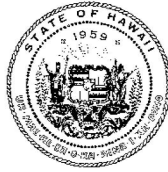


KRISTIN E. IZUMI-NITAO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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WWW.HAWAII.GOV/CAMPAIGN

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION**

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 13, 2024

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 S.B. No. 2381, SD2, Relating to Public Financing for  
Candidates to Elected Office.**

Thursday, March 14, 2024  
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill which establishes a comprehensive public financing program for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices beginning with the 2028 general election year. Although the Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the intent of this bill, the Commission has strong concerns that this bill has not committed the resources necessary for implementation and execution.

This is a major campaign finance initiative which the Commission has always supported and, in fact, has been cooperative in providing data and figures to all interested parties. However, from the very beginning, we have made it abundantly clear that a program of this magnitude requires funding and resources which is why we are extremely disappointed to see that S.D. 2 has completely eliminated the funding which includes the hiring of additional Commission personnel.

The Commission was established in 1973 for the purpose of providing transparency in the campaign finance process and to administer and enforce the campaign finance laws set forth in HRS Chapter 11, Part XIII. It is the single agency that regulates all candidates who are running for State or county elected offices which translates to 128 elected positions as well as all noncandidate committees including Super PACs that engage in the political process. In the past 10 years, the number of candidate committees has grown from 300 to over 550 registered

candidate committees in an election year and the number of noncandidate committees has grown from 200 to over 300 registered noncandidate committees in an election year. This number continues to increase rather than decrease with each election; yet, the Commission has not had an increase in personnel.<sup>1</sup> In comparison to other state and county good government groups with compliance and enforcement duties, the Commission has maintained a small budget and limited personnel resources despite the number of candidates, candidate committees, and noncandidate committees which have multiplied along with increased public interest spurred on by Citizens United. With only 5 Commission staff members, it has been increasingly difficult to maintain the high standards of service expected by the public and the committees.

Even without a full public funding program to administer as contemplated by this bill, it is apparent that the Commission is already tapped in its resources. It is therefore of considerable concern that the Commission has been stripped of its opportunity to hire additional personnel in this fiscal year to plan and prepare for the implementation of this new public financing program. Further, at present, there is only \$1.9 million in the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund (“HECF”). Every year, this trust fund does not generate enough revenue from the \$3 tax check-off and other sources to fund a program set forth in this bill.

As such, the Commission respectfully requests that this Committee make the following amendments: (1) Insert language that the legislature will consider funding this program in the appropriate legislative session with an effective date to coincide with the 2028 election;<sup>2</sup> (2) Restore the sections appropriating \$200,000 of general funds for the hiring of additional personnel for the Commission effective for this fiscal year;<sup>3</sup> (3) Provide that the additional personnel for the Commission will be permanent (not temporary) full-time exempt positions; (4) Provide that the funding of the additional Commission personnel will be from a general revenues rather than from the HECF;<sup>4</sup> and (5) For consistency throughout the bill, replace “financing” with “funding” on page 4, line 9, of the bill.

---

<sup>1</sup>In fiscal year 1995-1996, Act 10, Special Session 1995, appropriated a sum of \$70,000 for a single investigator for the Commission, but then sunset the position and salary thereby not adding to the Commission’s personnel.

<sup>2</sup> The Commission understands that this current legislature is unable to restore a general fund appropriation of \$30 million for a future election; however, we would recommend that there be language so that the matter be revisited in the appropriate legislative session that is authorized to appropriate these monies.

<sup>3</sup> In the alternative, the Commission requested this funding and the addition of 2 full-time permanent exempt positions in its FY 2025 Supplemental Budget, but due to Maui wildfire priorities, it was not approved by B&F and the Governor.

<sup>4</sup> In S.D.1, Section 7 of the bill appropriated \$200,000 out of the general revenues of the state for deposit into the HECF. Section 8 of the bill then appropriated \$200,000 out of the HECF to be expended by the Commission for planning and preparation for the implementation of the comprehensive public financing program. Thus, the funding of the additional personnel came from the HECF. Prior to 2018, the Commission’s operating expenses including staff salaries were paid by funds from the HECF. There came a point in time that the funds in the HECF were so low that it jeopardized the funding of the state constitutionally mandated partial public funding program to qualified

Without the funding and resources, the Commission is in an impossible position of ensuring and upholding the transparency and integrity of the campaign finance process in this historic piece of campaign reform.

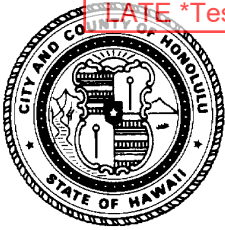
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candidates. It took close to 5 years for the Commission to restore operations and staff salaries to be generally funded. As such, the Commission believes that it is more appropriate to expend a \$200,000 appropriation directly from the general revenues rather than have that amount appropriated to the HECF to fund the additional personnel.

Neal Herbert, Chair, Campaign Spending Commission  
Testimony - SB 2381 SD2

- We are well aware of and understand the fiscal belt-tightening needed to prioritize assistance to Maui after the Lahaina disaster and the effect it no doubt has on State funding across the board.
- However, the CSC is one of just a few entities that actually brings money into State coffers. Over the past four years, over \$288,000 has been collected from fines and placed in the General Fund. Meanwhile, CSC's operating budget has only increased by \$29,500 during that time span. Surely these should be factors offsetting the \$ 200,000 for two new positions. Even one added position would greatly help.
- Much of the new legislation on campaign funding reform passed last year was the result of CSC's input, including the critically acclaimed special study done by the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct, established in 2022 by House Resolution No. 9, to improve standards of conduct. Our Executive Director, Kristin Izumi-Nitao, was a member of the CISC. These new laws, and the pending bills to convert to full public financing, will dramatically increase administrative responsibilities.
- With only five CSC staff currently authorized, it's been difficult to maintain the high standards of service expected by the public. Two administrative positions were vacant for months, and difficulties in hiring qualified replacements put a significant extra burden on remaining staff, who had to fill in during these personnel shortages in addition to their normal responsibilities...all with significant unpaid overtime.
- The CSC regularly receives praise from candidates and the general public for its efficiency, integrity, responsiveness and unbiased procedures, often mentioned as an example for other commissions to follow. Let's keep it this way with some legislative and budgetary assistance.





LATE \*Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

**ELECTIONS**  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 100  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3099  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3800 • FAX: (808) 768-3835

GLEN I. TAKAHASHI  
City Clerk

TESTIMONY  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFIARS  
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2381 SD2  
RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE.  
2:00 p.m. March 14, 2024

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 2381 SD2.

The Office of the City Clerk takes no position on the merits of financing campaigns with public monies. However, we recommend that the Committee consider the donor qualification model found in the previous iteration of the bill wherein the Campaign Spending Commission is the sole jurisdictional entity involved with administering the program.

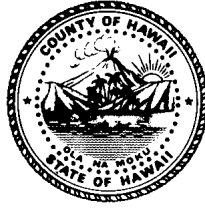
In that model, no information is transferred across offices and limited access to the State's voter registration system/data is granted to enable the Commission to conduct its verification of qualifying donor contributions. County election offices serve in a mere consultative role to clarify questions related to any voter registration record.

That approach would align a Hawaii program with other States that administer public financing of campaigns for state legislative seats, whereby verification processes (if required) are conducted by either a State campaign spending agency or secretary of state. We also provide the approach as employed in Arizona (see: <https://www.azcleaselections.gov>) that established a specific commission with the sole mission of implementing the public financing program.

Perhaps most troublesome to election administrators is that as presently drafted, assigning County Clerks with verifying contributors effectively blurs distinctions and timelines of administering the elections with other activities that are more closely associated with the campaigning process. As such, we recommend that the Committee consider a different alternative to the donor verification process.

Finally, unlike the County election offices that rely entirely upon county general revenues for operational funding, §11-217 HRS, already allows the Hawaii Campaign Spending Commission to access the Hawaii election campaign trust fund as a funding source, presumably for administering this very type of program. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on SB2381 SD2.

**Jennifer Kagiwada**  
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272  
jennifer.kagiwada@hawaiicounty.gov

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

**DATE:** March 13, 2024  
**TO:** House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
**FROM:** Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member  
Council District 2  
**SUBJECT:** SB 2381 SD2

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SB 2381 SD2 to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates running for office in Hawai'i. Publicly funded elections are one of the best reforms we can make to our current election system to level the playing field for all candidates and get special interest money out of our campaigns.

I'd like to offer the following additional comments on this bill as currently worded:

1. Please ensure there is a way to accept electronic signatures from campaign contributors.
2. Verify that the Campaign Spending Commission or Office of Elections has a method for checking those signatures for accuracy.
3. Ensure that the funding amounts reflect the actual amounts spent in the 2022 election cycle.
4. When recalculating the amounts only use those races that were truly competitive to form your averages, rather than including all races with more than one candidate. This will provide a more accurate picture of the total amount spent and better accomplish the goal of equity and fairness in public financing.
5. Lastly, if some candidates are subject to additional rules or restrictions regarding campaign funding and spending limits while other candidates are accepting large private donations with no spending limits, there will always be an imbalance that leaves the election process open to corruption and inequities. Ideally, ALL candidates should be beholden to the same spending limits, whether they choose to qualify for public funding or not.

SB 2381 SD2 is an opportunity to lessen the influence of money in politics, give political power to the people, and restore the people's trust in elections and the legislative process. 74% of the Hawai'i voting public favors enacting public financed elections and ending the influence of corporate and private donations. Public funding for elections is an effective way to engage voters and create participation for a greater diversity of new candidates to run for office. Please pass SB 2381 SD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Mahalo,

Jenn Kagiwada

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:56:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camron Hurt	Common Cause	Support	In Person

Comments:

**Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.**

**Mahalo.**



150 Hamakua Drive #341  
Kailua, HI 96734

(808) 224-0644  
[our-hawaii.org](http://our-hawaii.org)

# Testimony in Support of SB2381

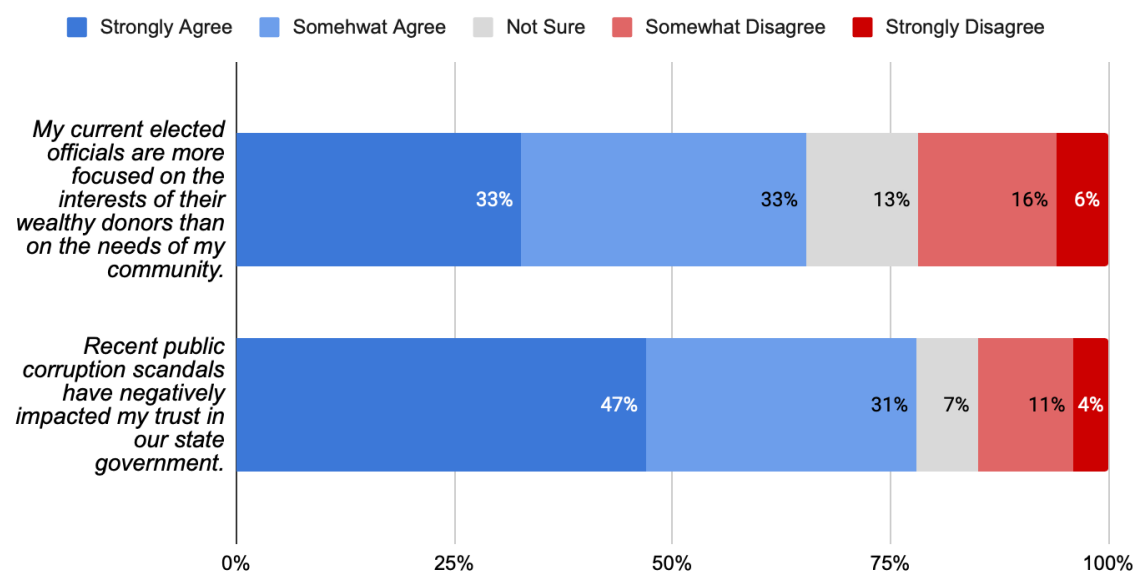
Submitted to the House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee  
by Evan Weber, Managing Director, Our Hawai'i, 3/13/2024

Committee members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to speak before you today. On behalf of Our Hawai'i's over 36,000 members and supporters across the pae 'āina, I stand in strong support for Senate Bill 2381, relating to public financing of candidates to elected office. Our members and supporters are local people — kama'āina and kānaka maoli, keiki and kūpuna, from Kaua'i to Kohala, Kailua to Kapolei and every place in between. They have joined our movement to fight for a Hawai'i that puts local people — not big money interests — first, because they are deeply worried about the direction of our islands and believe now is the time for change.

Our supporters are not alone. Our corruption and public trust in government crisis has reached a tipping point. After years of the FBI putting our officials in handcuffs, resignations, and scandals, Hawai'i voters as a whole in 2022 ranked government corruption as their number 3 top issue, only behind inflation and affordable housing, in a [survey](#) conducted on behalf of Our Hawaii by a top polling firm. The reforms of last year, while important, have not gone far enough on a policy matter or in terms of public perception to make a dent in the underlying problems. [New polling](#) released just this week by the Clean Elections Hawai'i Coalition, of which we are a founding member, showed that two out of three voters believe that "elected officials care more about wealthy donors than the needs of my community." Ouch. 9 out of 10 voters also believe that influence or obligate legislators to some degree, with over half of voters believing that degree is "greatly."

## Two Out of Three Voters Say Elected Officials Care More About Wealthy Donors Than Needs of Communities



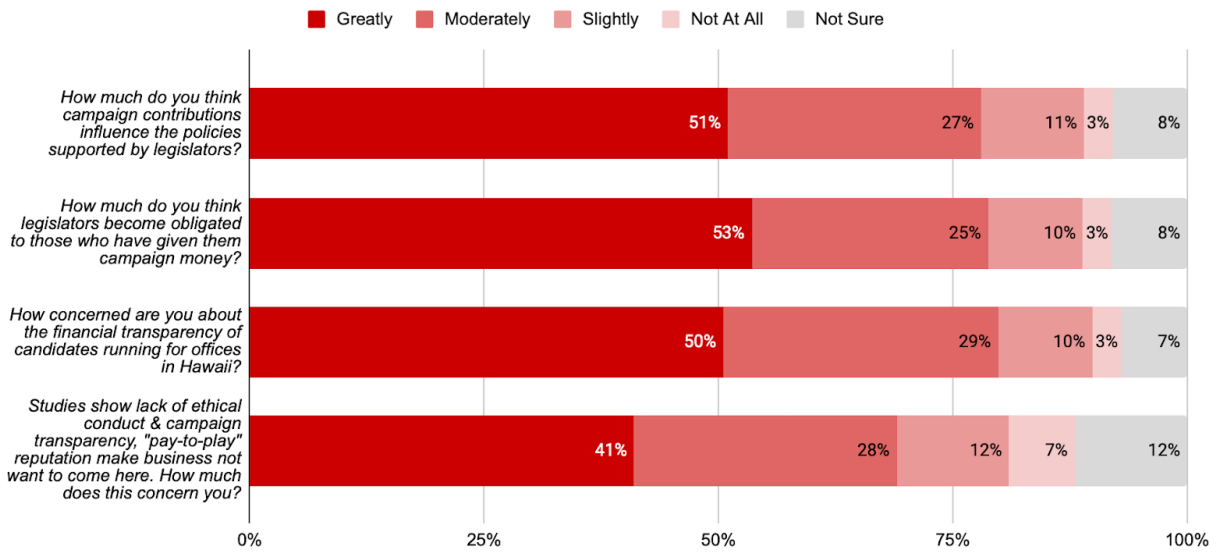


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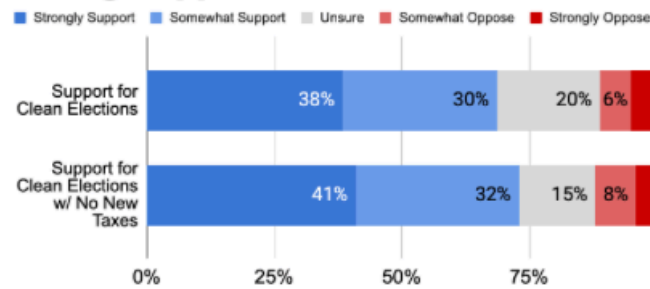
(808) 224-0644  
[our-hawaii.org](http://our-hawaii.org)

Luckily, a solution is on the table for you to solve this problem. The same voters, across race, ethnicity, income level, and political party, overwhelming support a Clean Elections program when it is described to them in plain terms. And they are four times more likely to support than oppose a candidate for office who backs and champions such a program as well.

