As we have seen in many other states, clean elections will increase voter turnout, restore our citizens faith in democracy and in their elected officials, and give the power of decisions back to those in office instead of those who funded their campaigns. This would allow for more progressive bills in favor of their constituents.

Because of the many benefits clean elections offers to the citizens of Hawaii county and to the elected officials we believe that this is a very important issue. The members of our organization requests that you bring this bill up for a vote. We also hope that when you are given the opportunity to vote on this you will do what is best for the people of the County of Hawaii, and vote for HB 661/SB 1068 which would allow the option of comprehensive public financing for Hawaii County Council candidates in 2010. We appreciate your service to the citizens of Hawaii county and are counting on you to fight to pass this important bill.

Sincerely,

Seatree Osage
President, Global H.O.P.E.
Member of Clean Elections Coalition
Member of League of Women Voters

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAII

TESTIMONY ON HB 661,HD1 RELATING TO CAMPAIGN SPENDING

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi Chair
Senator Clayton Hee Vice Chair
Tuesday, March 11, 2008, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 016

Testifier: Jean Aoki

Chair Taniguch, Vice Chair Hee, members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports HB 661, HD1, as revised by the amendments offered by the Hawaii County Council.

We commend the members of the Hawaii County Council for seeing the merits of this public funding system and being willing to test it for themselves. Those who embrace it, if this bill is enacted, will feel the freedom from fundraising quite a liberating experience, we are sure. They will be able to spend more time meeting the residents of the district they wish to represent and learning more about them and their views on different issues .They will appreciate these voters as people who not only pay their salaries but who also finance their election campaigns. Their obligations will mostly be to their constituents who voted them into office and not to a few who bankrolled their campaigns.

Those who have seen and felt the ever escalating cost of campaigning should be relieved to know that when publicly funded campaigns become the norm, the costs should stabilize. There will not be the need to out raise the other condidates.

Best of all, the strength of a candidate will not be measured by the amount of money he/she raises as we have seen done on the national scene. Very often, a few powerful leaders can direct the money flow to their favored candidate and assure the selection of that candidate. With public funding, everyone will compete on a level track, and the ammunition will be ideas and solutions, visions and commitment, understanding and caring.

And let's once and for all rid ourselves of that specious argument that our citizens will be paying for the campaigns of people they do not support. We will all be paying for the campaigns for those we support and those we do not. We always help pay for programs we do not support and those we do. It all balances out in the end.

We urge you to pass HB 661, HD1 with the proposed amendment.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of an amended HB 661, HD1.

49 South Hotel Street, Room 314, Honolulu, Hawaii 986813 Ph. (808) 531-7448 Fax (808) 599-5669
Website: www.lwv-hawaii.com email: voters@lwv-hawaii.com

Progressive Democrats of Hawai'i

http://pd-hawaii.com
email: info@pd-hawaii.com
2457 Lamaku Pl, Honolulu, HI 96816
tel: 808.265-1334

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair

Monday, March 10, 2008

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB661 HD1 WITH PROPOSED REVISIONS

From the Progressive Democrats of Hawai'i
Rachel S. Orange, Co-Chair

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee, and Members of the Senate JDL Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Progressive Democrats of Hawai'i in strong support of House Bill 661 HD1 with proposed revisions, comprehensive public funding of elections for Hawai'i County Council races. I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee. Our organization considers comprehensive public financing of elections one of its top five issues. Voter turnout in the last election was only 52.7%, signaling that the electorate is largely apathetic perhaps because they feel that their voices don't count. Meanwhile the cost of running a winning campaign continues to soar, forcing candidates to spend much of their time soliciting contributions. Comprehensive public financing of campaigns would free candidates to re-connect with the voters in their district.

Since the Hawai'i County Council has gone on record in support of a full public financing option, let's give them the opportunity to demonstrate how this program could work. Cost is not a factor here, since the bill has safety valves built into it. There must be $3.5 million in the Hawai'i Election Campaign Fund to run the program in the first place, and the program has a spending ceiling of $500,000. Currently, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund has $5.5 million, and adds approximately another $2.7 million every two years.

Comprehensive public financing has been demonstrated to work in Maine, Arizona and North Carolina where publicly financed candidates won 205 state offices in 2006. When Arizona enacted comprehensive public financing in 2000 voter turn out increased by 24% (1998 to 2002) while the percent of all races won by candidates with the most money went from 79% in 1998 down to 2% in 2000.

Comprehensive public financing has been shown to increase voter turnout while decreasing the cost of campaigns. It will reinvigorate elections and connect constituents to legislators in a real way. It will save taxpayer money and build trust. Let's not let this opportunity pass us by!

Please pass a clean version of this bill.
Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sierra Club
Hawai'i Chapter
PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
808.537.9019 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
March 11th, 2008, 9:30 A.M.

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 661 HD1

Chair Taniguchi and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai`i Chapter, with 5500 dues paying members statewide, supports HB 661 HD1, allowing the counties to adopt publicly funded election processes. We believe that publicly funded elections help to remove the pressures of raising campaign donations from individuals or companies that seek to influence the behavior of elected officials. While the Sierra Club's mission is to keep Hawaii's environment clean, it is becoming clearer that the mission can't be achieved with special interests financially backing Hawaii's lawmakers.

At the state and county levels, it is clear that money influences politics. To avoid impugning any current elected official, this testimony will share an older example. On the November 6, 1997, 10pm broadcast of KHON-2 News it was reported, "Bank of Hawaii's Larry Johnson says his bank powerful political action committee will support the re-election of lawmakers who vote for the task force (*Economic Revitalization Task Force*) recommendations and withhold contributions from those who do not." Such a statement is nothing short of bribery. HRS 710-1040 defines bribery as follows:

> *"(a) The person confers, or offers...pecuniary benefit upon a public servant with the intent to influence a public servant's vote, opinion, judgment, exercise of discretion, or other action in the public servant's official capacity."*

Such inappropriate influence from campaign donations continues today. Even the perception of impropriety—actions based on campaign donations instead of citizen representation—harms our democratic processes as citizens question decisions and lose interest in the political process. By allowing counties to adopt a system of public funding for elections, House Bill 661 HD1 will help remove pressure on both elected officials to raise funds and individuals and corporations from having to make donations. We believe it will also increase citizen faith in the democratic process and deliberative decision making.

House Bill 661 HD1 is consistent with the Sierra Club's principles on campaign finance reform: public financing for campaigns and limits on donations and gifts. We encourage its passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

testimony

From: Bob Akamine [RAKAMINE@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 8:50 AM
To: testimony
Subject: HB661 HD1

Dear Lawmakers:

I in favor of subject HB661 DH1, the Comprehensive Public Funding bill presently on the Senate and House floors. Please vote to pass this important bill.

Regards,

Bob Akamine
Hilo

testimony

From: walterbe@hawaii.edu
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 5:26 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

1. Cost is not a factor for this bill. The bill has safety valves built into it. There must be $3.5 million in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to run the program in the first place, and the program has a spending ceiling of $500,000. Currently, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund has $5.5 million, and adds approximately another $2.7 million every two years.

2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Walterbea Aldeguer
87-142 Hila St.
Waianae, HI 96792

testimony

From: kouka96792@yahoo.com
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2008 8:21 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

1. Cost is not a factor for this bill. The bill has safety valves built into it. There must be $3.5 million in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to run the program in the first place, and the program has a spending ceiling of $500,000. Currently, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund has $5.5 million, and adds approximately another $2.7 million every two years.

2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
C. Douglas Kouka Allen
85-934 Lihue St.
Suite A133
Wai'anae, HI 96792

testimony

From: shanti108@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 10:10 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections.

Every election gets more expensive, limiting the choices of voters. This bill would be a small step in the right direction.

Please pass a clean version of this bill; keep it out of conference committee.

Sincerely,
William Bailey
2161 Puna St.
Honolulu, HI 96817

testimony

From: jbickel15@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 9:50 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

1. Cost is not a factor for this bill. The bill has safety valves built into it. There must be $3.5 million in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to run the program in the first place, and the program has a spending ceiling of $500,000. Currently, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund has $5.5 million, and adds approximately another $2.7 million every two years.

2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
John Bickel
2415 Ala Wai Blvd.
901
Honolulu, HI 96815

testimony

From: patriciablair@msn.com
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 10:05 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Senate Judiciary Committee.

I send my support for HB661 that calls for public funding of Big Island elections. I am grateful for the Big Island setting the standard for the state, and I requests that the amendments requested by Hawaii County Council be approved. Thank you very much. Pat Blair, Kailua

testimony

From: Leilani Bronson-Crelly [leilanibc@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 11:51 AM
To: testimony
Subject: JDL Tuesday, March 11, 2008, 9:30 am, HB 661HD1 -

I support HB 661HD1 and the pilot program of comprehensive public funding for the County of Hawaii's County Council races. This is a reform that is valuable, critical, and already proven in 8 other states to work.

Aloha,
Leilani Bronson-Crelly
Co-President
League of Women Voters of Hawaii County

---

testimony

From: brownj@hawaii.edu
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2008 12:20 PM
To: testimony
Subject: I Support HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

1. Cost is not a factor for this bill. The bill has safety valves built into it. There must be $3.5 million in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to run the program in the first place, and the program has a spending ceiling of $500,000. Currently, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund has $5.5 million, and adds approximately another $2.7 million every two years.

2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
James D Brown
46-109 Ipuka Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744

testimony

From: glen@hawaiiart.com
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 6:53 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

1. Cost is not a factor for this bill. The bill has safety valves built into it. There must be $3.5 million in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to run the program in the first place, and the program has a spending ceiling of $500,000. Currently, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund has $5.5 million, and adds approximately another $2.7 million every two years.

2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Glen Carner
83-5305 Mamalahoa Hwy.
Captain Cook, HI 96704

testimony

From: pcasey@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 10:19 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

1. Cost is not a factor for this bill. The bill has safety valves built into it. There must be $3.5 million in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to run the program in the first place, and the program has a spending ceiling of $500,000. Currently, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund has $5.5 million, and adds approximately another $2.7 million every two years.

2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Patrick Casey
1172 Lunaai St
Kailua, HI 96734

testimony

From: randy ching [oahurandy@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 11:42 AM
To: testimony
Subject: JDL: In support of HB 661 HD1 -- relating to campaign spending

Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee
In support of HB 661 HD1 -- relating to campaign spending

Hearing on Tuesday, March 11
at 9:30 a.m. in conference room 016

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee and members of the committee,

I support HB 661 -- relating to campaign spending. Comprehensive public funding for elections is a big step toward ensuring people access to their council members and legislators. HB 661 would allow the Big Island County Council candidates to have the option of using public funds in their elections. There is enough CSC funding to pay for this bill.

HB 661 is an important step in proving that public funding would work here. Maine and Arizona have already proven that comprehensive public funding for elections work on a statewide basis.

Please pass a clean version of the bill for the House to vote on -- no blanked out spots or ambiguous language. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Randy Ching
Honolulu
oahurandy@yahoo.com

---

testimony

From: oahurandy@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 5:26 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

1. Cost is not a factor for this bill. The bill has safety valves built into it. There must be $3.5 million in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to run the program in the first place, and the program has a spending ceiling of $500,000. Currently, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund has $5.5 million, and adds approximately another $2.7 million every two years.

