

Honolulu, Hawaii
FEB 12 , 2024

RE: H.B. No. 1845
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 1845 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PARTIAL PUBLIC FINANCING OF ELECTIONS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Increase the amount of funds available to candidates who qualify to participate in the partial public financing program;
- (2) Adjust the minimum amount of qualifying contributions certain candidates must receive to participate in the partial public financing program; and
- (3) Increase the matching fund payments to candidates in the partial public financing program for excess qualifying contributions.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Campaign Spending Commission and one individual. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from three individuals.



Your Committee finds that this measure implements one of the recommendations made by the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct established by the House of Representatives in House Resolution No. 9, Regular Session of 2022. This measure would bolster publicly-funded elections thereby expanding the reach of many small donors and relieving candidates of the need to rely on the support of special interest groups or large donors.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriation for staff within the Campaign Spending Commission to an unspecified amount;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee notes that there is currently a \$1,900,000 balance in the Hawaii election campaign fund.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider an appropriation amount of \$200,000 for two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) permanent positions to be placed within the Campaign Spending Commission.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1845, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1845, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary &
Hawaiian Affairs,



DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



