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TO:

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair

House Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair

House Committee on Judiciary

Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

FROM:

Kristin Izumi-Nitao, Executive Director

Campaign Spending Commission

SUBJECT: Testimony on H.B. No. 259, Relating to Campaign Spending

Tuesday, February 21, 2012 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission ("Commission") supports this bill and urges the Committee to pass the bill.

This bill would prohibit a candidate from using contributions to pursue nomination and election to another state or county office without the contributor's written consent. The Commission believes that a contributor makes a contribution to a candidate with the expectation that the contribution will be spent on a particular race; the contribution should be used as intended by the contributor. This amendment would prevent a candidate from spending a contribution without the contributor's consent in another election against another candidate supported by that contributor.

This bill would take effect upon approval.

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February 19, 2012

TO:

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Rhoads Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM:

Americans for Democratic Action/Hawaii

Barbara Polk, Legislative Chair

SUBJECT:

SUPPORT FOR HB 259 RELATING TO CAMPAIGN SPENDING

Americans for Democratic Action/Hawaii testified last year in support of this bill that would prohibit a politician from using funds contributed toward a campaign for one office from using them to campaign for another office. We have all had the experience of supporting a candidate for one office, but not supporting him or her for another—because we feel the candidate is not qualified for the second office, because we prefer another candidate, because we are disappointed in the candidate's performance in the first office, or for other reasons. To have our contributions to a candidate used for a second office means diverting our funds to an unintended use.

As last year, we urge your support for this bill.