2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Randy Ching
1560 Kanunu St., #818
Honolulu, HI 96814

testimony

From: chungkat@hawaii.edu
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 5:26 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

1. Cost is not a factor for this bill. The bill has safety valves built into it. There must be $3.5 million in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to run the program in the first place, and the program has a spending ceiling of $500,000. Currently, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund has $5.5 million, and adds approximately another $2.7 million every two years.

2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
K. Chung
2318 Kipona Place
Honolulu, HI 96816

testimony

From: damas@hawaii.edu
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2008 2:43 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

1. Cost is not a factor for this bill. The bill has safety valves built into it. There must be $3.5 million in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to run the program in the first place, and the program has a spending ceiling of $500,000. Currently, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund has $5.5 million, and adds approximately another $2.7 million every two years.

2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Linda Damas
PO Box 5238
Hilo, HI 96720

testimony

From: dok@riseup.net
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 6:39 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

Aloha `aina. I am writingas a vet and citizen in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it. I would like to think that I served my country to strengthen our democracy, rather than defend a political auction. To clarify:

1. Cost is not a factor for this bill. The bill has safety valves built into it. There must be $3.5 million in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to run the program in the first place, and the program has a spending ceiling of $500,000. Currently, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund has $5.5 million, and adds approximately another $2.7 million every two years.

2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Pete Doktor
2002J Hunnewell Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

testimony

From: elizabethdunne@hotmail.com
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 5:26 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

1. Cost is not a factor for this bill. The bill has safety valves built into it. There must be $3.5 million in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to run the program in the first place, and the program has a spending ceiling of $500,000. Currently, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund has $5.5 million, and adds approximately another $2.7 million every two years.

2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Dunne
2611 Ala Wai Blvd.
#2403
Honolulu, HI 96815

testimony

From: ehrhornp001@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 5:26 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

1. Cost is not a factor for this bill. The bill has safety valves built into it. There must be $3.5 million in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to run the program in the first place, and the program has a spending ceiling of $500,000. Currently, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund has $5.5 million, and adds approximately another $2.7 million every two years.

2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill. It is ridiculous for politicians to waste so much time on fundraising. As a result most people don't feel politicians are fair but rather whores who respond to those who give the most money. Please start putting some sanity back into our elections.

Sincerely,
Peter Ehrhorn
254 Kaha St.
Kailua, HI 96734

testimony

From: Marjorie Erway [merway@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 3:07 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SUPPORT HD661HD1 - State Senate Comm. - 3/11 @ 9:30 a.m.

Please SUPPORT Comprehensive Public Funding of Elections. It is time to get special interest, esp. corporate monies out of government. This concept is already working in Maine, Arizona, New Jersey, and several other states.

A lot is at stake here! Full public funding for campaigns refreshes democracy. Candidates can focus their attention to their own communities' issues, instead of asking for money from the wealthy, corporations, and other special interest groups.

Even more importantly, after elected, the publicly funded candidates can govern with no strings attached to special interests.

Since I live on Hawaii Island, I am proud that we can become the pilot for this reform, since this reform would renew trust in government. There is already more than enough money set aside for it. The Hawaii Island pilot program will cost less than one-tenth of the existing fund.

Please, please, seriously consider this issue and completely SUPPORT it.
Mahalo,
Marjorie Erway
PO Box 2807
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

testimony

From: cevans@hpu.edu
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 5:26 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

1. Cost is not a factor for this bill. The bill has safety valves built into it. There must be $3.5 million in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to run the program in the first place, and the program has a spending ceiling of $500,000. Currently, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund has $5.5 million, and adds approximately another $2.7 million every two years.

2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Chris Evans
452 ilimano Street
kailua, HI 96734

testimony

From: jfullerton3@cox.net
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 3:32 PM
To: testimony
Subject: JDL Tuesday March 11, 2008 9:30AM HB661 HD1

I support clean election reform, done with integrity, no more gut and switch. Please support this bill as it should have been written. I am paying attention and will write to publications in support of this issue myself.

John Fullerton

testimony

From: lgerwitz99@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 6:53 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

1. Cost is not a factor for this bill. The bill has safety valves built into it. There must be $3.5 million in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to run the program in the first place, and the program has a spending ceiling of $500,000. Currently, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund has $5.5 million, and adds approximately another $2.7 million every two years.

2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Laura Gerwitz
1619 Kamamalu Ave., #404
Honolulu, HI 96813

testimony

From: golojuchc@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 1:46 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past because nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

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2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accommodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

4. It is false advertising to continue to collect funds and not use the funds for the purposes that it was intended for.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Golojuch
92-954 Makakilo Dr. #71
Kapolei, HI 96707

testimony

From: anelag@hawaii.edu
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 9:18 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Anela Lani Grace
801 S. King St. Apt. #4010
HONOLULU, HI 96813

testimony

From: netra@opulentdesign.com
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 4:39 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Susan Halperin
29 Puu Kai Place
Kahului, HI 96732

testimony

From: katrinaham@hotmail.com
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 9:01 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Katrina Ham
1327 Hoapili Street
Lahaina, HI 96761

testimony

From: yogahead1@hotmail.com
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 6:53 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Susan Hammer
65-1274 Kawiahae Rd
Kamuela, HI 96743

testimony

From: spinandshift@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 6:13 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Ian Handler
1971 Alaeloa St
Honolulu, HI 96821

testimony

From: mh@interpac.net
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2008 10:57 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

Public funding for elections has been called "the reform that makes all other reforms possible."

