



Josh Frost - President • Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Kristin Hamada
Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Relating to Campaign Finance
Testifying in Support with amendments

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports with amendments SB2989 SD2 Relating to Campaign Finance**, which allows candidates seeking election to use campaign funds for childcare costs.

Running for office is hard. This measure will help to ease the financial burden for those candidates with children. Encouraging more individuals to get involved in politics and elected office is essential for democracy to thrive. Historically women have been the family caregivers, and this has translated to fewer women and low-income individuals from seeking elected office. This measure will help open doors for more women, single parents and other low-income individuals to be a part of the political arena.

Even though many elected positions are considered part-time, being an elected official doesn't always translate to a typical 9-5 workday. For those individuals who represent the neighbor islands in the State legislature it can mean Monday – Friday on a different island all together from where your children are located. We should not limit these individuals from utilizing their campaign funds to offset the unique childcare requirements that holding public office sometimes requires. **PHI requests the measure be amended** to allow funds to be used year-round, whether in an election year or not. A candidate and/or an elected official can use campaign funds to pay for tickets to events, draft and publish newsletters or buy campaign paraphernalia with no date restrictions if those expenditures fall in line with campaign activity. Let's not penalize a candidate because they have childcare needs because of the time commitment running for office and maintaining that office might require year-round. If you restrict the use of funds for childcare, then you should extend that restriction to the use of campaign funds during the same dates to be consistent.

For all these reasons, we urge you to consider amending this measure to continue to help these individuals once they are elected. Let's be honest, deep down it's always an election year.

Mahalo for the opportunity,
Gary Hooser
Executive Director

Pono Hawai'i Initiative

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Wednesday, March 11, 2020
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

in consideration of
SB 2989, SD2
RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE.

Chair SAN BUENAVENTURA, Vice Chair NAKAMURA, and Members of the
House Human Services & Homeless Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 2989, SD2, with suggested amendments, which would allow candidates seeking election to use campaign funds for child care costs, under certain conditions.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening democracy through improving our campaign finance system with laws that amplify the voices of everyday Americans.

Common Cause Hawaii understands that parenthood and care for one's dependents should not be a barrier to political office. One solution to this unnecessary obstacle to this problem is to allow candidates to use campaign funds to defray the expensive costs of a candidates' child care or dependent family care. A growing number of candidates and good governance organizations are pushing state legislatures and elections commission to adopt such a proposal because it would encourage more women and low-income candidates to run for office by clearing a restrictive financial barrier to offices for parents and caregivers.

Common Cause Hawaii suggests that SB 2989, SD2 be broadened to include the care of a candidate's other vital household dependents, such as family members living in the candidate's household who are physically or mentally incapable of self-care. Regulations that expressly allow campaign funds to be spent on both childcare and dependent care will help keep campaign finance models modernized.

Common Cause Hawaii further suggests lowering the age of the child to under 18, as currently set in SB 2989, SD1. Persons 18 years of age or thereabouts may not need childcare.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2989, SD1 with suggested amendments. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

KRISTIN E. IZUMI-NITAO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 10, 2020

TO: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

The Honorable Nadine Nakamura, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Members of the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 2989, SD 2, Relating to Campaign Finance**

Wednesday, March 11, 2020
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 329

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission ("Commission") appreciates the intent of this bill and offers the following comments.

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") §11-381 by amending subsection (a) to add child care costs as an additional permissible expense of a candidate committee in a new paragraph 9. Since "immediate family" is already defined in HRS §11-302, the definition of "immediate family members" on pages 5 (lines 18-20) to 6 (lines 1-2) is unnecessary and should be deleted. If, however, the Committee only wants to prohibit payment for child care service rendered by immediate family members who live in the candidate's household, rather than all immediate family members, then the Committee should amend paragraph (c) of subsection (9) (page 5, lines 6-7) to read, "The child care services shall not be provided by an immediate family member who resides in the same household of the candidate."

SB-2989-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 3:01:16 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Timothy Gust	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need representatives of underserved groups to consider running for office. Any and all roadblocks to their consideration should be removed if possible. Hopefully, this legislation will help.

SB-2989-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 3:13:02 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Parenthood and care for one's dependents should not be a barrier to political office. One solution to this unnecessary obstacle to this problem is to allow candidates to use campaign funds to defray the expensive costs of a candidates' child care or dependent family care for campaign events and activities. A growing number of candidates and good governance organizations are pushing state legislatures and elections commission to adopt such a proposal because it would encourage more women and low-income candidates to run for office by clearing a restrictive financial barrier to offices for parents and caregivers.

It is suggested that SB 2989 be broadened to include the care of a candidate's other vital household dependents, such as family members living in the candidate's household who are physically or mentally incapable of self-care. Regulations that expressly allow campaign funds to be spent on both childcare and dependent care will help keep campaign finance models modernized.

It is also suggested that SB 2989 consider lowering the defined age of child to under 18, as a person 18 and over may not need supervisory care.

SB-2989-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 10:31:14 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward B Hanel Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Concur with CommonCause Hawaii, except to change "under" to "over" in the following:

Change:

- It is also suggested that SB 2989 consider lowering the defined age of child to under 18, as a person 18 and under may not need supervisory care.

To read

- It is also suggested that SB 2989 consider lowering the defined age of child to under 18, as a person 18 and over may not need supervisory care.

SB-2989-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 6:48:04 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee on Human Services and Homelessness,

I am writing in support of SB2989 SD2.

Parenthood and care for one's dependents should not be a barrier to political office. One solution to this unnecessary obstacle to this problem is to allow candidates to use campaign funds to defray the expensive costs of a candidates' child care or dependent family care. A growing number of candidates and good governance organizations are pushing state legislatures and elections commission to adopt such a proposal because it would encourage more women and low-income candidates to run for office by clearing a restrictive financial barrier to offices for parents and caregivers.

It is suggested that SB 2989 be broadened to include the care of a candidate's other vital household dependents, such as family members living in the candidate's household who are physically or mentally incapable of self-care. Regulations that expressly allow campaign funds to be spent on both childcare and dependent care will help keep campaign finance models modernized.

It is also suggested that SB 2989 consider lowering the defined age of child to under 18, as a person 18 and under may not need supervisory care.

Please support this bill.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

SB-2989-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 4:11:25 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2020 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna Ambrose	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support allowing candidates to access campaign funds to pay for child care. It could help younger candidates with fresh ideas but without campaign war chests run for office.

SB-2989-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 9:15:57 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/11/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rayne	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: