

HB-89

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 2:27:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

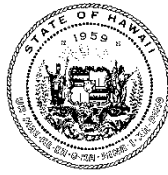
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
daniel foley	noCommission to Improve Standards of Conductne	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairman Tarnas and members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

As Chair of the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct (Commission), I support this bill prohibiting campaign contributions during legislative sessions for the reasons stated in the Commission's December 1, 2022 Final Report submitted to the House of Representatives, specifically found at page 32 of the Report.

Judge Daniel Foley (ret.)



STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 30, 2023

TO: The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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

SUBJECT: Testimony on H.B. No. 89, Relating to Campaign Contributions by Candidate Committees.

Wednesday, February 1, 2023
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.¹ The Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) supports this bill.

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) §11-357 to prohibit elected officials, as defined in HRS §11-342(d), from soliciting and accepting campaign contributions during any regular session or special session of the State Legislature, including any extension of any regular session or special session and any legislative recess day, holiday, or weekend. This bill is an extension of Act 283, signed into law on July 12, 2022, and effective January 1, 2023, that amended HRS §11-342 to prohibit elected officials from holding a fundraiser event during the same time period when the Legislature is in session. This bill will prevent the corruption, or at least the appearance of corruption, of elected officials.

The Commission requests that this committee pass this bill.

¹ The companion bill is S. B. No. 194.



Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama

Wednesday February 1, 2:pm Videoconference/Rm
HB89 — RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS BY CANDIDATE
COMMITTEES

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB89, which prohibits elected officials from soliciting or accepting campaign contributions during any session of the Legislature.

We note that the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct, which is receiving broad public support, recommends these changes.

The past legislative session saw a shocking and widely deplored instance of the influence of contributions on legislation. Although it was unusual in its detection by legal authorities and prompt prosecution, across the country and indeed wherever democratically elected legislatures exist, suspected linkage between political contribution and influence on decisions is widespread and deeply seated. This is why it's useful for the Campaign Spending Commission to track and publish records of donations to candidates.

HB89 will help to prevent both actual corruption, and the corrosive effect of suspected corruption, in Hawaii's Legislature. Please pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

HB

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-89

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 1:55:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anjani Thomas	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to voice my support of HB89. Thank you.

HB-89

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 2:05:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kate Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let's keep contributions open, public and during the campaign time only. Mahalo.

HB-89

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 2:47:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Hooser	Pono Hawaii Initiative	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am testifying in strong support and encourage you to pass this measure forward unamended.

You already know the reasons why this is much needed and long overdue. Allowing legislators to solicit or accept money from people and entities while they have matters before the legislature that will impact them and their industry/job - is inherently unethical.

Thank you,

Gary Hooser

HB-89

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 2:56:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John & Rita Shockley	FREE ACCESS COALITION	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition supports HB89. We need to level the playing field for candidates running for office to keep private interests from "buying" candidates for office.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-89

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 2:54:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill

HB-89

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 4:46:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ingrid Peterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members!

Please support this bill because we need as many good anti-corruption reform bills passed as possible this session for the good of Hawaii and its people and to restore trust in the legislature. We cannot keep on going as we have. Too many important issues for our future are at stake.

I am a 68-year-old who moved to Hawaii as a child in 1963 and became politically active as a teen before I could even vote. I have always voted since, and I never give up hope for improvement in our democracy. Please kokua,

with warm aloha,

Ingrid Peterson

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Submitted on: 1/31/2023 5:58:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce L Hultgren	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The giving of "campaign" contributions during a session of the legislature should be strictly forbidden. It gives the appearance of, and perhaps at times is obviously, bribery to vote a particular way on a particular issue.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bruce Hultgren MD

Kailua

HB-89

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 7:20:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beryl Blaich	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Legislators,

This bill sounds helpful and needed, but is but a tinybandaid on a bleeding wound of our democracy. Of course, fundraising should not be occurring during the legislative session. However, until we have public funding for elections, we will continue to have 1) special interests finding ways around campaign spending rules, 2) the undue pressure you legislators experience of having to endlessly raise ever increasing amounts of money to run, and t3) he public suspicion (conviction for many) that money controls government decision-making.

With gratitude for your commitment,

Beryl Blaich

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Submitted on: 1/31/2023 8:30:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom a Kanaka Maoli.

I'm writing in support of HB89 which "prohibit elected officials as defined in section 11-342(d), HRS, from soliciting and accepting campaign contributions during any regular session or special session of the State Legislature."

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo

HB-89

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 8:58:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please support this bill, sorely needed to restore faith in elected officials after the recent scandals.

mahalo, Cory Harden

HB-89

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:07:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in support of HB89. We must have clean and fair elections.

IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

February 1, 2023
2:00 pm

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Re: HB 89 - RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS BY CANDIDATE COMMITTEES.

Aloha Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Greg Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

We **SUPPORT** the intent of HB89 which amends section 11-357, HRS, to prohibit elected officials as defined in section 11-342(d), HRS, from soliciting and accepting campaign contributions during any regular session or special session of the State Legislature, including any extension of any regular session or special session and any legislative recess day, holiday, or weekend.

This bill may help to restore public trust. The public has been rocked by a series of illegal or unethical behavior of our elected and appointed government officials. In the Star Advertiser poll regarding the corruption in the Legislature, 90% of readers responded that it was the “Tip of the iceberg; not as rare as we hope.” Holding fundraiser and receiving communications during the legislative session from a legislator to donate to their re-election campaign feels like legislators are encouraging “pay-to-play”.

Limiting contributions during the legislative sessions occurs in over half of the states across America. As of 2006, twenty-eight legislatures prohibit campaign contributions during legislative sessions (*See States that Prohibit Campaign Contributions During Legislative Sessions National Conference of State Legislators, 2006*). The following fifteen state prohibit on any contributions include: Alabama, Alaska, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Washington. The following thirteen states prohibit only on lobbyist contributions during session include: Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

The legislature did an amazing first step towards restoring public trust by limiting fundraising last session, now the legislature can take another.

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Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:45:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marion McHenry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is an important bill to pass to protect the integrity of our legislative process here in our state.

Mahalo,

Marion McHenry

Kauai