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past because nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

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3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Cory Harden
Box 10265
Hilo, HI 96721

testimony

From: berhaya@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2008 1:22 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

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3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Bernice Hayashida
2360 Makiki Hts. Dr.
Honolulu, HI 96822

testimony

From: jheidel@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2008 11:31 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
John Heidel
1341 Manu Mele St.
Kailua, HI 96734

testimony

From: hironom@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 5:26 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,

HI

testimony

From: landinj@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 8:41 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Landin Johnson
2230 Citron Street
Apt . A
Honolulu, HI 96826

testimony

From: annettesadventures@juno.com
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 8:41 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Anna Kaohelaulii
45-403 Koa Kahiko Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744

testimony

From: mkemble@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 9:35 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I would like to ask you to please send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past because nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

I have been a strong supporter of publicly funded elections for a long time. We need to get the influence of big money out of politics!!

1. Cost is not a factor for this bill. The bill has safety valves built into it. There must be $3.5 million in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to run the program in the first place, and the program has a spending ceiling of $500,000. Currently, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund has $5.5 million, and adds approximately another $2.7 million every two years.

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Marcia Kemble
2055 Makiki St
Honolulu, HI 96822

testimony

From: noelk@hawaii.edu
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 10:09 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
noel Kent
4886-3 Kilauea
Honolulu, HI 96816

testimony

From: alicia@aliciabaylaurel.com
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 9:41 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Alicia Bay Laurel
P.O. Box 961
Pahoa, HI 96778

testimony

From: dwleake@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 8:47 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
David Leake
46-395A Kahuhipa Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744

testimony

From: edithyamashita@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 7:45 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Theresa Lee
46-4085 Mamalahoa Hwy
Honokaa, HI 96727

testimony

From: wrl4@mac.com
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 10:49 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

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3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
bill lewis
general delivery
volcano, HI 96785

testimony

From: blockard@iname.com
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 6:53 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Brodie Lockard
183 Pinana St.
Kailua, HI 96734

testimony

From: dpluna@lava.net
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2008 1:29 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Douglas Luna
1050 Bishop Street #344
Honolulu, HI 96813

testimony

From: redahi@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2008 2:40 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
B.A. McClintock
Disabled-email only
Honolulu, HI 96825-1346

testimony

From: aimeesophia@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 10:19 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Aimee McCullough
1455 Kiukee Pl.
Kailua, HI 96734

testimony

From: mcfarrd001@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 9:37 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Danee McFarr
907 Lokahi St.
Honolulu, HI 96826

testimony

From: timmcgivern@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 2:13 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Tim McGivern
P.O. Box 240801
Honolulu, HI 96824

testimony

From: ladmcski1@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2008 12:27 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Lynn McGovern
1645 Ala Wai Blvd.
#1405
Honolulu, HI 96815

testimony

From: Pueo Mcguireturcotte [pueo@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 2:47 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Senate JDL Committee;March 11, 2008 Hearing;Support for HB661 HD1

Aloha Chairman Taniguchi and Members of the Committee,

Thank you very much for holding this hearing. I urge all of you to pass H.B. 661 H.D. 1 with the amendments suggested in the Hawaii Couny Council Resolution 439-07. The Hawaii County Council has expressed a strong desire to apply a "Comprehensive Public Funding" process in their election process. The funding for this program already exists and is steadily growing as people continue to donate to the fund each time they vote. The fund exceeds $5,000,000 as of now, far more than needed to implement this program in Hawaii County Council elections.

The concept that is embodied by this bill is not a new one, as it has been implemented with great success in a number of different states throughout the country. The Hawaii State Senate has considered this issue before, and have concluded that state-wide implementation is too risky to undergo and could potentially be disastrous. Luckily, the Hawaii County Council has volunteered to attempt a pilot program to test the practicality of this policy. This isolated trial provides the State Legislators with a perfect opportunity to examine the effects of public-funded elections, without the possibility of state-wide repruccusions.

The people of Hawaii County have spoken and our council-members have rightfully acknowledged our requests, and now turn to you to allow them to improve the democratic process of Hawaii County. Please do not deny our representatives their ability to provide their constituents with full and fair representation.

Again, mahalo for calling this hearing.

Malama Oe,

Pueo McGuire-Turcotte
1157 C Komohana St.
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
pueo@hawaii.edu

testimony

From: paul.mckimmy@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 10:19 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Paul McKimmy
2736 Puuhonua St.
2736 Puuhonua St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

testimony

From: manis@lava.net
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 8:09 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Laura Manis
1350 Ala Moana Blvd.#1511
Honolulu, HI 96814

testimony

From: maruokaj@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 8:31 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
JoAnn Maruoka
419A Iliwahi loop
Kailua, HI 96734

testimony

From: vashwag@hotmail.com
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 10:57 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
William Mohlman
586 Pili Loko St.
Paia, HI 96779

testimony

From: fish reply [lotusdew@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 3:45 PM
To: testimony
Subject: JDL Tuesday March 11, 2008, 9:30AM - Support for HB661HD1

I would like to support this bill. Victoria Muse

testimony

From: naia96708@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2008 9:58 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Nadine Newlight
45 Laenui Place
Pa`ia, HI 96779

testimony

From: Paul Normann [paulwnormann@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 5:33 PM
To: testimony
Subject: JDL Tuesday March 11, 2008, 9:30 am - Sugpport for HB661HD1

I support HB661 HD1,the Comprehensive Public Funding of Elections bill. I encourage you to pass this bill and help us get special interest and corporate money out of politics.