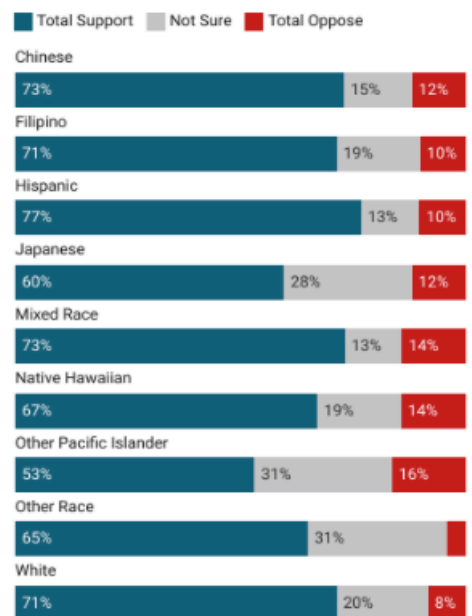
### "Great" Concern Over Money In Politics and Private Campaign Spending for Majorities



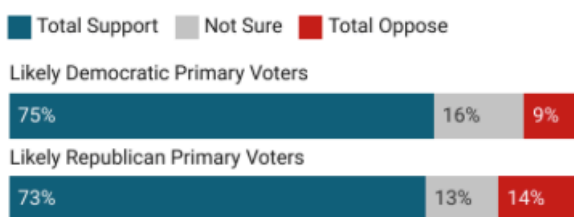
### Strong Support for Clean Elections



### Broad Support for Clean Elections Among all Groups



### 3 in 4 Likely Primary Voters Support Clean Elections





150 Hamakua Drive #341  
Kailua, HI 96734

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[our-hawaii.org](http://our-hawaii.org)

With public trust at an all time low, now is the time for systemic and transformative solutions. While last year progress was made, the fundamentals of the equation have not shifted. We need to address the overriding issue of money in our politics where it begins, in our elections.

SB2381 would go as far as is legally possible under the United States constitution, by leveling the playing field to candidates who are not wealthy or well-connected and providing a viable alternative for campaigning from the private-money driven status quo. It's a historic opportunity to get big money out of our elections, allow every day people an equal voice with the rich and powerful, and allow candidates and legislators like you all to be beholden only to their constituents and their conscience. No longer would legislators have to look over their shoulders, worried about how their donors who will fund their next campaign might react to each and every vote. They can be fully focused on delivering for their constituents, the people. That's how democracy is supposed to work!

And, we know that programs like this work: we've seen it in places like Connecticut, Maine, Hawai'i County and cities all around the US. And we know it's popular. In addition to previously mentioned strong public support, the bill has been supported by leading politicians of both the Democratic and Republican Parties, has the backing of the state Democratic Party, and support from dozens of leading organizations in Hawai'i. **And we know we have the resources: the program would cost less than 0.1% of the state budget.**

We have the policy. We have the public desire for change. We have the resources. The only question is do we have the political will? That will be up to you to make it so. As you deliberate, know the public is watching.

Mahalo nui loa for your courage and action. Laulima, we can move forward to a better future for Hawai'i.

Attached you'll find the press release on the polling referenced from the Clean Elections Hawaii Coalition as well as the results, cross-tabs, and analysis from the polling firm SurveyUSA who conducted the research.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 12th, 2024

Contact: [team@cleanelectionshawaii.org](mailto:team@cleanelectionshawaii.org)

**POLL: Two Out of Three Voters Say Elected Officials Care More About Wealthy Donors Than Needs of Communities, Want ‘Clean Elections’ as Solution**

*71% of voters support a Clean Elections program to publicly fund campaigns, with only 12% opposing.*

*9 in 10 say campaign contributions influence and obligate legislators, and 66% say elected officials care more about wealthy donors than communities.*

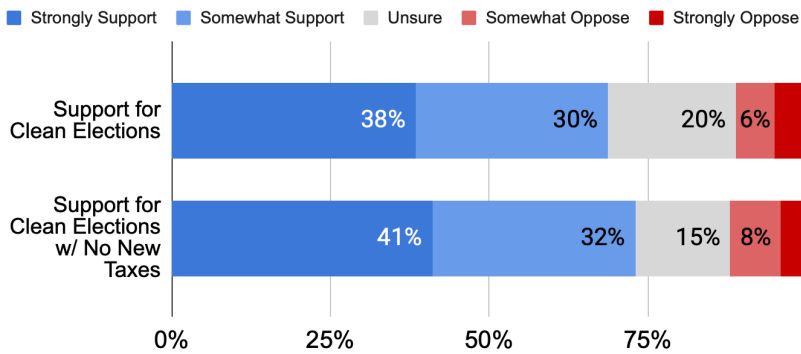
[\[Link to SurveyUSA analysis and results\]](#)

**HONOLULU, Hawai‘i** — More than 3 in 4 (78%) Hawai‘i voters believe legislators are influenced and obligated by campaign contributions and have had their trust in government impacted by recent corruption scandals, 2 in 3 (66%) believe elected officials care more about “wealthy donors” than the “needs of their communities,” and about the same amount (71%) support a “Clean Elections” publicly-financed elections program as a solution, according to a new poll conducted by SurveyUSA from February 27th - March 6th, 2024 and released by the Clean Elections Hawai‘i Coalition. The survey interviewed 1,008 registered and likely voters across Hawai‘i and found widespread and deep concern about money in politics and corruption in government, as well as broad and deep support for a “Clean Elections” program of public financing as a reform solution across ethnic and racial, gender, geographical, and political demographics.

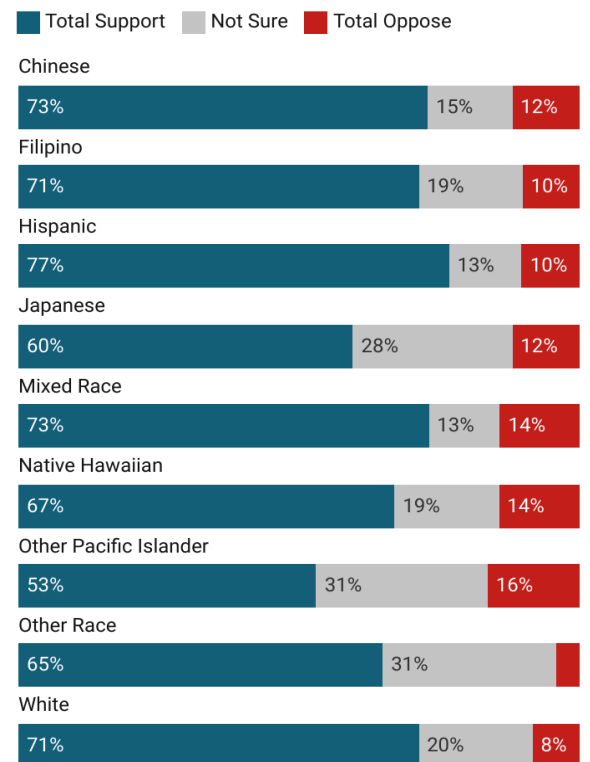
“Clearly, the idea of Clean Elections is one with strong appeal to a very broad cross-section of Hawaii voters,” said **Ken Alper, President of SurveyUSA** who conducted the poll. “Two thirds of voters say their representatives care more about their donors than they do about local communities – and not coincidentally, two thirds of voters support a Clean Elections program in Hawaii. This tackles a major issue for voters, and that’s why you see such strong numbers in support of it.”

Poll results show strong support for a “publicly-financed elections” program across all likely voters, across all major ethnic groups, and across political parties, with 3 out of 4 likely Democratic and Republican primary voters supporting the program, and voters being 4 times more likely to support (42%) than oppose (10%) a candidate for office who supports Clean Elections.

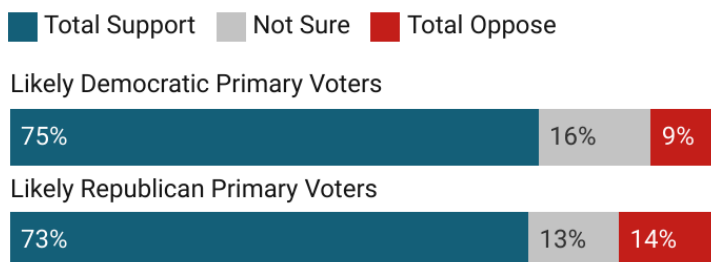
**Strong Support for Clean Elections**



**Broad Support for Clean Elections Among all Groups**



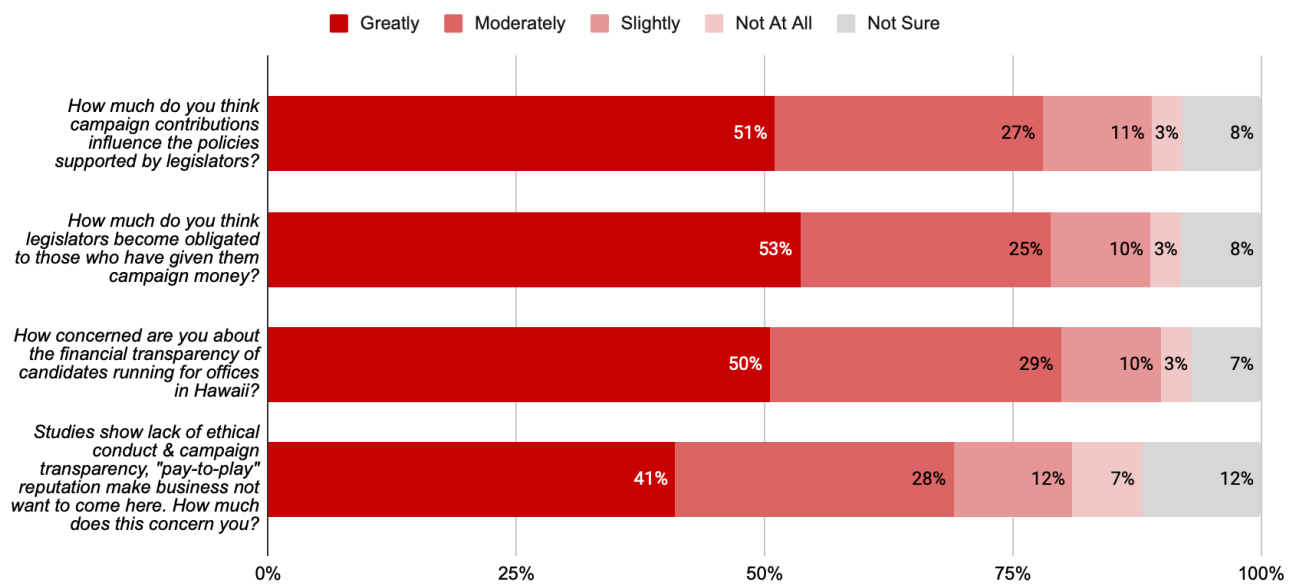
**3 in 4 Likely Primary Voters Support Clean Elections**



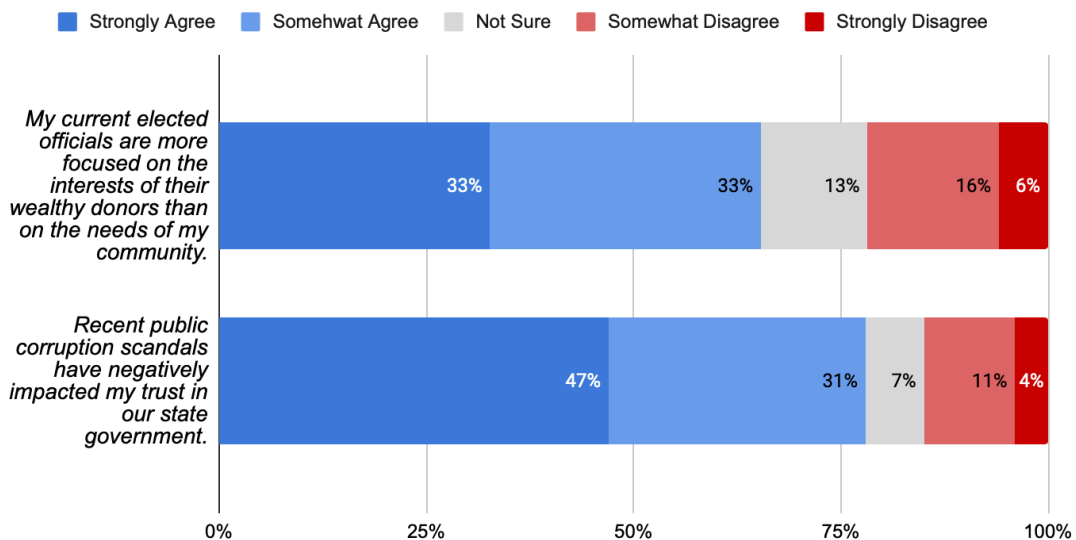
At the same time, results are alarming as it relates to current concern over money in politics, private campaign financing, and trust in elected officials and the government. **A jaw-dropping half or more of all voters think that private campaign contributions are “greatly” influencing or obligating their legislators and are concerned about the financial transparency of candidates running for office, with 9 out of 10 likely voters sharing these concerns to some degree. 2 out 3 likely voters believe elected officials are more focused on wealthy donors than the needs of their community, and 3 out of 4 have had their trust in government shaken by recent corruption scandals.**

“This survey should be a wakeup call for our elected officials — ordinary working people do not trust that you are working in our communities’ interest.” said **Sergio Alcubilla, Executive Director of the Hawai’i Workers Center and a spokesperson for the Clean Elections Hawai’i campaign.** “Last year’s marginal reforms have not moved the needle on public perception or trust in legislators. But a solution is on the table and ready for legislators to win back the public trust and make meaningful reform to a system that many feel is rigged against them. It’s time we put the best interests of the community first. The time for Clean Elections is now.”

### "Great" Concern Over Money In Politics and Private Campaign Spending for Majorities



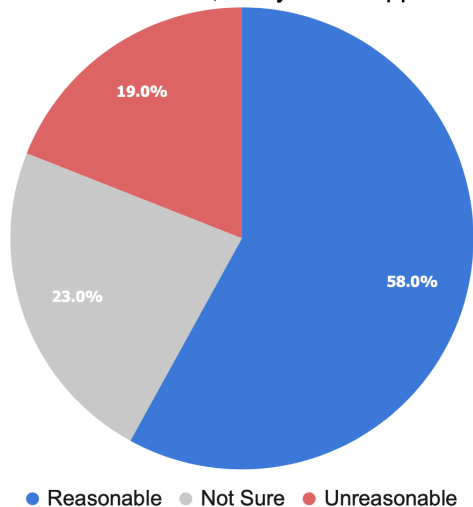
### Two Out of Three Voters Say Elected Officials Care More About Wealthy Donors Than Needs of Communities





Opponents of Clean Elections in Hawai'i have tried to point to its cost as a deterrent, and suggested that voters would not be willing to shoulder the burden. However, when asked directly about the cost per taxpayer of a Clean Elections program, 58% say the cost is reasonable while less than 1 in 4 believe it is unreasonable. [Maybe: Even when opposition framing which contains falsehoods about cost is shared about Clean Elections, voters still show net support for the program by double digits — 19 percentage points. Furthermore, voters seem enthusiastic about a variety of ways to pay for the program. Early this month, legislation for publicly financed elections described as the “last shot” for legislators to make reform before the elections passed the Hawai'i Senate and was transferred to the House of Representatives, where today it was [scheduled for a hearing](#) on Thursday, March 14th in the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs committee at 2pm in Capitol Conference Room 325. Members of the media and the public are encouraged to attend.

**Majority Say \$6 Per Taxpayer Each Year for Clean Elections "Reasonable," Only 1 in 4 Oppose**



*Question: A fully publicly financed election system that would allow candidates to run without needing contributions from private individuals and interests in Hawaii is projected to cost \$6 per resident. Would you consider that cost reasonable or unreasonable?*

###

About SurveyUSA and the Polling Methodology: SurveyUSA is an independent, apolitical and non-partisan research organization that conducts custom, local opinion research for universities, non-profits, local and state governments and small to medium-sized businesses, ad agencies and public relations firms. Nate Silver's fivethirtyeight.com rates 517 polling firms on an ongoing basis, and no research company of any size scores as highly as SurveyUSA on four key metrics: SurveyUSA is in the 94th percentile for absence of partisan bias, the 98th percentile for accuracy, the 98th percentile for predictive value, and the 100th percentile for most prolific.

SurveyUSA interviewed 1,265 adult respondents from the entire state of Hawaii 02/27/24 through 03/06/24. Of the adults, 1,008 were identified by SurveyUSA as being registered to vote and were asked the substantive questions which follow. This research was conducted using a blended sample, mixed mode approach. 71% of registered voters were online panelists chosen randomly who were shown the survey questions on the display of their smartphone, laptop, or tablet. 29% of registered voters were texted on their cell phones by live operators who secured the cooperation of each respondent before linking them to an online survey. The pool of adult respondents was weighted to US Census targets for gender, age, ethnicity, education, and home ownership.

About Clean Elections Hawai'i: The Clean Elections Hawai'i Coalition represents dozens of leading local organizations coordinating to advance a pro-democracy agenda in our islands and help end the corrupting influence of big money on our politics. Supporting organizations include: Common Cause Hawai'i, Sierra Club of Hawai'i, League of Women Voters of Hawai'i, Our Hawai'i Action, The Hawai'i Workers Center, Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action, Lāhainā Strong, Free Access Coalition, Chamber of Sustainable Commerce, Global HOPE (Hawai'i Organization for Peace and the Environment), HOPE Services Hawai'i, Kaua'i Women's Caucus, Friends of Makakilo, Kauhako 'Ohana Association, Living Wage Hawaii, 350 Hawai'i, Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus, Imua Alliance, Pono Hawai'i Initiative, Our Revolution Hawai'i, LGF Consulting, Community Alliance Partners, Habitat for Humanity Hawaii Island, Going Home Hawaii, Young Progressives Demanding Action, HULI PAC, Holomua Collaborative, League of Women Voters of Honolulu, Malama Makua, Americans for Democratic Action Hawaii, Indivisible Hawaii, Kihei Community Association, Aloha 'Āina Women's Patriotic League, Clarity Project, Funder Hui, Saturation Point, Hawaii-Fi, Makawalu Creatives, Energy Transitions, Public Citizen, Rethink Media, and more.

For more information, contact [team@cleanelectionshawaii.org](mailto:team@cleanelectionshawaii.org)

**If a bill to finance Clean Elections were passed, how would you like to see it paid for?**

Respondents were asked to choose as many options as they want, these were the most popular choices.

	Proposed "pay-for"	% support
1	Imposing fees on wealthy super PACs.	51%
2	Closing tax loopholes for out-of-state developers.	51%
3	Closing tax loopholes for the wealthiest Hawaii residents.	50%
4	Imposing fees on lobbyists.	43%
5	Closing tax loopholes for major landowners.	43%
6	Closing tax loopholes for hotel companies.	35%
7	Closing tax loopholes for energy companies.	30%

Table: Clean Elections Hawai'i • Source: SurveyUSA • Created with Datawrapper

# Results of SurveyUSA Mkt Research Study #27066



Geography: Hawaii  
Data Collected: 02/27/2024 - 03/06/2024  
Release Date: 03/12/2024  
Percentages

Sponsor:  
Clean Elections Hawaii ()

## Strong Support in Aloha State for 'Clean Elections' Program to Publicly Fund Campaigns; Majority Says Projected Cost Would be Reasonable; 34% of Hawaii Voters Say Legislators Become Obligated to Campaign Donors; Deep Concerns About Financial Transparency of Candidates For Office:

Results of SurveyUSA research conducted exclusively for Clean Elections Hawaii show strong support across the state for a publicly funded system for political campaigns, with two-thirds of voters in favor of such a program as soon as the idea is broached.

68% of registered voters say they would support passing a law to create a Clean Elections program in Hawaii (38% strongly support, 30% somewhat support); only 11% are opposed. Support is no less than 60% among any demographic subgroup.

When asked if they would support or oppose a Clean Elections program if it did not result in new taxes, the percentage supporting increases 5 points, to 73% (41% strongly supporting, 32% somewhat supporting), with the largest increases in support seen among Japanese voters (18 points), Latinos (11 points), and Democrats (9 points).

58% of voters say the estimated \$6 per resident cost of the program is reasonable; just 1 in 4, 23%, say it is unreasonable.

42% of voters say they are more likely to vote for candidate who supports Clean Elections; 31% say it makes no difference in their vote. Only 1 in 10 voters say they would be less likely to vote for such a candidate; White voters and those with 4-year college degrees are the most likely to say they'd be more likely to vote for a candidate who supports Clean Elections; the youngest voters are the most likely to say they'd be less likely to support such a candidate.

23% of voters, 66%, agree with this statement: "My current elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than on the needs of my community." 33% strongly agree; 33% somewhat agree. 22% disagree (16% somewhat, 6% strongly). 84% of Republicans agree, compared to 57% of Democrats.

34% of registered voters, 78%, agree with this statement: "Recent public corruption scandals have negatively impacted my trust in our state government." 47% strongly agree, 31% somewhat agree; only 15% disagree. Agreement is at or above 72% among every demographic subgroup.

A 51% majority say campaign contributions greatly influence the policies supported by legislators; another 27% say contributions have a moderate impact &ndash; 78% in all. 11% say they have a slight influence, 3% no influence at all. Voters age 50 to 64 are the most likely to say contributions have at least a moderate influence; those aged 18 to 34 are the least likely.

78% also say legislators become obligated to those who donate money to their campaigns, with 53% saying they become greatly obligated, 25% moderately obligated. 10% say they are only slightly obligated, 3% not at all. No fewer than 70% of voters in any demographic subgroup say legislators become obligated.

By more than 2:1, voters say limiting the size and number of campaign contributions helps to prevent corruption in politics, with 54% feeling that way; 23% say these limits have no impact on corruption. Democrats are more likely to say limits help prevent corruption; Republicans and independents are less likely to say so.

69% are moderately (28%) or greatly (41%) concerned that businesses may not wish to expand in Hawaii if it has a reputation for a lack of ethical conduct, a lack of campaign transparency, or a "pay-to-play" reputation. 12% are just slightly concerned; 7% are not concerned at all. Concern increases with age, from 60% of 18 to 34-year-olds being moderately or greatly concerned, to 69% of 35 to 49-year-olds, to 73% of those age 50+.

79% are concerned (29% moderately, 50% greatly) about the financial transparency of candidates for office; 10% are slightly concerned, 3% not concerned at all. No fewer than 70% of voters in any demographic subgroup are concerned.

Last, voters were asked how they would like to see Clean Elections paid for, should a bill to finance them pass. Respondents could select as many items as they wished, ranked here from most to least: 51%: Imposing fees on wealthy super PACs. 51%: Closing tax loopholes for out-of-state developers. 50%: Closing tax loopholes for the wealthiest Hawaii residents. 40%: Imposing fees on lobbyists. 42%: Closing tax loopholes for major landowners. 35%: Closing tax loopholes for hotel companies. 30%: Closing tax loopholes for energy companies. Fully completed results



# HAWAII WORKERS CENTER

(503) WORKERS ☎

**LATE \*Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.**

Defending and Respecting the workers of  
Hawaii'i

hawaiiworkerscenter@gmail.com ✉  
Mail: 2252 Puna St., Honolulu, HI 96817 ✉  
hawaiiworkerscenter.org 🌐

March 13, 2024

Hawaii State House of Representatives  
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
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Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

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Committee

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Leyton Torda

Kami Yamamoto

Executive Director  
Sergio Alcubilla III, Esq.

**RE: SUPPORT for S.B. 2381 RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE**

Dear Chair Rep. Tarnas, Vice-Chair Rep. Takayama, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

The Hawaii Workers Center (HWC) envisions a Hawaii in which all workers are empowered to exercise their right to organize for their social, economic and political well-being. It is a resource of information, education, training and organizing for Hawaii's workers.

The HWC stands in support of S.B. 2381 which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawaii, to begin with the 2028 general election year.

We need to get money out of politics. The influence of money in politics puts our working class communities at a disadvantage when it comes to ensuring their voices are heard. More often than not, the interests of large donors connected to corporate interests drown out the voices of our working class. Candidates and elected officials who represent the voices of workers and not corporate interests are often at a disadvantage when supporters do not have the large financial resources needed to support their candidate.

S.B. 2381 will create a much fairer system and helps level the playing field for our working class residents. Big money in politics and the appearances of impropriety in government are major issues for Hawaii's residents as shown by a recent poll. The impact is truly felt by our working class families, whose interests are often overshadowed by corporate interests and those with the deep financial pockets to substantially donate to candidates.

If we are serious about cleaning up the undue influence of money in politics. S.B. 2381 takes the bold step we need for a 100% fully funded campaign finance system. It is a major step in the right direction to ensure that democracy works for all of us, not just those at the top or those with deep pockets. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 2381 to finally give workers a chance against big-money interests in politics.

Sincerely,

Sergio Alcubilla  
Executive Director



Aloha Committee Members,

**HULI PAC fully and strongly supports SB2381.** As fourth-generation Hawai'i Island kama'aina residents, we have repeatedly emphasized the benefits of removing corporate funds from politics. We now have grassroots community advocates representing our people and our environment. We have been successful! The people from every island in great numbers are watching, waiting, and strongly supporting this.

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. *This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government prioritizing constituents' needs. Connecticut, Maine, and **Hawaii County Council** have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective.* These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million annually. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo,  
Maki Morinoue  
HULI PAC, member  
Holualoa, Hawai'i Island



Inspiring Hope, Changing Lives

Visit us on the web: [www.hopeserviceshawaii.org](http://www.hopeserviceshawaii.org)

Connect via email: [info@hopeserviceshawaii.org](mailto:info@hopeserviceshawaii.org)

HOPE Help Line: 808-935-3050

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2381: RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE

TO: Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and Members  
FROM: Brandee Menino, CEO, Hope Services Hawai'i, Inc.  
Hearing: JHA on 03-14-24

Aloha,

My name is Brandee Menino and I am the CEO of Hope Services Hawai'i, which is Hawai'i Island's largest nonprofit homeless services provider. We are pleased to support SB2381, which would establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai'i.

Our team uses evidence-based practices to help our neighbors avoid and overcome homelessness, and we achieve above-average results in helping people get housed and stay housed. However, as a non-governmental organization, we cannot change the laws that have led to the status quo. While federal, state, and local governments all bear some level of responsibility, today this committee has an opportunity to address the root of the problem, in a real and meaningful way. **When donors who profit by displacing local people are no longer needed to win an election, we can expect to see a shift toward compassionate, equitable, and cost-effective housing policy.**

We reached out to Representative Ambureen Rana, who was elected to the Maine State Legislature in 2022, to ask about her experience with public financing. This is what she had to say:

*"I was publicly financed and it's the only way it was possible for me to run, as a working class person. It goes a long way in removing barriers to allow young people to run for office, and people of color. As a 28 year old, first generation American, this made it possible for me."*

Please pass SB2381, so that people like Representative Rana have a chance to serve as policymakers in Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui,

Brandee Menino,  
Chief Executive Office

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Chief Executive Officer**  
Brandee Menino





March 13, 2024

The Honorable David A. Tarnas  
Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawaii State Legislature

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

**Re: Statement in support of S.B. 2381, SD2, with recommended amendments**

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee,

Campaign Legal Center (CLC) respectfully submits this statement supporting and recommending amendments to S.B. 2381, SD2, a bill to establish comprehensive public financing for state and county candidates. CLC is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and strengthening democracy across all levels of government. Since the organization's founding in 2002, CLC has participated in every major campaign finance case before the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as in numerous other federal and state court cases. Our work promotes every American's right to participate in the democratic process.

CLC is a longtime proponent of public financing for campaigns, and we commend the Committee for pursuing an updated program for Hawaii. Adopting a strengthened public financing program could broaden public engagement in democracy and amplify the voices of regular Hawaii residents in the electoral process.

To strengthen S.B. 2381 SD2, CLC recommends the following amendments:

- **Permit certified candidates to qualify for supplemental funds.** Under the bill, a certified candidate receives a primary election grant and, if the candidate advances, a general election grant. To ensure competitive funding for participating candidates, the Committee should consider providing supplemental funds to candidates who collect additional qualifying contributions, similar to the Maine Clean Elections Act.<sup>1</sup>
- **Provide the Campaign Spending Commission (CSC) with sufficient resources.** Dedicated staff and funding are critical to the success and integrity of any public financing program. The Committee should consider providing CSC with additional

<sup>1</sup> See Me. Stat. tit. 21-A, § 1125(8-B)-(8-E). Participation in the Maine Clean Election Act program rebounded after the program was amended in 2015 to include supplemental grants, which ensure candidates can access additional funds in particularly competitive races. MAINE CITIZENS FOR CLEAN ELECTIONS, CLEAN ELECTION PARTICIPATION RATES AND OUTCOMES: 2016 ELECTIONS, <https://perma.cc/A62B-RSDW> (Feb. 6, 2017).

permanent full-time staff and funding to help develop and administer the program, similar to prior versions of SB 2381.

- **Allow certified candidates to pay campaign debts after the day of the election.** Under the bill, certified candidates are prohibited from spending their grant funds “outside the applicable campaign period” and must return their leftover public funds within specified periods after their campaign ends. The Committee should consider amending these commonsense requirements to explicitly allow candidates to pay their legitimate campaign debts with public funds before having to return the leftover amounts, which is standard in other public financing programs.<sup>2</sup>
- **Allow seed money to be used for legitimate campaign costs.** The bill requires that a candidate’s seed money be used only for determining the candidate’s viability for public financing, and then reduces the amount of the candidate’s public grant by their seed money total. Because the seed money total reduces the public campaign funds a candidate may access, the Committee should consider allowing seed money to be used for legitimate campaign costs, similar to seed money provisions in other programs.<sup>3</sup>
- **Provide CSC discretion to assess penalties.** The bill requires a candidate who violates contribution restrictions to be fined an amount equal to three times the amount of public funds received. Similar to Hawaii law under H.R.S. § 11-410(a), the Committee should consider giving CSC the discretion to determine an appropriate penalty amount—such as *up to* three times the amount of public funds received—based on mitigating or aggravating factors.
- **Provide alternatives for insufficient funding.** Instead of making the program inoperative when public funds are insufficient for full funding for all covered elections, the Committee should consider alternatives, like additional appropriation requests by CSC, reduced grants as determined by CSC, or other options to sustain the program.<sup>4</sup>
- **Remove restrictions on candidates after the election.** Because candidates who participate in the program must comply with program requirements regardless of their prior participation in the program, the post-election restrictions on elected candidates—seemingly for contributions that would apply to a subsequent election—appear to be unnecessary. The Committee should consider removing them.

CLC respectfully urges the Committee to adopt our recommendations and support S.B. 2381, SD2. We would be happy to assist the Committee in crafting these amendments. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Aaron McKean  
Senior Legal Counsel

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<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 16-953 (requiring return of public monies “above an amount sufficient to pay any unpaid bills”).

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., Me. Stat. tit. 21-A, § 1125(2-A); see also Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 16-945.

<sup>4</sup> See, e.g., Me Stat. tit. 21-A, § 1124(4); see also Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 16-954.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:57:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dave Mulinix	Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

**Aloha Chair, Vice Chair & Committee Members,**

**On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 5,000 members and supporters statewide, we Stand in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2381 SD2 that establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai'i, to begin with the 2028 general election year. SB2381 SD2 further requires the Campaign Spending Commission to submit a progress and final report to the Legislature.**

**Since the Citizens United ruling it has effectively freed corporations and nonprofit organizations to spend unlimited amounts of money on electioneering communications and to directly advocate for the election or defeat of candidates.**

**This has made our electoral system unfair as it allows the wealthiest donors to spend unlimited amount of money to affect elections in their favor.**

**Please support fair and clean elections and vote in favor of SB2381 SD2.**

**Mahalo.**

**Dave Mulinix, Co-Founder & Statewide Organizer**

**Our Revolution Hawaii**



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:09:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan B Roberts Emery	Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-chair Takayama, and members of Committee,

On behalf of the Green Party of Hawai'i, we stand in solidarity with passing SB2381. For too long, the highest "fundraising candidate", is the one who gets the keys to the legislature. It is past time, to level the playing field. Let us have the voters decide who is the best candidate for the job. Big pharma, Big Ag, Banks, Some Unions with deep pockets, and even out of state billionaires, are pulling the puppet strings of our legislators. The buck stops here. We are watching you !

Vote yes on SB2381, show us where your loyalty lies.

Mahalo nui,

Susan RobertsEmery

Co-Chair GPH

**Hawaii  
Legislative  
Council  
Members**

Joell Edwards  
Wainiha Country  
Market  
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman  
Island Naturals  
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson  
Niko Niko Family  
Dentistry  
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia  
Hawaii Taro Farm  
Wailuku

Maile Meyer  
Na Mea Hawaii  
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger  
Kihei Ice  
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki  
Abundant Life  
Natural Foods  
Hilo

Kim Coco Iwamoto  
Enlightened Energy  
Honolulu

Chamber of  
Sustainable  
Commerce  
P.O. Box 22394  
Honolulu, HI  
96823



Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Thursday, March 14, 2024  
2:00 PM, Conference Room 325

RE: **SB2381 SD2** Cleaner Elections - **Support with Amendments**

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayam and Committee Members,

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 100 small businesses across the State that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity – we know Hawaii can strengthen its economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment. This is why we support SB2381 SD2 with amendments.

SB2381 SD1 brings us one step closer towards a representational democracy that protects small business owners, consumers and the environment – not just large corporations who can afford to pay-to-play through expensive lobbyists and multi-tiered campaign contributions.

Luxury developers, defense contractors, big pharma, agri-chemical corporations, and all the private attorneys and consultants they hire, can afford to give candidates the maximum allowable contributions. They can hire lobbyists to give maximum contributions to these same candidates. Well-funded candidates can buy maximum contribution tickets to fundraisers for other candidates in their faction. All of these maximum contributions quickly add up to a campaign war chest that is almost impossible to challenge in any impactful way.

Furthermore, the campaigns of certain legislative leaders have already benefited from state taxpayer money that is laundered through state Grant-In-Aid (GIA) recipients – that were hand-picked by those legislative leaders. After select GIA money goes through the wash and spin cycle, a portion may end up in legislators' campaign accounts. For example, look at how much taxpayer money went to GIA recipients Navatek and Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council, then compare that to the amounts of campaign contributions from employees, consultants, lobbyists and family members of those GIA recipients. Meanwhile, the legislature has exempted these millions of dollars in GIA awards from the State Ethics Commission's oversight.

While SB2381 SD2 begins to even the playing field for candidates who are not receiving GIA-campaign "kickbacks", more must be done if Hawaii is to realize the corrective impact this bill seeks. We urge this committee to add provisos to this bill that will: 1) cap the maximum allowable contribution to a candidate campaign at \$100 per donor, per election - including from the candidate and their immediate family, 2) prohibit candidate campaigns from making contributions to other candidate campaigns, and 3) ensure the State Ethics Commission has oversight over GIA contracts in the same way they do over all other state contracts and expenditures of public funds.



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

March 14, 2024

2:00 PM

Conference Room 325

### In **SUPPORT** of **SB2381 SD2**: RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE

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Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Committee Members,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS SB2381 SD2**, which will help to relieve candidates of the need to fundraise from private entities, and thereby foster more rigorous discussion and refinement of candidates' policy platforms for the betterment of our islands and communities.

Our democratic system of governance is premised on the concept of an informed electorate choosing candidates whose policy priorities align with what their constituents care about the most. Unfortunately, the modern day costs of running a “viable” campaign often require candidates to expend considerable time and energy raising funds from private sources, rather than developing, debating, and refining campaign platforms, and engaging voters in this critical process.

Moreover, candidates must often solicit donations from private, corporate entities whose interests may be inherently narrower than those of the public at large. As a result, conflicts or perceived conflicts too often arise between policymaking that may be of particular benefit to certain classes of private entities, and the more comprehensive concerns of the broader community – including with regards to the environmental and cultural integrity, and the long-term livability, of our islands.

By providing for public financing of campaigns for elected office, this measure would help us take a transformative step towards enabling our candidates and elected representatives more time to engage with their grassroots constituents during the campaign season; research, debate, and refine their campaign policy platforms; and thereby come into or return to office with a stronger and more comprehensive vision for policies that will ultimately benefit the public interest, as well as the public trust in our democratic system of governance.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** SB2381 SD2. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



## TESTIMONY FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

MARCH 14, 2024

#### SB 2381, SD2, RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **supports** SB 2381, SD2, relating to public financing for candidates to elected office. Pursuant to the "Government" section of the official Democratic Party of Hawai'i platform, the party supports "government reforms that limit the influence of money on the creation or execution of policy. We support campaign finance reform that limits the amount of money organizations, corporations or individuals can donate to political campaigns. We support full public-financing of elections."

Government should work for the public interest, not special interests.

In the 2010 and 2012 election cycles, the Hawai'i Island County Council ran a pilot program for comprehensive public funding. Similarly, Connecticut and Maine have instituted statewide clean elections programs, which have proven successful at increasing electoral participation and reducing candidates' reliance on private donations. Over 70 percent of Democratic legislators use public financing to fund their campaigns in Maine.

Hawai'i continues to be embroiled in public corruption scandals, following the bribery allegations that were levied against former Senate

Majority Leader Kalani English and former State Representative Ty Cullen. Other public officials, such as employees at local permitting offices, have also recently been ensnared in bribery scandals, in some cases with connections to Milton Choy, the lobbyist who was responsible for coordinating the bribery scheme that Sen. English and Rep. Cullen became a part of. These cases show that we have a moral crisis in our public institutions and must do all we can to restore integrity to government.

When candidates for public office are forced to rely on private donations to build relationships, those transactions can cause corruption or create the perception of it. Put simply, legislators are responsive to donors because donors fund their campaigns. Money is crucial to winning. Roughly 91 percent of candidates who outspend their opponents win their elections.

Relatedly, many people choose not to run for public office because they can't afford the cost of a campaign, leaving many incumbents routinely uncontested in their reelection bids. The average winner of a State House seat in Hawai'i spends approximately \$40,000 on their campaign, compared to only \$16,000 for the losing candidate. Over half of all campaign donations in 2022 came from just 980 donors, each of whom contributed at least \$6,000 in candidate donations during the last election cycle.

This bill will eventually create an election system that is fair for our island home. Once a clean elections program is fully effectuated in 2028—more than enough time to fund the system for the next non-gubernatorial election season—candidates will no longer need to rely on contributions from wealthy donors. Instead, they can seek support from their constituents in the form of small donations that verify their credibility and subsequently obtain public funding in an amount sufficient to run effective campaigns. Legislators will, in turn, be empowered to focus on engaging with their communities, rather than wheedling the donor class. Ultimately, this will help our government reflect the will of the people, not the wallets of the privileged.

Mahalo nui loa,

**Kris Coffield**

*Co-Chair, Legislative Committee*

(808) 679-7454

kriscoffield@gmail.com

**Abby Simmons**

*Co-Chair, Legislative Committee*

(808) 352-6818

abbyalana808@gmail.com

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 9:33:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John & Rita Shockley	Free Access Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition SUPPORTS SB2381. The general public needs access to becoming candidates in elections. Let's get "Big Money" out of the electoral process.

Mahalo for your time.



To: The House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs (JHA)  
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024, 2pm

**In strong support of SB2381 SD2**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and JHA Committee members;

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **strong support of SB2381 SD2** that establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State, to begin with the 2028 general election year.

SB2381 SD2 will help restore the people's trust in government. Considering the convictions of Senator J. Kalani English and Representative Ty Cullen for cash bribes, it is clear that the legislature must do everything in its power to remove the influence that money has on our politics, including reforms like public financing. Public financing of elections is one of the most important ways to free our state political system from undue influence from corporations, businesses, and special interest groups. Three quarters of Hawaii voters support a system of fully publicly financed elections.

Public financing will make campaigning easier. No one likes asking individuals for large sums of money. Public financing will free candidates from fundraisers and countless phone calls. Reducing or even eliminating candidates' reliance on wealthy donors and the need to perpetually fundraise frees candidates and officials to spend more time with their constituents and to focus on the most pressing issues of their community, such as the impacts from the growing climate crisis. It also promotes public trust in officials and in government.

SB2381 SD2 would provide participating candidates with competitive amounts of funding they need to run an effective campaign, and would ban them from receiving any private donations at all. This system worked very well for Hawaii County Council races in 2010 and 2012, and currently works very well statewide in places like Connecticut and Maine.

Please take this opportunity to get money out of politics. Pass SB2381 SD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this important legislation.

Sherry Pollack  
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Gregg Takayama

Thursday March 14 2024, 2:pm Videoconference/Rm 325  
SB2381 SD2 — RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE

#### 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 strongly supports SB2382 SD2 which** establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawaii, to begin with the 2028 general election year, and requires the Campaign Spending Commission to submit reports to the Legislature. **We also recommend amending the bill to include an appropriation to the Campaign Spending Commission for implementation, and to the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund: without an appropriation section, the impact of this bill is may be seriously compromised.**

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that methods of financing political campaigns should enhance political equality for all citizens; protect representative democracy from being distorted by big spending in election campaigns; ensure the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections; enable candidates to compete equitably for public office; ensure that candidates have sufficient funds to communicate their messages to the public; and combat corruption and undue influence in government.

Delegates and voters in the 1978 Constitutional Convention in Hawaii realized the importance of this concept when they created the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund and Hawaii's partial public funding option. Below is a quote from the Convention during the discussion of the HECF:

**“ . . . if we think these tremendous sums being spent [on elections], these tremendous sums being contributed, are not sums for which we are going to ultimately pay** because of poor government . . . and because of undue influence . . .we are fooling ourselves.” Delegate Naomi Campbell.

**Wealthy businesses and individuals fund privately funded elections.** Over half of all Hawaii campaign donations in 2022 came from just 980 donors who each gave at least \$6,000. (In 2018 after Connecticut implemented full public funding, 99% of campaign funds used by legislative candidates came from individuals, in sharp contrast to preprogram practices when less than half came from individuals.<sup>1</sup>)



**The affluent have different priorities:** 68 percent of the general public believes politicians ought to see to it that everyone who wants to work can find a job, while only 19 percent of the wealthy believe the same; the general public is twice as likely to support raising the minimum wage high enough to keep families out of poverty as affluent respondents; a majority of Americans think that wealth should be taxed at the same rate as work, but the wealthiest 20% of Americans, who are most likely to make substantial contributions to political campaigns, are those most likely to profit from low taxes on capital gains.<sup>2</sup>

**Publicly funded elections let the voting public have more influence on political decisions, as is widely appreciated by voters.** A survey of Hawaii voters in 2022 showed that 74% of the Hawai'i voting public would be more likely to support a candidate who refused campaign donations from out-of-state developers, major landowners, hotel conglomerates, and energy companies; 70 percent of voters were more likely to support a candidate who refused donations from lobbyists and corporate PACs.<sup>4</sup> **The public pays anyway for the costs of privately funded election campaigns.** When large contributions are made by business interests, it's likely that the **customers of those businesses indirectly pay, in higher prices, for these contributions.** When candidates are funded by the public, politicians are free to make decisions based on the merit of ideas, not biased, consciously or not, by consideration of who gave or will give money to their election campaigns.

Connecticut's Citizen's Elections program (CEP) shows how **full public funding can repay its cost:** "For many years, environmentalists tried to expand the bottle bill recycling program..., but the powerful beverage industry and its paid lobbyists were able to stop every effort at reform because they gave thousands of dollars to legislators. This year (2016), the legislature—with three-quarters of members having participated in the CEP—voted to expand the bottle bill. We also voted to reclaim millions of dollars' worth of unclaimed bottle deposits, which takes approximately \$25 million a year out of the pockets of the beverage industry and puts that money into the general fund where it belongs. This alone recoups more money than the CEP costs".<sup>3</sup>

**Instead of fundraising, candidates can spend more time talking to their constituents or analyzing and discussing solutions to Hawaii's problems** as quoted by CT state legislators.<sup>4</sup>

**SB2381 will support a more diverse field of candidates.** Currently people without wealth or wealthy families and friends, who may be politically akamai and interested in running for office, often feel (probably rightly) that they will not be able to conduct winning campaigns, since 90% of races nationally and in Hawaii are won by the candidate who spends most in an election contest.

These widely shared campaign finance objectives lead directly to recommending full and realistic public financing of election campaigns and supporting SB2381 SD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

## Citations

1 Analysis of CSC database on contributions to 2022 elections

2 Rotman, B.A. & Nightingale, L. Amplifying Small-dollar Donors in the *Citizens United* Era: Connecticut's

Citizen's Elections Program Shifted the Balance of Power to the People. Common Cause Education

Fund, 2017

3 Callahan, D. & Mijin Cha, J. Stacked Deck: How the Dominance of Politics by the Affluent & Business Undermines Economic Mobility in America. Demos, Feb. 2013:

4 Hawaii Voter Candidate Preference Memo. Data for Progress, 2023

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:49:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
ROBERT DUERR	Albatross News	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly Support SB2381. Money interests have lawyer advice, lobbyist spending, public relation campaigns, bank relationships, friends in high places and the ability to influence the public for their money interests. Often those interests have public policy merit. However. Take politics, political campaigns and unfair influence out of the pay to play money politics game. Clean Elections NOW.

Robert Duerr Albatross News. Hilo Hawaii



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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**OFFICERS**

John Bickel, President  
Alan Burdick, Vice President  
Doug Pyle, Secretary

**DIRECTORS**

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P.O. Box 23404  
Honolulu

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March 13, 2024

TO: Chair Tarnas and Members of the JHA Committee

RE: SB2381 SD2 Relating to Public Financing for Candidates to Elected Office

Support for Hearing: Thursday, March 14

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1940s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support this bill as it would establish a comprehensive system of public financing for campaign elections. This is a reform to make many other reforms possible. Campaign fundraising skews public policy to those with financial resources to contribute to campaigns. Eliminate the money and the process will be cleaner.

Sincerely,

John Bickel, President



Testimony of **Lahaina Strong**  
Before the House Committee on  
**Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs**

In Consideration of Senate Bill No. 2381 SD2  
**RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE**

To Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and the honorable members of the Committee,

We are writing on behalf of Lahaina Strong, an organization that was initially formed in 2018 following the Hurricane Lane fire in Lahaina and re-energized last year after the devastating Lahaina fires on August 8. Our organization is the largest grassroots, Lahaina-based community organization, with over 20,000 supporters, engaged in providing support and assistance to the victims of these disasters.

**Lahaina Strong stands in support of SB2381 SD2**, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai'i.

Lahaina Strong has been at the forefront of relief and advocacy efforts, including the initiation of the "Fishing for Housing" camp, which has been in operation for 4 months along Kaanapali Beach, championing dignified housing for Lahaina fire victims. We commend the legislature for considering measures that address the pressing issues faced by our community, and we believe that the proposed bill encompasses crucial provisions that align with our organization's goals and demands.

Senate Bill 2381 SD2 addresses critical issues related to campaign finance and the influence of money in politics. As concerned citizens deeply affected by the recent wildfires on Maui, we believe that this bill is a crucial step towards fostering a more equitable political landscape.

Hawaii has witnessed the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics, and it has become increasingly evident how decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to the environmental mismanagement that fueled the devastating fires. In light of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests.

SB2381 SD2 aims to provide an alternative to reliance on private contributions. By doing so, the bill seeks to level the playing field, ensuring that public service is accessible to a diverse range of candidates who can genuinely represent the interests of our communities.

SB2381 SD2 does not cast negative aspersions on the integrity of our elected officials, rather, it recognizes the systemic issues that arise from the existing campaign finance structure and proposes a solution that can foster a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable political process.

In the aftermath of the wildfires, the importance of community-driven solutions and representation cannot be overstated. SB2381 SD2 aligns with the principles of fairness and equity, ensuring that our elected officials are accountable to the people they serve, rather than being disproportionately influenced by financial contributions from select interests.

We respectfully urge the committee to consider the long-term benefits that **SB2381 SD2** can bring to our state, creating a political environment that is more resilient, responsive, and representative of the diverse voices that make up our community.

Mahalo for dedicating your time and attention to this vital issue. We value your commitment to the welfare of Hawaii and the community-driven principles we cherish.

Sincerely,

Pa'ele Kiakona, Jordan Ruidas & Courtney Lazo

Lahaina Strong

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:46:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Shimei	Indivisible Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**IN SUPPORT**

Indivisible Hawai‘i supports SB2381 SD2. A majority of the public perceives, rightly or wrongly, that government is corrupt and elections are rigged by big money. It is in everyone’s interest, including politicians who are unfairly under this cloud, to fix this perception. This bill will go a long way towards rehabilitating public perception of our elections and restoring faith in government, both of which are essential for our democracy. Publicly financed elections have the support of a majority of voters, a proven track record, and benefits that far outweigh the relatively minor costs. Please pass this bill.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:14:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
john carty	Save Honolua Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As advocates for environmental and cultural integrity in politics it's evident that Hawaii's political landscape has long been overshadowed by the influence of money. This dominance has perpetuated the enactment of detrimental policies benefiting economic interest of big business while stifling the progression of beneficial policies that benefit the people and our natural resouces. Sadly, it's widely perceived that elected officials prioritize the desires of affluent donors over the pressing needs of our communities.

SB2381 offers a beacon of hope by severing the ties between private interests and electoral success. Liberating candidates from the relentless pursuit of funds from special interest groups and the wealthy, this bill represents a crucial step towards fair and just elections. It's heartening to know that a staggering three-quarters of voters support the implementation of a clean elections program, recognizing its potential to usher in a government that truly serves its constituents.

Drawing inspiration from the successes seen in Connecticut, Maine, and even our very own Hawaii County Council, it's evident that publicly financed elections can not only thrive but also prove to be cost-effective. Importantly, these initiatives haven't resulted in an upheaval of incumbents or majority party standings. Instead, they've reshaped the landscape of influence, ensuring that the voices of the people resonate louder than the deep pockets of special interests.

The annual cost of less than \$10 million is well worth it considering that fair elections are the foundation of democracy. If we're sincere about combatting corruption and fostering a political system that caters to the needs of all residents, rather than just the privileged few, SB2381 demands our immediate attention and action. It's time to embrace fairness, transparency, and accountability in our electoral processes, safeguarding the integrity of our democracy for generations to come.





## **House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs**

### **Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB2381 SD2**

Thursday, February 14th, 2024 2:00 p.m. Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and Members of the Committee,

We support SB2381 SD2 which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State.

HAPA Strongly supports the passing of SB 2381 SD2, which proposes the establishment of publicly funded elections. Hawaii's political landscape has long been marred by the undue influence of money, resulting in the passage of detrimental policies and the stifling of beneficial ones. It's time to break this cycle and restore faith in our democratic process.

Recent surveys reveal a concerning sentiment among our constituents: two out of three people believe that elected officials prioritize the interests of wealthy donors over the needs of the community. This erosion of trust undermines the very foundation of our democracy. SB 2381 SD2 presents a solution by severing the link between private money and electoral success, liberating candidates from the relentless pursuit of funds from special interests and affluent individuals.

Publicly funded elections enjoy overwhelming support from our electorate, with three in four voters endorsing the concept of a clean elections program. This widespread backing underscores the urgent need to reform our electoral system and usher in a new era of ethical governance.

We need not look far for successful models of publicly financed elections. Connecticut, Maine, and even Hawai'i County Council have demonstrated that such programs can be both effective and cost-efficient. Importantly, these initiatives have not led to a wave of incumbent losses or upheavals in majority party representation. Instead, they have reshaped the dynamics of legislative influence, fostering a government that is more accountable to its constituents rather than deep-pocketed donors.

Critics may argue about the financial feasibility of implementing such a program. However, the evidence suggests otherwise. With an estimated annual cost of less than \$10 million, publicly funded elections are a modest investment in the integrity of our democracy.



If we are serious about combatting corruption and ensuring that our government serves the interests of all residents, regardless of their wealth or connections, we must seize this opportunity to pass Senate Bill 2381 SD2 without delay. Let us reaffirm our commitment to democracy and set a precedent for ethical governance in Hawai'i.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. Please support SB2381 SD1!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick  
Executive Director

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:01:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Colehour Bondera	Kanalani Ohana Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair & Committee Members:

Please accept my full and serious support of this legislation.

As an organic farmer who must always publically reveal our farm actions and inputs, and as a past political candidate it seems very simple to understand that all of our cards can and should be put on the table.

By working together we can be better heard and trusted. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective.

Thank you for your serious consideration and support for SB2381.

Yours,

Colehour Bondera

KANALANI OHANA FARM

colemel2@gmail.com



Committee: Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 2:00pm  
Place: Conference Room 325 & Via Videoconference  
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of SB2381 SD2  
Relating to Public Financing for Candidates to Elected Office

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and Committee Members:

The ACLU of Hawai'i **supports SB2381 SD2 Relating to Public Financing For Candidates Elected to Office. Specifically, we ask that you fully fund this measure, make it permanent and implement no later than 2026.**

In our view, the answer to concerns over the escalating cost of political campaigns is to expand, not limit, the resources available for political advocacy. **Thus, the ACLU supports a comprehensive and meaningful opt-in system of public financing that would help create a level playing field for every qualified candidate.**

A representative democracy functions best when it closely mirrors the electorate. And this is accomplished when access to public candidacy isn't limited by personal wealth or the deep pockets of private interests.

Financial means, or lack of such, can have a wide array of impacts. Access to wealth often results in better educational and health outcomes over the course of one's life. Those individuals and families impacted by our criminal justice system are predominately those who live in poverty. **So too do financial means impact our electoral system. Those with greater financial means and access to high-quality education are more likely to run for, and win, elected offices.**

Giving potential candidates the option to access a meaningful pool of public money will go a long way toward leveling the playing field against well-funded and entrenched incumbents. And a well-funded public financing system could very-well encourage individuals from these under represented demographics to run for public office.

When our legislative officials have in common shared lived experience, not just geographic proximity, with those they represent we can all be uplifted with bolder public policy that acknowledges our most vulnerable and works to uplift them.

We will continue to advocate for reform of the current system, including in support of our longstanding commitment to public financing of campaigns. In doing so, we will stress fidelity to

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i  
P.O. Box 3410  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801  
T: 808.522.5900  
F: 808.522.5909  
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[www.acluhawaii.org](http://www.acluhawaii.org)

the principles protected by the First Amendment with the goal of expanding, not limiting, political speech.

Please pass and SB2381 SD2 on a permanent basis and starting no later than 2026. Mahalo for your service!

Sincerely,

***Josh Frost***

Josh Frost  
Policy Assistant  
ACLU of Hawai'i  
[jfrost@acluhawaii.org](mailto:jfrost@acluhawaii.org)

*The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai'i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai'i has been serving Hawai'i for over 50 years.*

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[www.acluhawaii.org](http://www.acluhawaii.org)

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and JHA Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of SB 2381, SD 2, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawaii, to begin with the 2028 general election year.

I had the privilege of serving on the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct (CISC) in 2022, which was convened by Speaker Saiki in the wake of the federal indictment of two veteran lawmakers. Advocates are enthused about Speaker Saiki's recent vocal support for far reaching campaign finance reform.

The Hawai'i Election Campaign Fund remains underutilized, with a [policy brief from the Economic Research Organization at the University of Hawai'i](#) (UHERO) observing that partial funding programs are generally "ineffective."

[The CISC Final Report](#) states that, should additional resources become available, the Legislature should "be bold [and] seek additional permanent funding sources for future elections." This could include an increase in the amount that that can be "checked off" on state income tax forms under HRS Section 235-102.5(a).

The UHERO report also finds that "most scholarship shows that generous public financing programs increase electoral competition, contribute to greater diversity among candidates and donors, and encourage more contact between office-seekers and voters."

Recent experiences with Hawai'i County Council elections in 2010 and 2012 indicate that implementation of a fully financed program can be successful with adequate funding. Moving toward a full public financing of electoral contests in Hawai'i will not eliminate the influence of money so long as *Citizens United* remains in force. However, public financing can give those candidates with community support the opportunity to be competitive.

Former Gov. George Ariyoshi put it very well in his most recent volume, *Hawai'i's Future* (2020):

I hope that we do not give up on campaign reform.... Most people are sick of the campaign finance system. That includes business people. While the average voter may look at large campaign contributions as a means of achieving undue advantage, many a businessperson resents the inherent pressure exerted by political campaigns. [We] have a regulatory Campaign Spending Commission [CSC] with all the right elements, and its role is widely accepted. We now need an enlightened discussion and a purposeful movement for more far-reaching reforms. This is a leadership challenge waiting for a group of emerging legislators to take action.

As noted by Kristin Izumi-Nitao, CSC Executive Director and a fellow CISC member, [in her recent interview with Honolulu Civil Beat](#), her department operates with the same number of staff as in 1973. Whatever the fate of this bill, this state should make a broader and deeper

commitment to voter access, transparency, disclosure, and accountability in its electoral processes, including closer regulation of broadcast advertisements.

I outlined some prospective areas of reform in my May 2023 opinion editorial in *Honolulu Civil Beat*, “[Make Government Reform a Long-Term Commitment](#)”:

The CSC is well-positioned to implement future reforms with additional staff resources. In addition to an expansion of public financing, future legislation could include additional restrictions on fundraising and limits on contributions by government contractors and grantees. If any campaign funds are raised in a given month, that information should be publicly disclosed through monthly reports. PAC communications through broadcast media and the internet should be required to have a verbal disclosure noting the name of the PAC and its top funder.

The Legislature should also revisit the [permissible uses of campaign funds](#). Child care expenses are recognized in [24 states](#) as bona fide campaign expenses.

To reduce the appearance of impropriety, campaign funds should not be used for charitable donations or scholarships. Donors can contribute to worthy causes directly. A provision that allows for [\\$50,000 campaign loans](#) from immediate family members also deserves additional scrutiny.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Nikos A. Leverenz  
Aliamanu

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:51:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chuck Freedman	Individual	Comments	In Person

Comments:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY REGARDING SB 2381 SD1

February 13, 2024

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on SB 2381, SD1.

Public financing of campaigns for state and local races offers the promise of equity in the election of our state and local officials. Many who have testified in support offer a vision of elections that are uncontrolled by large corporate or big money interests.

Unfortunately, with the protection of SuperPACs offered by the United State Supreme Court's Citizen's United ruling, this well-meaning effort may have the ironic consequence of offering seats for sale — at bargain prices — to aggressive dark money.

We need look no further than the last election, when the SuperPAC Be Change Now spent \$4 million in an effort to control the race for state of Hawai'i Lieutenant Governor, or when a series of mainland SuperPACs collectively devote a seven-figure sum in the 2nd Congressional District.

Candidates whose contributions are capped, as would happen in if this bill were to become law, would be unable to compete against unfettered spending by outside, dark money. SuperPACs would be able to influence elections at bargain prices. In this case our state leaders will not be chosen by the electorate, but by entities with a very targeted agenda.

Before you commit candidates to this type of legislation, we suggest that you consider ways to safeguard our local elections against interference by entities such as Be Change Now. Without those safeguards, we could open the door to the very type of outsized influence this measure is designed to protect us against.



Beware of the law of unintended consequences.

Ann Botticelli, Kailua

Chuck Freedman, Kaimuki



March 12, 2024

The House  
State of Hawaii  
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Dear Members of the Committee:

**Public Citizen submits this testimony in strong support of SB 2381**

Here at Public Citizen, we emphasize that all aspects of the U.S. government should be for the public and not driven by large corporations or industries. As a non-partisan organization with more than 3,200 members and supporters in Hawaii and 500,000 members and supporters nationwide, we are dedicated to discovering new ways to push democracy forward and amplify the voices of everyday Virginia in our politics.

The U.S. has more than often struggled to increase voter turnout during elections<sup>1</sup>. Compared to other developed countries, the U.S. voter turnout is meager and continues to lag. According to available data, voter turnout from 2018-2022 was three of the highest-turnout in U.S. elections in decades<sup>2</sup>. This means that while the U.S. may rank low in election participation compared to other nations, there is a momentum present within voters, resulting in more voter turnout. However, whatever the catalyst for the recent change may be, we must find ways to increase the momentum and prevent it from flatlining.

That is why SB 2381 will help establish new ways for voters to engage in the political process, which can increase voter turnout. For example, Seattle has used a similar program that resulted in a 10% increase in turnout compared to previous elections

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<sup>1</sup> Desilver, D. (2022, November 1). Turnout in U.S. has soared in recent elections but by some measures still trails that of many other countries. Retrieved from Pew Research Center: <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2022/11/01/turnout-in-u-s-has-soared-in-recent-elections-but-by-some-measures-still-trails-that-of-many-other-countries/>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

without the program<sup>3</sup>. Creating a more equitable field through SB 2381 helps create a more diverse field of candidates. It enables them to be less dependent on seeking funding from a small group of big donors, resulting in more civic engagement from voters who are underrepresented. Additionally, participating in the political process can help show voters that their vote matters since the SB 2381 creates meaningful opportunities for ordinary constituents to be more civically engaged in the democratic process<sup>4</sup>.

It is also essential to recognize how the program has strengthened democracy in New York City as an example of its potential for the state. In 2021, the program played a significant role in helping elect the city's most demographically representative council. Women's representation doubled to 61%, and people of color's representation increased from 51% to 67%, with 97% of those elected recipients of public financing<sup>5</sup>. While this data may only reflect the city of New York, it also demonstrates the possibilities that may result in the 2024 state elections, which already have more than 200 candidates enrolled in the program.

The program helps remove barriers and creates an equitable space that widens outreach to communities that often face difficulties when engaging in the political process, such as people of color, members of the LGBTQ+ community, women, and low-income individuals. Whether someone is a constituent or a candidate, establishing a political process that puts people first means that those often disadvantaged can attain equality.

Typically, when candidates decide to run for office, they must often disproportionately rely on big donors or their own contributions to maintain a successful campaign throughout an election cycle. In contrast, with SB 2381, constituents will no longer feel undervalued during campaigns. Candidates, especially those from a minority background, will no longer have to depend on wealth to win races but can depend on community outreach, knowing that focusing on the people first will not inevitably put them at a disadvantage against big donors.

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<sup>3</sup> 2019 election cycle evaluation - seattle.gov. Accessed February 2, 2024. [https://www.seattle.gov/documents/departments/ethicselections/democracvoucher/biennial%20reports/final%20dvp%20evaluation%20report%20july23\\_2020.pdf](https://www.seattle.gov/documents/departments/ethicselections/democracvoucher/biennial%20reports/final%20dvp%20evaluation%20report%20july23_2020.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> "How Campaign Finance Reform Can Increase Voter Turnout." The Decision Lab. Accessed February 2, 2024. <https://thedeisionlab.com/insights/policy/how-campaign-finance-reform-can-increase-voter-turnout>.

<sup>5</sup> 8455, 208, and 9453. "Small Donor Public Financing Plays Role in Electing Most Diverse New York City Council." Brennan Center for Justice, January 24, 2024. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/small-donor-public-financing-plays-role-electing-most-diverse-new-york>.

A further contribution to the program only ensures more of an equitable playing field for candidates who may not have ties to big donors. One of the primary goals of this program is to remove the “money” from politics and re-establish the political process as something run by the people, for the people. More often than not, a few big donors overshadow ordinary voters during an election cycle. SB 2381 will mean that diverse voices from various communities will have the opportunity to build more personable relationships with candidates, and it will help incentivize candidates to reach out to voters to build trustworthy relationships.

Therefore, Public Citizen fully supports SB 2381 to create an even playing field where every voter has a true voice.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1359. I am happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonah Minkoff-Zern  
Campaign Co-Director, Democracy Campaign  
Public Citizen  
1600 20th Street, NW  
Washington, DC, 20009  
(510) 225-8491

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:53:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephanie Maldonado	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

The people already lose so much money in tax dollars. The general public should NOT BE FUNDING ANY CANDIDATES. They should be finding their own. WHO COMES UP WITH SUCH NON-SENSICAL IDEAS? Stop this bill immediately

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:55:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kencho Gurung	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Please support this bill! This is a great step against fighting corruption

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 1:35:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judge Daniel Foley (ret.)	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

I submit this testimony in support of SB2381,SD2, that would establish a comprehensive public financing scheme for state and county elections.

As you know, I chaired the Commission to improve Standards of Conduct which recommended an increase in public financing of elections, and full public financing as this bill would do if fiscal resources are available. Commission's December 1, 2022 Final Report at page 37. The Commission found " that publicly funded elections help counter the repercussions of Citizens United because public funding expands the reach of many small donors and can relieve candidates of the need to rely on the support of special interest groups or large donors." Id.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Foley

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 3:14:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrew Perez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Using state funds for creating clean elections will draw an enhanced candidate pool and is the first step towards strengthening connections between politicians and the district they represent and serve.



To: Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Chair Tarnas and Committee Members  
From: Brodie Lockard, Common Cause Hawaii Board Member  
Date: Thursday, March 14 2024, 2:00 pm

### **In strong support of SB2381**

From *Civil Beat's* Randy Roth, December 24, 2023:

#### **Public Corruption In The Land Of Aloha**

"The Hawaii Legislature created a Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct in 2022, shortly after federal agents caught two legislators taking bribes. In its report to the 2023 Legislature, the commission described corruption in Hawaii as glaring, embarrassing, deep-rooted and systemic, and public trust as lost. Former officials in prison or awaiting trial included not just legislators, but prosecutors, police officers, planning-and-permitting workers, a chief building inspector, environmental-management director, affordable-housing official, wastewater-maintenance supervisor, police chief, councilman, county managing director, county corporation counsel, and police commission chairperson.

"All these crimes were investigated and prosecuted by federal agencies, with virtually no help from local law enforcement, local watchdog agencies, or whistleblowers from within the directly affected government offices. This suggests the added presence of a non-criminal form of corruption, often described as willful blindness or intentional ignorance. Rather than get personally involved and perhaps step on the wrong toes, people deliberately chose to go along to get along."

**Surely our elected officials, at least, can do better than this.**

A reform like public financing has been due in Hawaii for many years. With 2022's convictions of Senator J. Kalani English and Representative Ty Cullen for cash bribes, ethics in our state government has leapt to the front of the public's collective mind.

Some incumbents dislike public financing because they see it as a threat to their reelection. This is not necessarily the case. The 2012 Maine Policy Review found that "challengers are only more likely to win if they participate in MCEA [the 1996 Maine Clean Elections Act] and the incumbent does not. When incumbents accept public funding, they are actually more likely to win reelection" [1].

**SB2381 is a fair bill.** It includes every major state and county office, not singling out any one group for a trial, as some previous bills have done. After qualifying, candidates are "barred from soliciting, accepting, or using contributions from" anyone but voters in their districts. Violating the rules brings appropriate penalties, and thorough, regular reporting requirements should prevent abuse.

**Publicly-funded elections will make you and future elected officials better at your jobs.** You can spend your time meeting with many constituents, not just a few large donors. Owning only your voters lets you take a principled stand on every issue. You can work on the needs of all voters, not just a few moneyed interests. And you can spend more time doing your real job.

To qualify for public financing, candidates must show a broad base of support in their community (something incumbents already have). That makes any lawmaker more effective and more respected.

**Public financing will make your campaign easier.** No one likes asking individuals for large sums of money. Public financing will free you from fundraisers and countless phone calls. And the steps required to qualify will help you get to know your constituents better, so you can better speak to their concerns.

**It will improve the state legislature overall.** Public financing has been shown to increase the diversity of candidates, including women and people of color, and to encourage interaction between candidates and low- and moderate-income communities. Our elected officials will no longer be just career politicians or people who know the right people, but regular folks from all walks of life—nurses, veterans, small business owners, teachers. Candidates can spend more time on ideas and less time raising money that tends to commit them to special interests.

**SB2381 will serve the people who elected you far better than the current system.** One of the primary reasons for public funding is to avoid situations like Oahu's rail boondoggle, and the myriad more subtle ways voters' money is wasted. The role of special interests in government decision making will be greatly reduced; the voices of regular people amplified. This is one reason that rates of participation in Clean Election systems are high. They decrease real or apparent conflicts of interest for elected officials.

**Public financing will restore faith in our elections and political system.** After seven years of questions about the integrity of our elections, Americans' confidence in voting needs a boost. Fraud in elections has always been extremely rare, but the corrupting influence of money in politics—real and perceived—continues to erode our confidence in the system.

**It will improve Hawaii's political reputation.** Thirteen states use some form of publicly-funded elections, as do 20 local governments [2]. Hawaii's partial public funding program is woefully out of date and underused. With Supreme Court decisions like *Citizens United* deforming our campaigns, a robust public funding system is long overdue. Following our recent passage of reforms like Vote by Mail and Automatic Voter Registration, passing public funding will arguably make Hawaii the most forward-looking state in the union in terms of elections.

**Finally, SB2381 is fiscally responsible.** Even after the Maui fires, the state has plenty of money to fund the 2028 general election cycle. In the future, if funds are insufficient, the program will not be run for that cycle. Amounts will be adjusted with any change in the consumer price index.

**SB2381 is a thorough, well-conceived bill with an array of benefits.** I strongly urge the Judiciary Committee to pass it. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Brodie Lockard  
Common Cause Hawaii Board Member

[1] <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1081&context=mpr>

[2] <https://www.commoncause.org/resource/the-for-the-people-act-in-the-states/>

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 3:43:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is very important for us to provide public financing for candidates, but it is also important that they show sufficient support from voters and do not accept other funding. Please support this measure!

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair and Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice-Chair  
Thursday, March 14, 2024, 10:05 a.m., Room 325 & Via Videoconference

**SB 2381, SD2 — Relating to Public Financing for Candidates to Elected Office**

TESTIMONY  
Janet Mason, Honolulu

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and Committee Members:

I **strongly support** S.B.2391, SD 21, which would establish a comprehensive system of public financing for elections in Hawaii.

The cost-benefit of the bill, is a legitimate concern for all of us, especially considering catastrophic recovery costs for the Lahaina wildfires. While the ultimate \$30 million cost for a fully- operational program is well documented, a much more modest investment of \$200 thousand is required now for a 2026 start date.

Quantifying the benefits of the bill is more difficult. We can rely on the Senate Judiciary subject matter Committee which did find major benefits:

“Elections financed through this bill will have significant public benefit, including allowing candidates to compete without reliance on private funds and allowing elected officials to make decisions without the influence, or apparent influence of private individuals and organizations. Knowing a campaign was publicly financed will increase public confidence in the State's candidates and elected officials.”

Last year I served as a member of the **Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct**, formed by the House for the purpose of reforming basic underpinnings of our state governance, including the laws surrounding corruption and campaign spending. One of the major findings of this Commission was that power is often tightly linked with wealth in politics, where “power may beget more money and money may beget more power.” It is difficult to break the link between wealth and power because it puts the wealth and power of incumbents at risk.

The work of the Commission remains relevant. SB 2381 SD2 adopts our specific recommendation to increase the amount of public financing available for all offices up

for election, but in varied amounts. As recommended, the increase in the maximum amount of public funds for an office would be based on the establishment of an expenditure limit for each office. Also recommended, to administer the changes in the law, the bill provides an appropriation to the Campaign Spending Commission to establish two positions.

While there are many compelling priorities for our State budget, I hope the Legislature will be bold and devote \$200 thousand to further the purpose of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 7:07:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaikoa Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo

Kaikoa Anderson

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 7:08:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Monica Stone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass SB 2381 for clean elections!

mahalo,

Monica Stone, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 7:09:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeannine Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have supported Clean Elections in Hawai'i since 2005 and give my strong support for SB2381 SD2. It's crucially important that this body does everything in its power to remove the influence money has on our politics. Corruption is far too rampant in Hawai'i and the pay-to-play behavior of our politicians needs to end now. Money in politics holds back progress on all the issues important to local working families: from affordable housing, to cost of living, to protecting our environment, and more. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 SD2 now. Mahalo.



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 7:10:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Greg Puppione	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now. Mahalo for your service to our community.

Greg Puppione

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 7:12:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Avalon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 7:19:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keyra Candelario	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

Keyra

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 7:20:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Billy woods	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support enough corruption

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 7:21:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Teresa Landreau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are watching, pass this measure to ensure clean elections in Hawaii. Democracy matters. This measure is long overdue to assist ethical candidates and avoid the race to the bottom to obtain campaign financing.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 7:29:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support this important bill!

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 7:30:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i can free itself from the corrupting influence of big money in politics by passing SB2381 SD2 and implementing publicly-financed elections. This program will allow legislators to respond and react to their constituent needs rather than the preferences of their wealthy donors.

The success of fully publicly-financed elections in Connecticut, Maine, and for the Hawai'i County Council illustrates that such a system is both effective and economically viable. These precedents have not led to increased turnover in incumbents or shifts in party dominance, but have significantly altered the sources of legislative influence back into the hands of the people, where it belongs for a functioning and thriving democracy. Please pass this bill!

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 7:56:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cynthia Rubinstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

How much more do we need to bear to be witness to the corruption that has taken place in our legislature in this last year? The answer should be None. In order to approach that end, it is crucial to take major donors who promote the Pay to Play atmosphere out of our governmental structure. Enough is Truly Enough. Please Pass this Bill so that your constituencies can know that you really mean business 'For the People' and so that no one can walk away from their votes with pockets fuller than others and having voted in a particular manner so as to fill those pockets. In the end, they are too heavy and they lose their pants. None of you wants to be in their new uniforms, I'm certain. Let's bring integrity back into the forum. Pass This Bill. With Aloha, Cynthia



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 7:58:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Esther Geil	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

Please pass SB2381!! Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Please listen to your constituents and your conscience and make our system work for the people of Hawaii. Thank you so much!!!!

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:04:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
giulia solari nelken	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Fellow citizens! We all know the rubber has met the road. There is too much fake news and financial manipulation. We lead the country in empathy and charity, let us lead in rightness! Let's have government sponsored elections where the clear emphasis is on people not dollars and special interests. i get solicitations for races in so many other states, is that what we want: foreign and out of state influences deciding our elections? Let's set the tone. Now is the time to take government back to the people who live here.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:13:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Roger Epstein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is enormously important to our system. Since the Supreme Court allowed big money into our system Federally, it is up to us in our home state to say no. Big money does not do what's best for Hawaii. Moreover, legislators should not be dependent upon anyone to be hired to consider and pass our laws for the good of our community.

There are so many historic examples of money creating bad laws and bad situations. One person, one vote. SB2381 is through the Senate, please bring it home, and let's have Hawaii join the club of States that want better democracy.  
mahalo and aloha, Roger Epstein

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:17:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janet H. Boyd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this, for any democracy to run well

we need clear public financing for candidates.

thank you

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:17:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy Harter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.Nancy Harter

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:25:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tanya Aynessazian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to the people's overwhelming disenfranchisement and bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community.

SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. I know most of you probably would love your job a lot more if you didn't need to pander to lobbyists and wealthy donors rather than develop real relationships with your neighbors and constituents. These are just some of the reasons why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents.

Here on Big Island, our Hawaii County Council has proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. It didn't result in incumbents losing at higher rates or losing seats - there's simply not that many more folks who'd want to run for office whether it was publicly funded or not. But publicly funded elections does shift how sitting legislators are influenced and how much time they can spend on working with constituents rather than fundraising and courting big donors. That equates to a stronger community, which I know you all support.

The even better news is that we can easily afford this clean election program's low cost of less than \$10M per year. If we are serious about creating a system that works for all residents, all business owners and for our communities, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

Tanya Yamanaka Aynessazian

Pahoa, HI

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:29:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dennis O'Shea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I strongly support this bill and hope you will too.

It's long past time for our elected officials to represent the people they are supposed to, and stop pandering to moneyed interests, to the detriment of all the rest of us.

Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:26:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sandra Stokes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The recent past elections have proven to me we definately need clean elections. I am in support of this bill SB2381. Mahalo for passing it!



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:29:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**STRONG SUPPORT!**

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:36:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Dinner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A once in a lifetime opportunity to creat fair elections in Hawaii. Please do not allow this to go by without passing it. Support.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:42:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeffrey Mermel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write IN SUPPORT of SB 2381 for publicly financed elections.

It works here in Hawaii County where I live and vote. It also has worked in Maine and Connecticut.

It's time to get Big Money out of our local politics

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:47:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pelenatita Namoa-Hanusa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo nui.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:52:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama and members of the committee,

Let's finish the job we almost got done last year with SB1543!

This new bill (SB2381 SD2) can help break the link between big donor money buying our elections. And recent new polling demonstrates again the popular demand for this kind of system among all classes and communities across our islands.

For you as elected officials this act of confidence and goodwill constitutes a freeing up from the pestering need to continually fundraise from wealthy donors and special interests; and so, inevitably it will lead to a more representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents...a truly virtuous cycle!

Connecticut, Maine, and our own Hawai'i County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year.

This is also an effective way to push back on the misguided and ultimately corruptive decision by the Supreme Court of the United States to equate 'free speech' with legalized bribery.

If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo nui loa!

R A Culbertson

Honokaa

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:55:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Committee Members,*

*Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.*

Mahalo. Marilyn Mick, Honolulu

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:52:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Martha Nakajima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Thank you Martha

Nakajima Honolulu

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 9:01:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jody Mountain	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Please take money out of our political process now.

Mahalo.



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 9:12:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
emily gambino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Committee Members,*

*Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.*

*Mahalo.*

*Emily Gambino*

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 9:18:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. Mahalo Eliel, Kapaa

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents.

Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo,

Robert H. Pahia

Maui, Hawaii

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 9:27:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
juhl rayne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

juhl rayne

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 9:38:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
brandi corpuz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Brandi Corpuz and I'm a resident and community advocate from Kula Kai Maui.

Please vote yes for clean elections in Hawaii. We have lost hope over the years because of government corruption. This bill is one of the only things that could make a huge difference.

Please help us restore faith in our government. Please also realize that we are watching your votes for this bill. The way you vote could say a lot about you politically and personally. Vote yes!

Mahalo, Brandi Corpuz

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 10:29:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support clean elections. I support this measure.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 10:52:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michele Mitsumori	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I'm writing in support of SB 2381 SD2, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State.

In a democracy, our elected officials should represent each person equally, regardless of their financial status. Money in elections creates distortions as politicians are influenced more by the organizations, corporations, or individuals supporting them through large financial contributions, than by the ordinary people living, working and studying in their constituencies.

Further, money in elections creates an unequal playing field, as those who run for public office may be selected, if not self-selected, in large part by financial resources. This dynamic disadvantages potential candidates who are low-income, minority or women, and whose voices we sorely need to help guide us to a vibrant future for all.

Publicly funded elections have already been successful in Hawai'i. Hawai'i County Council races were publicly funded in 2010 and 2012. Connecticut established publicly funded elections in response to large corruption scandals. In Maine, over 70% of Democratic legislators use this program.

Finally, the program is incredibly affordable: \$10 million per year, less than 0.1% of the state budget.

If we are serious about creating a system that hears the voices of all Hawai'i's residents, and provides opportunities for any resident to run for public office, instead of one that privileges the wealthy few, we need to pass SB 2381 SD2 now.

Mahalo for the chance to testify in SUPPORT of SB 2381 SD2.

Michele Mitsumori  
Hilo, Hawai'i County 96720

Douglas Meller  
2615 Aaliamanu Place  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
douglasmeller@gmail.com

**Testimony Supporting SB 2381, SD2  
Relating to Public Financing for Candidates to Elected Office**

Submitted to House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
Thursday, March 14, 2024, 2 pm, State Capitol Room 325 & Videoconference Hearing

There are two reasons I strongly support this bill:

1. SB 2381, SD2 will make it much more difficult for direct political campaign contributions to determine which candidates are elected, what legislation is enacted, or agency decisions.
2. SB 2381, SD2 will reduce incentives for anyone to request (or coerce) campaign contributions from political appointees, persons who want negotiated government consulting contracts, and persons who have non-bid leases or permits to use public property.

SB 2381, SD2 will not affect expenditures by special-interest PACs to support or oppose specific candidates, legislation, or agency decisions. In plain English, this bill cannot totally prevent special-interest PACs from spending money to influence public opinion and political decisions. I believe that's necessary and acceptable in a democracy which allows free speech.



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 11:19:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a taxpayer and voter born and raised in Hawai'i, I strongly support publicly financed elections.

Mahalo,  
Dylan Ramos  
96816

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 11:22:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ramona Hussey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2382 SD2 to provide for public financing for elections. This is sorely needed to enable candidates who have the public interest in their sight. We simply cannot leave our elections up to those who can 'afford' to run a campaign, or those who have corporate funding for a campaign. This single bill has been said to be the most important reform bill of all. It is past time to promote clean elections. I urge your support for this bill.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 11:35:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support!

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 11:50:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

**Mahalo,**

**Keala Fung, Honolulu**

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:26:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tamra Hayden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have supported Clean Elections all the way to this point. We have been published as the most corrupt state government in the US.

Not what we want. In my 34 years in Hawai'i I have seen county elections are driven by the top 1% can steer elevtions to the their benefit. When I used to volunteer at the D. A office in Hilo. Come election time we were asked to vote a certain way, I have seen the same in Unions. Without their endorsements and money I don't think the other candidates with less donor money can win. The Governor's race was a result of that. The candidates should be elected for the agenda they are prposing, not the amount of money in there campaign. This bill will chae our elections in a positive manner. I would appreciate you keep this bill alive. We the People, not me the rich donor.

Mahalo

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:28:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deirdre A Roney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo,

Deirdre Roney

Hawai'i Island

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:42:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bruce Ellinwood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Our current system of campaign financing invites corruption and favoritism. While public financing will cost the government money, it may well be less expensive than investigating, prosecuting and imprisoning corrupt politicians and their corrupt benefactors.

In addition, public financing will allow elected officials to spend more time governing and less time raising money.

Mahalo

**Chair David Tarnas**  
**Vice Chair Gregg Takayama**

**House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs**

**Thursday, March 14, 2024**  
**2:00 PM**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2381 SD2 RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING  
FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Jun Shin. I am a union service worker as well as a labor and social justice activist, testifying as an individual in **SUPPORT** of **SB2381 SD2**, Relating to Public Financing for Candidates To Elected Office. This measure is very important in rebuilding trust and public engagement with our government.

It's exciting to think of the possibilities that a full public financing program opens up for our community and our politics. Even for incumbents who might be interested in switching to public financing, it can potentially take the stress and costs that come with fundraising, allowing more time to connect with the community and to do the day to day work of the people! This also means that working people, including many who don't come from well-to-do and well-connected backgrounds, or "professional" jobs (with all due respect) will also have the opportunity to step up and have the funding to seriously run for office in order to serve their communities. People in service jobs like myself for example.

It is good for a democracy when more of our elected officials look and share the experiences (hopes, dreams, interests, struggles) of the broader community. It is also good for democracy when we have more competitive elections where the winners aren't already decided, either by default or other factors like funding and institutional support. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. It gets more people interested and active. For people who are cynical, who have given up on the idea that government or politics can make any positive difference in their lives, maybe we can build a sense of personal stake and hope once again.



Please **PASS Senate Bill 2381 SD2** out of your committee and please continue the work of expanding political democracy in our society.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,

State House District 23 | State Senate District 12

Cell: 808-255-6663

Email: [junshinbusiness729@gmail.com](mailto:junshinbusiness729@gmail.com)

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:11:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristen Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year.

We need elected officials who cannot be bought, who will represent and prioritize our diverse communities rather than profit-driven interests that benefit a select few. Money is not what makes a good candidate and we should not let it dictate who has the opportunity to fill roles that impact our communities. Please support clean elections and pass SB2381 if you believe in ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents.

Mahalo,  
Kristen

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 5:11:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diann Karin Lynn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill and urge you to pass it.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 5:20:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Conceicao Farias	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need Clean elections to better service us the residents of Hawaii.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 5:35:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Greg Crawford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 6:10:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mariko Whitenack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

My name is Mariko Whitenack and I am a resident of Kaimukī. Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:01:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

I stand in support of SB2381.

While I have never run for any public office and thus do not know if the amount of funding provided to qualifying candidates in §11-H “Comprehensive public funds to be distributed to certified candidates” is sufficient, I support the intent of this bill. I do also question if the amount provided to qualifying candidates is sufficient with the cost of media spotlights and promotions these days.

I also request that a stronger bill be created in the future, one that barred all candidates from receiving any funding from special interests, regardless of if they received any funds from a publicly-funded campaign program such as this one.

I would also support a bill that required all candidates to be publicly funded, preventing candidates from receiving donations from special interests, as it would be even more beneficial and would help to reestablish the public’s trust in the election process and democracy once again. The goal should be to remove accessibility to money from the process, thus truly allowing the best qualified candidate to have an equal chance at winning an election.

It may be a “pipe-dream” to imagine a world where those with access to money aren’t given an advantage to win an election, but everyone is on a level-playing field and are voted in based on their skills, intellect, and beliefs. It shouldn’t be, as it should be reality.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Keoni Shizuma

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:12:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
April Handog	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:41:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
CHESTER LUM	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony opposing this bill.

I oppose this bill and SB2381 should be tabled.

Once again, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony opposing this bill.

Chester Lum

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:52:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Danelle Guion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Many people THINK “ALL POLITICIANS ARE CORRUPT”. When lawmakers are beholden to a system that detracts from their core responsibilities, IS IT ANY WONDER citizens think this way?

Lawmakers busy themselves raising money just to keep their jobs, sometimes SELLING OUT TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, becoming a puppet of the donor(s)! YOU KNOW THE DRILL!

SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy.

**FACT:** Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective.

This has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year.

If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo,

D. Guion

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:48:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **oppose** this Bill and I urge all committee members to **VOTE NO**.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:57:03 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2381. Thank you.

Jane E Arnold

1763 Iwi Way, Apt D

Honolulu, HI 96816

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:58:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Justin Kaawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I refuse my tax dollars to used to support any PARTY

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:58:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Vincent r Golio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If I wanted to give money to the Hawaii Uniparty, I would first submit my brain for forensic examination because I would have to be dead first. OPPOSE, and also: How could you people think that we would be so stupid to fall for a bunch of Democrats trying to put their hands even deeper into our pockets? If you're going to do that, will you at least do a little scratching and maybe a nads adjustment. You people really do think you've got a giant swinging pair there.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:05:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brendan Ajolo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

oppose bill

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:59:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Committee Members, The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 100 small businesses across the State that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity — we know Hawaii can strengthen its economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment. This is why we support SB2381 SD1 with amendments.

SB2381 SD1 brings us one step closer towards a representational democracy that protects small business owners, consumers and the environment — not just large corporations who can afford to pay-to-play through expensive lobbyists and multi-tiered campaign contributions.

Luxury developers, defense contractors, big pharma, agri-chemical corporations, and all the private attorneys and consultants they hire, can afford to give candidate the maximum allowable contributions; they can also hire lobbyists who can give maximum contributions to these same candidates, and well-funded candidates can buy max contribution tickets to fundraisers for other candidates in their faction — all of these max contributions quickly add up to a campaign war chest that is almost impossible to challenge in any impactful way.

Furthermore, the campaigns of certain legislative leaders may have already benefited from state taxpayer money being laundered through state Grant-In-Aid (GIA) recipients — that were hand-picked by those legislative leaders.

After select GIA money goes through the wash and spin cycle, a portion may end up in those same legislators’ campaign accounts. For example, look at how much taxpayer money went to GIA recipients Navatek and Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council and compare that to the amounts of campaign contributions from employees, consultants, lobbyists and family members of those GIA recipients. Meanwhile, the legislature has exempted these millions of dollars in GIA awards from the State Ethics Commission’s oversight.

While SB2381 SD1 begins to even the playing field for candidates who are not receiving GIA-campaign “kickbacks”, more must be done to realize the corrective impact this bill seeks. We urge this committee to add sections to this bill that will: 1) cap the maximum allowable contribution to a candidate campaign at \$100 per donor, per election - including from candidates themselves and their immediate families, 2) prohibit candidate campaigns



from making contributions to other candidate campaigns, and 3) ensure the Hawaii Ethics Commission has oversight over GIA contracts in the same way they do over all other state contracts and expenditures of state funds.

Respectfully,

Diane Ware Volcano HI 96785

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:08:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shawnie Campbell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:09:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381

Mahalo,

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:10:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lois Langham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep money influence out of government. Love democracy?

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:11:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Timothy Ashton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not want my tax dollars supporting goblins, frogs or RINOs. I strongly oppose!

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:13:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David E Shormann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:17:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

**Please pass and support SB2381 SD2 now!**

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili, O'ahu

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:27:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I continue to SUPPORT SB 2381 which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawaii, to begin with the 2028 general election year. Requires the Campaign Spending Commission to submit a progress and final report to the Legislature. THIS is a positive step forward in creating greater equity in the process.

Again, I SUPPORT



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:20:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julienne Givot	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

Rev Julienne Givot

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:42:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erendira Aldana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support public financing for candidates to minimize inequity of representation in government due to finances.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:43:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dr. Nancy Bondurant	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is time to end the graft in Hawaii. It hurts our Island and it does nothing to bring more jobs. By leveling the playing field with public financing for campaigns, then people stand a chance to have their candidacy be successful without having to engage with special interest groups. I fully support this bill.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:50:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Douglas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:51:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noel Shaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:53:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:54:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaiulani Bowers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill because We the People should decide where or to who our money goes to

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:56:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy

Other states have proven that publicly funded elections work! Hawaii should join this group of enlightened states.



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:57:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jodi Robinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support public financing of Hawai'i's elections and SB 2381.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:00:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Eric Micha'el Leventhal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Committee Members —

Money has dominated Hawai'i's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. Two out of three people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community.

SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why three out of four voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents.

Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year.

If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo nui for doing the right thing for our community!

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:02:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:09:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nate Hix	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Money should not be a barrier to political power. Candidates should be elected on their merits regardless of their ability to fundraise. Unfortunately, that's currently not the case as those who raise the most money win at over a 90% rate. Breaking the link between donors and election results is crucial to a fair and honest democracy.

Hawai'i County Council elections in 2010 and 2012 have proven that full publicly financed elections works here in our state, while Maine and Connecticut currently run this program statewide to much success.

At only an estimated cost of \$10 million per year, Hawai'i can easily take the necessary steps to remove the undue influence that money has on our political system. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Nate Hix

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:04:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Do not pass this bill. The people, not the government, should directly fund the candidates of their choice. Government should not be the source of funds using taxpayer dollars. This bill would force local taxpayers to fund candidates who support policies that are in opposition to their goals, values, and economic well-being. Holding elected officials accountable for accepting "bribes" is the solution, not public funding of elections. We have had 2 recent instances of elected officials going to prison for accepting bribes.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:11:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:11:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha JHA Mebmers, our family strongly supports this legislation and urges you to pass it. We've been supportive of this concept for many years. Hopefully this time it will get some where. Mahalo nui loa from the Lyles in Volcano/Ka'u

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:12:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephen Canham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Seantors: I strongly urge you to pass SB 2381. Hawaii has endured far too many governmental scandals, insider deals, and general contempt for the voting public. It's time to clean up elected officials' acts--SB2381 will help. Yes, I know that not all elected officials operate below the bar--but let's make it hard for the ones who do.

Yours,

Stephen Canham, PhD

Kaneohe, HI



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:18:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joe Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am fully supportive of efforts to establish a comprehensive and meaningful opt-in system of public financing that would help create a level playing field for every qualified candidate in Hawai'i. Our democracy and a more equitable society depend on it.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:18:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
William R. Higa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy.

This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced.

We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents, we need to pass SB2381.

Thank you for considering these remarks and please support SB2381! Aloha from Hilo!

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:19:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:26:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Scott Sutherland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:20:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Darlene	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support clean elections and am shocked we should need a bill to say so.

What on earth have we come to after all?

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:27:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Goodwin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

Post elections when the donors lists for candidates are published, the correlation between big money donors and subsequent voting patterns of certain legislators becomes depressingly evident. Governance that benefits all the people not a favored few can get a big boost by passage of this measure into law. Please vote "Yes" on SB2381.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:34:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Dedely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:34:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anita Trubitt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There are many jurisdictions that run elections successfully with public funding, and that means that legislators do not have to rely on wealthy donors to fund their campaigns. This leaves them the time and commitment to focus on the issues for which we elected them. We have witnessed much corruption in our state when legislators have been "bought" by moneyed interest. I urge the passage of this bill that returns real democracy to our system of voting.

Anita Trubitt / 520 Papalani Street / Kailua, HI 96734



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:36:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

As a candidate who has run on publicly funds in the past, I can attest to how important this legislation is. Please fully fund clean elections to help create a system that truly works for the people and by the people.

Mahalo,

Shannon Matson

Hawai'i Island Resident

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:37:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark Van Horne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Public financing of election campaigns is vital to maintaining and improving our democracy.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:54:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michal Fentin Stover	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2381 SD2, which will help make our elections cleaner. Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:59:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deven English	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

strongly oppose this bill, tax payer money should not be financing any political candidate or party. Take care of the people who pay taxes.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:04:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Frank DeGiacomo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

Frank DeGiacomo

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:15:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:18:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Pullman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill. Hawaii, perhaps moreso than any other state, needs to eliminate actual corruption as well as the appearance of corruption. By publicly financing our elections, Hawaii can become a leader in clean governance instead of a symbol of the very opposite. Thank you!

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:18:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melissa Sanders	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

The pervasive influence of money in Hawaii's political landscape has led to detrimental policies prevailing while beneficial ones are stifled. A staggering two out of three individuals believe that elected officials prioritize the interests of affluent donors over the well-being of their communities. Senate Bill 2381 presents an opportunity to sever the ties between private funding and electoral success, liberating candidates from reliance on special interests and the wealthy elite. It's no surprise that three out of four voters advocate for a clean elections program. Such an initiative has the potential to cultivate a more principled and inclusive governance, one that places the concerns of constituents at the forefront.

Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council serve as compelling examples of the viability and efficiency of fully publicly financed elections. Notably, these models have not led to increased incumbent turnover or significant shifts in majority party representation. However, they have instigated a noteworthy transformation in the factors influencing sitting legislators. Moreover, the modest annual cost of less than \$10 million makes this program eminently feasible.

If we are genuinely committed to combatting corruption and establishing a system that serves the interests of all residents, rather than just a privileged few, the time to enact SB2381 is now.

Mahalo,

Melissa Sanders

Holualoa, Hawaii



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:27:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larry Duclayan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Opposition to SB2381 SD2**

*To the Honorable Members of the Legislature of the State of Hawaii,*

I am writing to express my strong opposition to **Senate Bill 2381 Senate Draft 2 (SB2381 SD2)**, which proposes to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for candidates seeking election to state and county offices. While the intention behind this bill is commendable, there are several reasons why I believe it is not in the best interest of our electoral process and democratic principles.

**1. Unfair Burden on Taxpayers:**

- The proposed public financing system would rely on taxpayer funds to support political campaigns. While the goal is to level the playing field, it places an undue burden on taxpayers who may not agree with or support certain candidates.
- Allocating public funds for political campaigns diverts resources away from other essential public services and priorities.

**2. Freedom of Choice and Expression:**

- Candidates should have the freedom to raise funds from private sources, as long as they adhere to transparency and disclosure requirements. Restricting their ability to seek private donations infringes upon their right to express their views and connect with voters.
- Voters also have the right to choose whether to support publicly funded candidates or those who rely on private contributions. SB2381 SD2 limits this choice.

**3. Erosion of Grassroots Campaigning:**

- Grassroots campaigns, fueled by small donations and community support, play a vital role in our democratic process. They allow candidates to connect directly with constituents and build genuine relationships.
- A comprehensive public financing system may discourage grassroots efforts, as candidates may opt for the easier route of relying solely on public funds.

**4. Complexity and Bureaucracy:**

- Implementing and managing a statewide public financing program involves significant administrative complexities. It requires oversight, auditing, and compliance mechanisms.

- The bureaucracy associated with such a system could lead to inefficiencies and unintended consequences.
5. **Existing Alternatives:**
- Hawaii already has partial public funding programs that allow candidates to voluntarily participate. These existing mechanisms strike a balance between public funding and private contributions.
  - Rather than creating a new comprehensive system, we should focus on improving and expanding the existing programs.

In conclusion, while the goal of promoting fair elections is laudable, SB2381 SD2's approach is flawed. We should explore alternative solutions that maintain the integrity of our electoral process without burdening taxpayers or stifling candidate choice. I urge you to reconsider this bill and seek more balanced approaches to campaign financing.

Mahalo for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Larry Duclayan

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:29:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:31:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
TOM DIGRAZIA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Very strong support!!

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:51:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christine Trecker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Without some form of publically financed elections, we cannot expect the corrupting influence of "pay to play" politics to decrease. I support SB2381 SD2, and urge adequate funding of the Campaign Spending Commission to implement it.

Thank you.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:56:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

After witnessing money dominate Hawaii's political system for too long, 2 in 3 Hawaii citizens think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. Bad policies get passed and good ones get killed. I strongly support SB238 because it can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but they have resulted in shifts in how sitting legislators are influenced. We can afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. Let's get serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy. Please support passage of SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:58:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sheryl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

Please give the citizens of this great state the power to select their representatives without the onus of bribery and coercion that insues as a result of special intrest money flooding our elections. All our current delimas can be rectified by free fair transparent publically funded voting systems. You can preserve and improve our precious democracy by supporting SB2381. DO IT!

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:59:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nikhil Khurana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:04:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Carty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a very important bill that should pass. Fair elections are the very foundation of democracy. Big business and special interest lobbyists need to be kept in check for a true democracy to work.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:07:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Bambara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support clean/fair elections with your support for this Bill SB2381 SD2.

Let's put the Aloha back in Governement Representation and take out the GRIFT!

Thank you.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:19:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
irene kloepfer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need transparency and money/greed out of politics. Please support this bill. Mahalo

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:20:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Perry J. White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please, please, please support this measure. It is past time to offer the support that will allow more people not beholden to moneyed interest groups run successfully for public office. This has been shown to work in Hawai'i and may other places.

IMUA.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:24:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lani Star	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members Of The Committee, I Am Supporting The Clean Voting Rights In Hawai'I Nei. This Is A Crucial Part Of Our Inherent Rights. Large Amounts Of Money Is Involved And Some People In Government Positions May Be Swayed To Take Matters Into Their Own Hands. Please Help Make A An Strong, Honest Public Voting System And Also Create A Process That Will Identify Any Wrong Doing Before It Happens. Mahalo For Your Time And Service.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:40:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Breon Michel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo,

Breon Michel

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:43:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joy Dillon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Legislators voting on this bill.

I strongly oppose and urge you to vote NO on this bill. I DO NOT want my tax dollars paying for the campaigns of candidates I may or may not support. Public financing should not be used for political candidates. It is not fair or equitable. We should be able to decide for ourselves if we wish to support political candidates with our money. Please vote NO on this bill.

Joy Dillon

Hilo, Resident

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:55:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

We the People of Hawaii Nei deserve clean & fair elections. Everyone everywhere does too !

They're critical to a democracy.

Please mark me STRONG SUPPORT for SB 2381.

Mahalo,

JN Makawao



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:55:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shon Van Zandt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly opposed

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:55:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Robison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and JHA Committee Members:

I live in Hilo and I vote. I am a member of the League of Women Voters, but I am writing to you as an individual. **I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381 SD2 RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE.**

A recommendation for partial public financing for elections was made by the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct in its final report to the Hawaii State House of Representatives as requested by H.R. No. 9, Regular Session of 2022. Please follow this important recommendation from your own commission.

"The Commission finds that publicly funded elections can help counter the repercussions of Citizens United because public funding expands the reach of many small donors and can relieve candidates of the need to rely on the support of special interest groups or large donors.

This proposal of the Commission would increase the amount of partial public financing available for all offices up for election, but in varied amounts. The increase in the maximum amount of public funds for an office would be based on either a percentage increase from the existing allotment or increase, or establishment of, the expenditure limit of each office. The measure also provides a downward adjustment of the minimum amounts of qualifying contributions for the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for each of the counties. To administer the changes in the law, this proposal would also provide an appropriation to the Campaign Spending Commission to establish two positions.

