KRISTIN E. IZUMI-NITAO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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STATE OF HAWAI'I CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 11, 2013

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair House Committee on Judiciary

> The Honorable Sharon E. Har, 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 S.B. No. 381, S.D. 2, Relating to Comprehensive Public Funding for Elections

Tuesday, March 12, 2013 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission ("Commission") takes no position on this bill, but offers the following comments.

Section 1 of the bill would limit the number of candidates that the Commission certifies to participate in the Pilot Comprehensive Public Funding for Elections to the Hawaii County Council program, or Act 244,¹ to twenty-five candidates. The Commission notes that in 2010 and 2012, only eight candidates were funded under Act 244 in each year. In anticipation that the bill may increase participation in the program, the Commission respectfully requests that an appropriation be made by the legislature to fund the program.

Section 2 of the bill amends the formula for computing the base amount of public funding for the primary and general elections by using the average of the amount spent by the winning candidates in the previous two elections, reduced by ten percent. As section 12 is currently worded, the base amount of public funding is the average of the amount spent by the winning candidate in the two previous elections of the same district, reduced by ten percent. Section 2 would provide certified candidates with the same amount of public funding no matter which district they run in.

¹ 2014 is the last year for this pilot comprehensive public funding program. Also, under section 3 of Act 244, in order to run this pilot program in 2014, the Commission must determine if there is a minimum of \$3,500,000 in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund ("HECF"). As of December 31, 2012, HECF's balance stood at \$3,190,437.02.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair The Honorable Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair Members of the House Committee on Judiciary Testimony S.B. 381, S.D. 2 March 11, 2013 Page 2

To illustrate, under section 12 of Act 244, the base amount of public funding for the 2014 elections will be:

District	Primary Election	General Election
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	\$3,780.49 \$13,781.48 \$12,058.37 \$11,366.93 \$15,764.18 \$22,310.78	\$7,260.01 \$0.00 \$450.76 \$2,956.81 \$1,921.22 \$15,788.93
8	\$18,333.09	\$172.97
7 8	\$8,292.33 \$18.333.09	\$266.66 \$172.97
9	\$12,267.28	\$324.38

If this bill is passed, the base amount of public funding for certified candidates in all districts will be \$13,106.10 for the primary election and \$3,237.97 for the general election, or \$16,344.07 total, per candidate, for both elections.

Under section 12(a) of Act 244, the maximum amount of public funds that the Commission can expend is \$300,000. Thus the Commission would not be able to fund twenty-five candidates in the 2014 elections using the bill's formula for calculating the base amount. The total amount of public funds needed for twenty-five certified candidates would be \$408,601.75 (*i.e.*, \$13,106.10 x 25 = \$327,652.50 (primary) and \$3,237.97 x 25 = \$80,949.25 (general)).



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAI'I 49 S. HOTEL ST. # 314 HONOLULU HI 96813 www.owv-hawaii.com phone 532-7448 voters@lwv-hawaii.com

Committee on Judiciary Rep Karl Rhoads, Chair Rep Sharon E. Har, Vice- Chair

Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 2 PM, State Capitol, Room 325

Measure: SB381 SD2 RELATING TO COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC FUNDING FOR ELECTIONS

Position: Strongly Support

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, members of the Committee:

. The League supports SB381 SD2 as part of our mission of promoting a healthy democracy through fair and free elections.

Full voluntary public funding of election campaigns allows candidates (including incumbents!) to focus on the needs of their districts and the people of Hawai`i, rather than the narrow interests of private donors. The recent pilot of full voluntary public funding in Hawaii County Council races has been successful in allowing 5 of 9 Council members to be elected without spending time and energy chasing dollars. The public can trust that these successful candidates will devote themselves to the public good.

The League of Women Voters has worked over the years for the passage of the Big Island comprehensive candidate funding project. Both candidates and voters view the program very favorably. However, there has been one problem, the lack of equitable funding for all nine districts. We have heard considerable criticism of the present funding formula. Moreover, candidates themselves have voiced objections. The Hawai`i County League of Women Voters conducted an informal follow-up study of the 2012 pilot program. All candidates who qualified for public funding were interviewed. Without exception, they said that funding should be the same for every district.

HB381 ensures equal funding. It also cleans up some language and details as requested by the Campaign Spending Commission. Please support the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony. Beppie Shapiro, President

League of Women Voters of Hawai'i

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Thurston	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barb Cuttance	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill, please pass.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Kasak	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Get the money influence out of politics, and the rest of our problems will be governable.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
D. Corcoran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dan Marks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana G. Moss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
donald tran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
donovan kelsy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Douglas Phillips	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elaine D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Heidelberg	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support publicly financed elections.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Murray	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support SB381 Thank you.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glenie	Individual	Support	No

Comments: changing the dynamic of campaign fundraising for elections is the only way to protect and save our democracy. mahalo.

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Submitte	d By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeannine Jo	ohnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Sacher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Bruce	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support and urge the passage SB 381. I know its a long shot. But in the high hopes that some elected Hawaii State Senators have some sense of how our Democracy is being destroyed by corporate special interest, maybe, just maybe a bill with such positive political participatory intent as this may get passed into law this session.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
joy cash	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerri Marks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
L Tran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submit	ed By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Larson	Noa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lee Eisenstein	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Because of the corrupting influence of money in our political system, we are the laughing stock of the free world, who commonly refer to us as having, "The Best Democracy Money Can Buy". I fully support ending this shameful practice. Public funding of elections is just the way to do it, for the benefit of us all.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lieu nguyen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louise Butler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Taylor Sykes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marjorie Erway	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Very important -- please vote YES!! Mahalo.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
penny silva	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Tate	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Freitas Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Petricci	Individual	Support	No

Comments: JUD 325 Mar 12, 2013 2:00 PM RE: SB381 Position: Strong support Aloha: Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair and committee members. Please support SB381 to counter the influence special interest have in elections in Hawaii. My only concern is in limiting the number of people who can run under the program. Thank you for your support. Robert Petricci

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sam cresanto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sherrian witt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Su Pham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suy Nathan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tam Mui	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tatiana Rocks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tia Kent	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tj simms	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tram Quen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Aloha,

I strongly support SB 381. Public funding for elections has been an excellent program here on Hawaii Island. It has made possible some excellent candidates and elected officials that could not have run otherwise. This bill improved the program by averaging the amount of money used by winning candidates in the last two election periods and also by limiting the number of candidates per election period to twenty.

Please support SB 381. Mahalo, Mary Marvin Porter Island Eyes Video Hawaiian Paradise Park

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Floyd	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is a good start toward fairness in our election processes, but why do we have to wait until 2050?

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Testimony for JUD on Mar 12, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted B	y Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barb Cuttance	e Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this Bill and ask that this committee passes this bill please.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dea Rackley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It's time to have fair elections again.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyn Howe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It's time to have fair elections again.

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