Paul Normann
Kurtistown, HI
808-966-7622
paulwnormann@yahoo.com

testimony

From: Ms. Shannon Northrop [northrop@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 12:32 PM
To: testimony
Subject: JDL Tuesday March 11, 2008, 9:30AM - Support for HB661HD1

To Whom It May Concern,

I have seen my peers recently become incredibly motivated when it comes to one issue. That issue being VOTER-OWNED elections. This is a unifying topic and many seem to agree that this is the most important step that Hawaii can take in changing its future for the better. We will never know the amazing things that can be possible until we give this pilot program a chance. Please vote in favor of the idea of publicly funded elections. Please provide an alternative to the people of Hawaii. Other states have proved the benefits of this system, let us join them in their wisdom and foresight and give the elections back to the people. This is a way to truly unite the voters of Hawaii and let their voices be heard. Isn't that what our idea of Democracy is supposed to uphold? Whether you are liberals or conservatives or somewhere in between, all of your voices matter, and so too should the voices of all of the PEOPLE of Hawaii, not just those with money and connections.

Thank-you,
Shannon Northrop
808-937-3037
Hilo, Hawaii

testimony

From: Anthony R Olayon [aolayon@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 6:45 PM
To: testimony
Subject: JDL Tuesday March 11, 2008, 9:30AM - Support for HB661HD1

I'm writing to urge you to pass a clean version HB 661 with amendments being offered by the Hawaii County Council, currently in the Senate JDL committee. This would create a comprehensive public funding option for candidates for the Big Island County Council.

Cost is not a factor in this bill. There are safety valves built in to ensure that it does not deplete the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund.

For example, if the fund has less than $3.5 million in it, the program cannot run. Similarly, if the cost of the Big Island program goes above $500,000, the program shuts down. We are aware that the money in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund is earmarked or allocated for this exact purpose and that it will NOT take money away from other programs.

Furthermore, citizens, laborers, small businesses, and organizations from Hilo to Hanalei have made it clear that we want a chance to see this program at work.

Please respect this popular support and pass the bill!

Mahalo,

Anthony Olayon

HCR 1 BOX 4011
Kea'au, Hawai'i 96749
aolayon@hawaii.edu
808-966-7505

testimony

From: cfrnikki@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 5:55 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Hilary Parker
104 Kawalea Place
Kula, HI 96790

testimony

From: kory@voterownedhawaii.org
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 5:26 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kory Payne
945 Lunahai Pl
Kailua, HI 96734

testimony

From: APelletier@Hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2008 11:22 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

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I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

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2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Armand Pelletier
1416 Auauki Street
Kailua, HI 96734

testimony

From: Carolphilips@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 9:01 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

Aloha, I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections. Please send a clean version of the bill to the House of Representatives and avoid sending it to conference committee.

The people of Hawaii are very asking for reform everyday.
Politics has a dirty reputation, mostly because of special interest having so much influence in government. What a dream to get elected and only have your community members to thank.

Please pass a clean version of this bill and help to preserve Hawaii as a place for her people and not special interest.

Sincerely,
Carol Philips
66-008 C Kamehameha Hwy
Haleiwa, HI 96712

testimony

From: Mary Marvin Porter [islandeyesvideo@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 8:03 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with amendments

Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with amendments

Dear Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee, and Members of Senate JDL Committee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am
Please vote for HB 661 HD1, with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections. Please send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past.

1. The bill has safety valves built into it. There must be $3.5 million in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to run the program in the first place, and the program has a spending ceiling of $500,000. Currently, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund has $5.5 million, and adds approximately another $2.7 million every two years.

2. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Pass a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Mary Marvin Porter
HCR 1 Kea'au, Hawai'i 96749

testimony

From: hpfgrants@lava.net
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 5:26 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

1. Cost is not a factor for this bill. The bill has safety valves built into it. There must be $3.5 million in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to run the program in the first place, and the program has a spending ceiling of $500,000. Currently, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund has $5.5 million, and adds approximately another $2.7 million every two years.

2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Richard Rodrigues
1430 Lusitana St #303
Honolulu, HI 96813

testimony

From: Noelie Rodriguez [noelie@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2008 11:29 AM
To: testimony
Subject: HB661HD1: JDL Tuesday March 11, 2008, 9:30AM

Pass the Comprehensive Public Funding Pilot

The "Comprehensive Public Funding of Elections" Bill has a landslide of support on the Big Island. Many progressive groups [the Democratic Party, League of Women Voters, Sierra Club, the Coalition for Clean Elections, unions, university groups, etc, etc.] rallied for this reform along with 7 of the 9 members of the Hawaii County Council.

This bill makes public financing of campaigns available as a "pilot program" for the Big Island's Council races in 2010.

Many are hoping that this popular reform will not be undermined by the strategic gatekeepers in the bureaucracy and the Legislature. (Because it has been tried and proven in other states and cities, unfounded objections and dodges to this legislation are usually easy to dismiss.) It is non-partisan. And it is already working beautifully in Maine, Arizona, Vermont, North Carolina, New Jersey, Connecticut, New Mexico and Oregon.

We are pleased that Senator Brian Taniguchi, the Chair of the Judiciary Committee is allowing HB 661D1 to be voted on this Tuesday. And we are counting on our representatives to support it all the way through.

A lot is at stake here. Full public funding for campaigns refreshes democracy. Candidates don't have to ask for money from the wealthy, the big corporations, and the other special interest groups. Instead, they can give their full attention to the issues and problems facing the people in their communities.

More importantly, after elected, the publicly funded candidates can govern with "no strings attached" to special interests.

Hawai'i island is perfect to be the pilot for this reform because our voting districts are small, and the requirement of 200 supporters--each giving $5—to qualify for public funding would not come easily to the undeserving.

The Big Island especially needs this pilot program because it has one of the lowest voter turn outs—in the nation! And this is a reform that renews trust in government—and has increased voter participation everywhere that it has been tried.

There is already more than enough money set aside for it. Over $5 ½ million has been gathered by voluntary contributions from the check off on tax returns. The Big Island pilot program will cost less than one-tenth of the existing fund.

Public funding for campaigns or "Clean Elections" has already proven itself. It is "…the reform that makes all other reforms possible" and it revives trust in the idea that the government belongs to the people.

It's time for HB661HD1 to be passed into law this legislative session.

Noelie Rodriguez, Ph. D.
Sociology Professor at HawCC
For the Global HOPE Organization
Home address: P. O. Box 5
Ninole HI 96773
(808) 963-6966

testimony

From: lruby@hawaii.edu
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2008 9:58 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

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2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
laura ruby
509 university ave #902
honolulu, HI 96826

testimony

From: jsacher@kona.net
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 9:41 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

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3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Jeff Sacher
P.O. Box 44910
Kamuela, HI 96743

testimony

From: ELIZABETH SALFEN [jes323@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 9:04 PM
To: testimony
Subject: testimony HB 661 HD 1
Attachments: HD 661 HD 1.doc

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair

Notice of Hearing:
Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 016

Testimony in support of HD 661 HD 1.

testimony

From: Donelle Scaffidi [donelle@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 8:07 PM
To: testimony
Subject: JDL Tuesday March 11, 2008, 9:30AM - Support for HB661HD1

Aloha,

Please hear your constituents and support the bill that allows for publicly financed elections. This is a very important measure to restoring democracy! This is especially important here in Hawai`i where democracy was imposed on the peaceful monarchy.

Mahalo,

Donelle Scaffidi
710 Ainako Ave., Hilo, HI

testimony

From: etoni@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 5:26 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

1. Cost is not a factor for this bill. The bill has safety valves built into it. There must be $3.5 million in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to run the program in the first place, and the program has a spending ceiling of $500,000. Currently, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund has $5.5 million, and adds approximately another $2.7 million every two years.

2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Toni Schattauer
PO Box 2300
Kealakekua, HI 96750

testimony

From: beppie@hawaii.edu
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2008 9:12 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

You each have a chance to demonstrate your support for democracy and support self-determination for Hawaii Island within the State structure. I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections.
Please send a clean version of the bill to the House. As you may know, and as many akamai citizens know, sending it to conference committee would be a cheap way of avoiding the issue and would undermine Hawaii County's effort to respect its citizens.

1. Cost is not a factor for this bill. The bill has safety valves built into it. There must be $3.5 million in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to run the program in the first place, and the program has a spending ceiling of $500,000. Currently, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund has $5.5 million, and adds approximately another $2.7 million every two years.

2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is legal and appropriate. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk and will prove to the people of Hawaii that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill. I'm eager to hear your vote. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Beppie Shapiro
4118 Pakolu Pl
HONOLULU, HI 96816

testimony

From: mark@lmpmail.com
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 9:52 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

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3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Mark Sheehan
630 E. Kuiaha Rd.
Haiku, HI 96708

testimony

From: farrin73@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 8:47 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

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3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
EVELYN SOUZA
92848 PALAILAI ST
KAPOLEI, HI 96707

testimony

From: mlspadaro@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 6:53 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

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3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Mary Spadaro
980 Prospect St #2
Honolulu, HI 96822

testimony

From: holamaui@earthlink.net
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 8:47 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

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3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Mele Stokesberry
P. O. Box 880231
Pukalani, HI 96788

testimony

From: yojimbo8@juno.com
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 5:26 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
James and Yoshie Tanabe
1149 Namahealani Place
Honolulu, HI 96825

testimony

From: Kane Thomas [ksthomas@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 8:39 PM
To: testimony
Subject: JDL Tuesday March 11, 2008, 9:30AM - Support for HB661HD1

This is needed, and must pass. Please concider what is right, this is the right thing to do. What good is our opinion if it is not heard and listened to. We want to see change. Put out money to ood use and spend time valuabley

testimony

From: pinky@lava.net
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 6:13 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Laura Thompson
440 A Puamamane St.
Honolulu, HI 96821

testimony

From: tsutsumie001@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 6:13 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Oren Tsutsumi
1040-D Awawamalu Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

testimony

From: fred@anuenue.com
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2008 9:50 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
frederick wells
6163 Waipouli Rd.
Kapaa, HI 96746

testimony

From: whitmo17@msu.edu
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2008 7:24 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

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2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Ron Whitmore
113 Alae St.
Hilo, HI 96720

testimony

From: jlw2@hawaii.edu
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 6:13 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

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Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Janelle Williams
179 Liko Lehua St.
Hilo, HI 96720

testimony

From: indatube@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2008 12:11 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

1. Cost is not a factor for this bill. The bill has safety valves built into it. There must be $3.5 million in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to run the program in the first place, and the program has a spending ceiling of $500,000. Currently, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund has $5.5 million, and adds approximately another $2.7 million every two years.

2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Randy Wolfshagen
4481 Mamo Rd
Kekaha, HI 96752

testimony

From: Chris Yuen [chrisyuenz@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2008 12:38 PM
To: testimony
Subject: JDL Tuesday March 11, 2008, 9:30AM - Support for HB661HD1

Senator Taniguchi and members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee:

You have a great opportunity to reform the campaign contribution system and remove the influence of moneyed interests who can bankroll the candidates of their choice. HB661 HD1 would create a comprehensive system of public funding for candidates who show grassroots support by gathering large numbers of small contributions.

This is a tested concept, tried and proven in several other states.

HB661, HD1 would use the 2010 Hawai'i County Council races as a pilot test. It has been endorsed by the Hawai'i County Council.

Let's give this important reform a try so that a candidate's message is more important than the money behind it.

Chris Yuen
P.O. Box 5
Ninole, HI 96773 (808)963-6966

testimony

From: Emma Yuen [nanueiki@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2008 10:19 PM
To: testimony
Subject: DL Tuesday March 11, 2008, 9:30AM - Support for HB661HD1

Aloha,

I would like to submit testimony in support of HB661 which "Creates comprehensive public funding for elections to any county council; establishes qualifications, limitations on funding and use of funds, reporting requirements, and amends chapter 11, part XII, to reflect changes." Publicly funded elections have shown extremely positive results in other areas, with more people voting and more people having the opportunity to represent their districts by being more financially able to run for election.

Two of America's most cherished ideals are democracy and the idea that America is the land of opportunity. This bill directly supports both those ideals by giving citizens an opportunity to run for elected office in a meaningful way that is not highly biased against them based on their availability of cash, and thus the campagin is based more on the issues and merits of the candidate than their connections to wealth.

I am from the Big Island and have been involved and attuned to Big Island politics for almost all of my life. I truly believe that this would be really a wonderful change that would have many long-term benefits to the public policy making for our island. The Big Island is also the perfect testing ground for this new type of election funding system, so would serve as a pilot project that could help all of Hawaii in the long run.

testimony

From: virtual@kona.net
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 12:28 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

I am writing in strong support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions for Hawaii County Council elections, and I'm counting on you to send a clean version of the bill to the House in order to avoid the conference committee, where this bill has gone in the past becasue nobody has to go on record as voting against it.

1. Cost is not a factor for this bill. The bill has safety valves built into it. There must be $3.5 million in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund to run the program in the first place, and the program has a spending ceiling of $500,000. Currently, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund has $5.5 million, and adds approximately another $2.7 million every two years.

2. The CSC will not have to run "parallel programs" in Hawaii County. Instead, the full public funding option simply replaces the partial public funding option. The means to administer this program are already in place. The CSC will need to hire 2 or 3 staff to accomodate the program, but this is not a lot to ask.

3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
James Zampathas
P.O. Box 6703
62-1125 Puahia St.
Kamuela, HI 96743

LATE

Harry Kim
Mayor

Dixie Kaetsu
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawaii

25 Aupuni Street, Room 215 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-8553
KONA: 75-5706 Kuakini Highway, Suite 103 • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 329-5226 • Fax (808) 326-5883

March 10, 2008

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi
Chair, Judiciary and Labor Committee
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members:

Re: HB 661, HD1

I would like to express my support for comprehensive public funding of elections. I am very proud of the Hawai'i County Council for stepping forward and indicating its willingness to be a pilot project for such a program, and I compliment the Legislature for being willing to give us the chance to see how well public financing can work.

I do not pretend to know the details of HB 661, and I defer to your judgment whether amendments are warranted. However, it is my hope that after so many years of coming close to establishing some kind of public funding of elections, there is the possibility that Legislation will be passed this year.

Please keep the concept of public funding of elections alive.

Aloha,

Harry Kim
MAYOR

COMMON CAUSE HAWAII
CONTACT: NIKKI LOVE
EMAIL: INFO@COMMONCAUSEHAWAII.ORG
WEB: WWW.COMMONCAUSEHAWAII.ORG

LATE

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday 3/11/08 at 9:30AM in Room 016
House Bill 661

TESTIMONY
Nikki Love, spokesperson, Common Cause Hawaii

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee, and committee members:

I am testifying in **strong support of HB661 HD1 with amendments** for Hawaii County Council campaigns. The national Common Cause and its state chapters have embraced publicly funded elections as an innovative and effective way to reinvigorate the electoral process and rebuild trust among voters.

The rationale for publicly funded elections was best described by a Democratic Senator from Oregon in the 1950s:

> *"We would not dream of permitting ... our senators and representatives to draw their pay from a private payroll or in the form of private contributions; they get paid by the public for whom they act. Why, then, leave their campaigns for these offices to be lavishly financed from private sources?"*

Our campaign finance system continues to be lavishly financed from private sources, and it is in dire need of change.

In many other jurisdictions, public funding was forced upon elected bodies by voters via ballot initiative. But this year in Hawaii, you have a unique opportunity to enact public funding for a body that has courageously stepped forward and requested it.

I urge you to take this opportunity to allow Hawaii County to demonstrate how public funding can work in our state.

Mahalo.

LATE

testimony

From: jhiggins@voterownedhawaii.org [jjhigginsjr@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 6:44 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Support for HB661 being heard in the senate Judiciary today 3/11/08
Attachments: hb661testimony.doc

The following and attached is testimony in support of HB661 being heard in Senate JUD today 3/11/08 please email me if you have any question

--
Honorable Committee Members,

I am submitting testimony on behalf of Hawaii Clean Elections in favor of House Bill 661 with amendments concerning campaign finance.

I support creating a full public funding option (PF), also known as Clean Elections or Voter Owned Elections for the Hawaii County Council.

Much of the arguments surrounding PF focus on corruption and undue access. While those arguments have merit, I wish to focus on the community. PF is not campaign finance reform. PF empowers constituents and communities by offering opportunities to candidates to opt out of the current system in favor of an option that empowers grassroots campaigns and initiatives.

Hawaii has the dubious distinction of having the worst voter turnout in the country. Even in 2006, with competitive congressional races and a gubernatorial race, Hawaii managed to reach new lows with barely 36% of Hawaii's eligible voters showing up at the polls and there were no less than 7 uncontested seats in the state House. Voting is essential in creating effective public policy that truly reflect the values of our communities and the most exciting aspect of PF is that it significantly increases voter turnout. In Arizona, voter turnout spiked an average of 50% in districts with large minority populations with one district spiking 94%. Maine can claim the title of "state with the highest voter turnout" in large part due to the 10% spike they experienced because of PF.

Results from other states strongly indicate that voters identify with a candidate who is able to say "I DID NOT TAKE PRIVATE MONEY". The fact that voter participation spiked and over 80% of Maine legislators and 60% of Arizona legislators, and Governor won using Clean Elections is a testament to citizens' attitudes concerning money and politics and their belief that PF is a major part of the solution.

Hawaii's "partial" public funding program was created over 30 years ago to reduce the influence of private money in campaigning and to encourage more candidates to run, thus increasing voter turnout. It has failed on all fronts. It has been so unsuccessful that less then 10% of candidates use it and less then 10% them actually win. Further, in 2006 only four house candidates used the "partial" program, none of whom won and only one Senate candidate used the option and he lost as well, while ne partial public funding candidate has ever won for Hawaii County Council. Spending money on any program that fails to fulfill its promise is just plain irresponsible, yet the state dolled out over a half million dollars between '02 and '04. All we ask is that we take a system that is not working and fix it. There is currently over 5million dollars of public interest money sitting in the CSC coffers. With no other plan to fix the current system on the table, lets use the money for what it was intended for and give Hawaii

County a chance to change the way candidates there run for office.

We have a chance to set a new course for Hawaii politics through PF. Like education and health care, PF is an investment in our state and democracy and can change the way we look at government.

Sincerely,
John Higgins
President, Hawaii Clean Elections

LATE

HB661
JDL
Tuesday, March 11, 2008
9:30 a.m.
Room 016

KOKUA COUNCIL

Hawaii Voice for a Better Future

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair

March 11, 2008

Re: HB661 — Creates comprehensive public funding for elections to any county council

In Support

Kokua Council **supports** this bill, and asks that it be passed as-is or amended so that it would apply only to the Big Island County Council as a test case.

Larry Geller, President
Larry Geller
Kokua Council

LATE

LIFE OF THE LAND

Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka `Aina I Ka Pono

The Sovereignty of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness

76 North King Street, Suite 203, Honolulu, Hawai`i 96817
Phone: (808) 533-3454 * E-Mail: henry@lifeoftheland.net

VERY LATE TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Sen. Clayton Hee, Vice Chair
Tuesday, March 11, 2007
9:30 AM
Room 016
SUPPORT HB 661 HD1– PUBLICLY FUNDED ELECTIONS

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee and Members of the Committee!

Life of the Land, Hawai`i's own environmental and community action group advocating for the people and the `aina since 1970. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sustainable land use and energy policies and by promoting open government through research, education, advocacy, and litigation.

HB 661 HD1 creates comprehensive public funding for elections to the state house of representatives; establishes qualifications, limitations on funding and use of funds, reporting requirements, amends chapter 11, part XII to reflect changes.

Life of the Land supports this measure. Too much money is influencing legislation that affects everyone. In 1998, 79 percent of all races were won by the candidate with the most money. The public funding movement has been an overwhelming success in other states around the nation. In Maine and Arizona, a public funding option was adopted for all state races including Lt. Governor and Governor. Public funding has also taken root in Oregon, New Mexico, New Jersey and North Carolina. Public funding has opened the door for more women and other minority groups to become involved in the political process. It has spurred voter participation, given voice to under-represented communities, and provided meaningful options in the selection of our leaders.

This is not a partisan issue as both Democrats and Republicans benefited from publicly funded elections, also known as Voter Owned Elections. Nationally twenty-two Republicans and 17 Democrats won using public funding.

Publicly funded elections increase voter turnout. From 1998 to 2002 national voter turnout increased 24%. That would be a boon to Hawai`i's dismal voting numbers. And, more importantly, it will increase citizen participation in civic issues. One look at the excitement of the recent presidential primary in Hawai`i should be an indication that people *want* to be engaged. They want to participate. Perhaps when people feel truly invested in our electoral process they will become more involved. This can only further the aims of a true representative democracy.

Congratulations to Hawai`i County for stepping up to plate on this one. Let's support democracy by supporting their courage to try something new.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

testimony

LATE

From: Noelie Rodriguez [noelie@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 4:37 PM
To: testimony
Subject: JDL Tues. March 11th 2008, 9:30 Support for HB661HD1

Message: Dear Judiciary Committee

On the federal level we already have "the best government money can buy," which promotes wars, billionaires, the global degradation of whole populations and ecosystems. To ensure we don't have such government on the county level, so that what remains of pristine Hawaii is not surrendered to urban development, all candidates must be equal on what can be spent on their campaigns.

Yours truly,

Louis Korn, PO Box 851, Naalehu HI 96772; 808-929-9938

LATE

testimony

From: robie [robie@maui.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 9:41 AM
To: testimony
Subject: vote for hb 661

Dear Senate
Please vote for HP661 This is an important bill.
Thanks, Robie

robiepricephotography
http://www.robiephoto.com
robie@maui.net
808□575□2575

LATE

testimony

From: Anon Shine [anon@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 7:56 AM
To: testimony
Subject: JDL Tuesday March 11, 2008, 9:30AM - Support for HB661HD1

Aloha!

I am avoer here in Hawaii in strong support of HB661HD1.

Mahalo,
Anon Shine

LATE

testimony

From: Aaron Takai [aytakai@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 10:07 AM
To: testimony
Subject: JDL Tuesday March 11, 2008, 9:30AM - HB661HD1

I support clean elections.

LATE

testimony

From: puuwai12@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 2:32 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Strong Support for HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions

Members of Senate JDL Committee Chair Brian Taniguchi Vice Chair Clayton Hee

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee

Strong Support of HB 661 HD1 with proposed revisions.

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Clayton Hee Members of the Senate JDL Committee

Senate JDL Committee
Tuesday, March 11, 9:30 am

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3. This idea is pono. Passing a clean version of this bill and making sure it gets to the governor's desk will prove to the people that you are serious about doing what is right.

Please pass a clean version of this bill.

Sincerely,
Susan James
PO Box 642
Honokaa, HI 96727