The Commission further notes that the increased amounts of partial public funding of elections proposed in this bill are intended as a floor, or minimum level. If fiscal resources are or become available, the Commission encourages the Legislature to be bold and devote additional fiscal resources to further the purpose of this bill and to seek additional permanent funding sources for future elections. Implementation of this proposal would assist in diminishing the impact and influence resulting from Citizens United. "

Therefore I urge you to vote in favor of SB2381 SD2 RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE.

Thank you for your service to the people of Hawaii and for the opportunity to submit testimony.



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:56:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancie Caraway	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a lifetime student of electoral democracy - I've watched the erosion of many SCOTUS decisions that undercut guardrails and reforms. The most crucial was the 1976 Buckley vs Valeo decision which ruled limits on campaign spending were unconstitutional.

Campaign spending is the cancer which infects elections and democracy. Instead of expending your good efforts on behalf of your constituents and improving the lives of our people and being good stewards of the environment - you have to beg for money. Look around today as we see corruption and bribery cases because of powerful special interests, illegal bundling and influence peddling.

Hawaii needs to be a pioneer in providing PUBLIC FUNDS for eligible candidates. Spending limits empower ordinary citizens to participate. Now citizens are demoralized and marginalized by the many loopholes,

SB2381SD2 is such a sign of good faith that Hawaii upholds good government - and is a powerful reform that brings our Island State closer to the Pono values which our Constitution expresses.

I thank you all for your support for SB2381. It will free you from the influence of power & wealth so that you can fulfill your commitment to the public good.

Respectfully

Nancie Caraway, PH.D

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:03:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose this bill

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:05:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelly King	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of our community. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:06:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christopher Boscole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:08:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
joseph simpliciano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Any public funds used to fund any campaigns, organizations or politicians is pilau! Keep our elections clean, fair and regulated with sheriffs securing ballots and not taxi drivers dropping off ballots to the counting center like it was done a couple of elections ago!



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:08:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anjani Thomas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

Mar 13, 2024

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erica Perez". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Erica Perez,

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:13:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Milena Kari	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

My name is Milena Kari from Maui and I stongly support SB2381.

I've lived in Hawaii for 20 years and it seems that things are going the wrong way and living conditions for ordinary residents are deteriorating. Part of the reason is the corruption in out political system, which allows those with most money to dictate what policies are being passed for our communities.

Please pass this bill, so Hawaii can be a place for all residents, not just for the wealthy and end the corruption in our political system.

Mahalo for considering my testimony,

Milena Kari

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:14:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mina Ellison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo, Mina Ellison

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:21:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Ruiz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My tax money should go to fixing Hawaii not political campaigns.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:22:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ashley Yamashita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

Ashley Yamashita

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:22:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tanya Wendling	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Committee Members,

Hawaii needs to set an example for the rest of the country by reducing the influence of the wealthy and other special interests in elections. People all around the country support publicly financed elections that release candidates from the need to cater to elite groups rather than truly represent the best interests of their communities. Please support SB2381 as an important step in enduring free and fair elections in Hawaii.

Mahalo nui,

Tanya Wendling

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:31:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kyle K Kajihiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Public financing for elections would help to remove the undue influence of special monied interests. Please clean up Hawai'i's politics. Support this bill. Thank you.



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:40:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Colleen Rost-Banik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2381. We need fair and clean elections in the State of Hawaii, and this bill gets us closer to that reality.

Mahalo,

Colleen Rost-Banik

resident of Honolulu

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:42:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The electorate favors clean elections for a more ethical and representative government, so please pass this bill to end corruption . Mahalo.

Bobbie Best

Wailuku

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:43:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Hartmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Committee Members,

I am testifying today in overwhelming **SUPPORT** of SB2381. Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo for your time,

Hannah Hartmann

Pāpa'īkou (96781), Hawai'i IIsand

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:48:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Witeck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My spouse Lucy and I urge you to pass this vital legislation to make our elections more fair and equitable and less corrupted by contributions to candidates from big donors and corporations.

Mahalo!

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:49:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gail Morrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:52:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janice Palma-Glennie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

aloha,

there is no single more important issue to protecting our democratic government than decreasing the corruptive power of special interest money in politics, particularly political campaigns.

i ask that you give hands-down, strongest support for **SB2381 SD2**. This is a meaningful first step to help give We the People the promised democratic power of One Person, One Vote.

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

kailua-koa

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:53:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2381 SD2. We need to level the playing field for candidates running for public office and not allow money to influence and corrupt decision-making that impacts all of the people of Hawai'i. This is pono and it's *time*.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:00:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Navarra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill that will help to reduce the unbalanced influence industry has over the legislative process.

Please pass this measure!



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:09:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lana Bilbo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:10:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MerryAnne Stone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

CLEAN ELECTIONS!

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. **This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program.** This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo,

MERRYANNE STONE

KAILUA KONA

BIG ISLAND ,HI

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:15:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Linda Pizzitola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Public financing of elections is the only way to keep corporate interests from buying support from so-called "public servants" for their pet projects and operational requirements. Corruption is rampant on all levels of government. Put the needs of the people first. Though it often presents more as an oligarchy, this is still a democracy.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:15:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Greg Kahn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in support of SB2381, the Clean Elections bill. I testify as one of the 3 in 4 voters who support public financing for candidates seeking elected office. Mahalo, Greg Kahn

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:19:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alyce Dodge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support clean elections. I am willing to pay a small extra fee per year to fund this effort. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. I think removing the influence of wealthy donors would go a long way towards restoring the general public's faith in the "system".

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:19:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Priscilla Stuckey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Committee Members,

I urge you to pass SB2381 now. I am part of the 75% of voters who support a clean elections program. We need to get private money out of elections so everybody's vote counts the same and everybody's voice can be heard. Our elected officials need to work on behalf of the people, not wealthy donors. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo,

Priscilla Stuckey, PhD

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:24:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo,

Dana Keawe

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:32:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2381. Please pass this bill.

Mike Golojuch, Sr



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:33:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leslee Cook	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

3/13/24

Aloha Dear Legislators,

The concept of SB 2381 has been overdue. It is such a travesty that money has dominated Hawaii's politics. This current money-controlled election process has led politicians who are obliged to those who contributed to their campaign to pass policies that were not good for the general populace and the bills steered towards helping the populace never pass. SB2381 can break the link between private money influencing who wins elections, by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from wealthy donors and Special Interest Groups. If some of you have felt obliged to turn away from the populace to fulfill a debt to your wealthy donors or Special Interest Groups. Yet maybe felt guilty about your past choices, you can now ease that guilt by doing the right thing and voting to pass SB 2381. This will lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of us, the constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. We talk about ending corruption in politics and bringing back a government that shows the populace that their needs are being attended to. If we are serious about ending corruption in politics and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB 2381 now.

Mahalo nui loa, for listening to my words, and those whom I represent, which are approximately over 70 friends here on The Big Island, over 20 on Kauai, and 30 friends on Maui.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:38:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeannette P Hereniko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am writing in support of SB2381. There are many urgent bills before the Legislature that require your careful consideration and action this session. In my opinion there is none as far reaching in a positive way than SB 2381 that deals with public financing. I believe passing SB 2381 will help toward eliminating the practice of big campaign Donors having more influence on policies and law than the interest of the people of Hawaii. Of course you know the sad truth that some of our most important elected officials are either now serving time in prison or are getting ready for court trails because they have been caught taking bribes from Donors to vote certain ways on bills. Of course you also know their actions are just a few of other Donors who influence Legislation. And you know this is wrong. You can take a giant step forward toward stopping this practice and/or even the appearance of Donors influencing elected officials by voting in favor of SP2381. You can help our State attract a wider range of candidates by voting in favor of SP2381. You can help restore trust in our elected officials and our system by voting in favor of public financing. Can you please do so now by voting in favor of SP2381 ? MAHALO for your consideration.**

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:38:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erin Hagan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. Two in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:40:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paul Holcomb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee members,

I stand in strong support of this measure (SB2381 SD2). Publicly-financed elections are one of the best ways to combat the corruption caused by large influxes of corporate and dark money. This program allows legislators to respond to the needs of their constituents instead of mainland and foreign special interests. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Paul Holcomb  
Kāneʻohe, Hawaiʻi  
HD 49, SD 24

Aloha JHA Committee Members,

Money has influenced Hawaii's political system far too long. It's led to the passage of inequitable policies instead of those more in service to the general public. Two in three people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. Bill SB2381 can minimize this influence of private/corporate mega-bucks on our election candidates by freeing them from the need to oblige those wealthy / special interests. This is why three out of four voters support such a clean elections program. Such a system can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have demonstrated that full public-financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples have not resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or majority parties losing seats, but have resulted in equitable improvements in how sitting legislators are influenced. If we are serious about ending corruption we can afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. Please help create a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few. We need to pass SB2381 during this legislative session. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,  
Robert Gratz.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:50:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:53:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and members of the Committee,

My name is Carolyn Eaton and I am a Honolulu resident. I believe this bill will put running for office in Hawaii within reach of community members who might not be able to compete against candidates able to fund a campaign using personal resources. This measure will also level the playing field when considering incumbents and challengers. Democracy in Hawaii will come out ahead.

Mahalo for your hard work and for holding high the ideal of a democratic society.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:54:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I will make it simple. If your not for clean elections, what are you for?

I will happily be assessed for this opportunity to level the playing field of those qualified to run for office... those that care for our community and not influenced by money, gifts, etc.

Please support this bill. SB2381 SD2 It promotes a true democracy..

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Pamela Burrell

Kaliwai, Kaua'i



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 2:03:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joan Heartfield PhD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 2:08:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
james pirtle	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not consent

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 2:12:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Leake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

David Leake, Kaneohe

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 2:14:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The bad news is that voters are fed up with the corrupting influence of money in politics. The good news is that for \$6 per resident Hawaii can have public financing for candidates and enjoy all the benefits of good clean government that flow from having officials who are not indebted to corporate donors. The bill died last session for no good reason. Please do not miss this opportunity to pass this clean elections bill now and restore public confidence across all ethnic groups. The SURVEYUSA poll just completed bears out the high support for public financing amongst all voters. Mahalo.

Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 2:18:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

Terri Yoshinaga

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 2:23:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keith Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas and committee members of JHA

I'm testifying in strong support of SB2381 because publicly financing of elections is the best way to put democracy into running for public office.

Thank you for your consideration,

Keith Neal

Waimea

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 2:49:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Isis Usborne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

- Isis Usborne, 96815

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 2:50:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nora Goldsmith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This legislation represents a significant step forward in ensuring fair and equitable access to the electoral process for all candidates, regardless of their financial means. By implementing a system of public financing, we can reduce the influence of money in politics and level the playing field for candidates who may not have access to wealthy donors or special interest groups.

Furthermore, establishing a comprehensive system of public financing will help to increase transparency and accountability in our electoral process. By providing public funds to candidates, we can ensure that they are accountable to the voters rather than beholden to private interests.

Additionally, requiring the Campaign Spending Commission to submit progress and final reports to the Legislature will ensure that the public financing system is effectively implemented and that any necessary adjustments can be made to improve its efficacy.

Overall, this legislation is a crucial step towards strengthening our democracy and ensuring that all voices are heard in the electoral process. I urge all members of the Legislature to support this important initiative for the betterment of our state and its citizens.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely, Nora Goldsmith



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 2:52:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 2:58:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Glenn Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Glenn Choy, from Honolulu, I strongly support this bill. The Hawaii legislature has been corrupted by special interest money. This bill is crucial to restoring democracy process in the legislature. Do what is right for the people. Thank you.

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai'i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Julia Estigoy-Kaho'onei

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:15:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jazmyne	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jazmyne Brown

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:15:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christine Villanueva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Evslin, Chair Quinlan, and Honorable Members of the Committees,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2919, SD2, which clarifies that our counties have the clear right to phase out short-term rentals over a reasonable amount of time.

The Lahaina fires shed a clear light on the contribution that short-term rentals play in our housing crisis. As we work towards addressing this issue, it is essential to ensure that SB2919 applies to apartment-zoned properties as well. Many communities across the state, including Lahaina, have been adversely affected by the proliferation of short-term rentals in apartment-zoned areas, exacerbating our housing shortage and driving up rental prices.

Therefore, I urge you to include language in SB2919, SD2, that explicitly applies to apartment-zoned properties, ensuring that all areas affected by the negative impacts of short-term rentals are adequately addressed.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,  
Christine Villanueva

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:15:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Yes to SB2381 it can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:17:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lynne Caraway	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

At any cost, corporate and special interest money should be kept out of our elections.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:17:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Genesis Purdy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Mahalo,

Genesis Purdy



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:19:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mahealani Medeiros-Criste	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you today to express my wholehearted support for SB2381, SD2, which seeks to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates vying for state and county public offices in Hawai'i.

As residents of Hawai'i, we have witnessed firsthand the detrimental effects of pay-to-play politics on our communities. Decades of failure to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, leading to devastating fires that have ravaged our state in recent years.

In light of these challenges, it is imperative that we take proactive measures to address the underlying causes of these issues and foster a political environment that prioritizes the interests of our communities over those of corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, presents a significant stride in this direction by establishing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby mitigating the undue influence of money in politics.

I implore you to lend your support to SB2381, SD2, as it provides a crucial opportunity to fortify our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability within our electoral process.

Thank you for your steadfast attention to this pressing matter.

Warm regards,

Mahealani Medeiros Criste

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:25:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Committee Members,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you support SB2381.

Thank you,

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:26:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marissa Godinez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Marissa Godinez

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:27:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diane Christofferson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Mahalo for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely, Diane Christofferson

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:30:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kepuhi Purdy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Mahalo,

Kepuhi Purdy

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:31:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nani Dapitan-Haake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

I am reaching out to express my resolute endorsement for SB2381, SD2, which seeks to establish a comprehensive public financing system for all candidates running for state and county public offices in Hawaii.

Our state has directly felt the adverse effects of pay-to-play politics, with a prolonged failure to hold utility companies and significant private landowners accountable contributing to environmental mismanagement and the occurrence of devastating fires in recent times.

Faced with these challenges, it is imperative that we proactively tackle the underlying causes and cultivate a political landscape that prioritizes community needs over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2 represents a significant stride in this direction by introducing a fair and transparent public financing system for electoral campaigns, thereby diminishing the influence of money in politics.

I implore you to lend your support to SB2381, SD2, as it presents a crucial opportunity to fortify our democracy and foster increased fairness and accountability in our electoral processes. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Warm regards, Nani Dapitan-Haake

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:34:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
mary drayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee, I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai'i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics. I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely with Aloha

Mary Drayer

557 Imi Dr

Wailuku, HI 96793

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:43:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James Padgett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee, I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics. I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely, James Padgett



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:46:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
THOMAS KENT	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**This bill promotes only the Democratic Party, oppose this bill.**

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:54:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee, I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics. I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Please do the right thing.  
Sincerely, Mary Lu Kelley

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:58:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Catherine Velasquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai'i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics. I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Catherine Velasquez

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 3:59:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lexi Kinoshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Lexi Kinoshita

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 4:16:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jessica sill	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee, I was a Lahaina resident and long time teacher at King Kamehameha III Elementary School and have been displaced and am now living on Oahu because I own dogs. Immediately after the fire, I was told by the Red Cross that I would have to place my dogs in the care of the Maui Humane Society if I was to be sheltered. I am not capable of putting my dogs in a shelter and so the Red Cross closed my case. I was forced to find housing on Oahu and have had to stay here, away from my everything....

Since the moment those first flames flickered, we have desperately been asking for help. Pleading for help.

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jess Sill

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 4:18:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Winternitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Winternitz

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 4:49:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee, I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai'i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 4:52:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Fitzpatrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I strongly support SB2381 SD2 in order to make it more competitive if you do not want to take large campaign contributions from multinational corporations in order to fund your election or even re-election. This bill would go a long way to build trust in the community that our elected representatives do not just serve the rich and the powerful.

After citizens united we need to do everything in our power to get money out of politics and I feel this bill would go a long way.

Money is not speech because a houseless person should have as much speech as a billionaire, but in the current political reality we do not have as much speech. Please pass SB2381 SD2.

Mahalo,  
Fitz



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 4:57:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Angelina Kua'ana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee, I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai'i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Although this is not simply a Hawai'i problem we have the power to stop this at the state level and I urge those in power to make this change. It is said that politicians spend nearly 60% of their time either financing for their next campaign or making sure those financiers are happy. This is how much time is being wasted instead of focusing on the laundry list of problems that continue to accumulate throughout the state.

Sincerely,  
Angelina Kua'ana

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 5:00:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tamara C Griffiths	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Tamara Griffiths

Lahaina, HI

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 5:10:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennylen Espina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jenny

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 5:32:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Giuliano Geronymo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

With love,

Giuliano Geronymo

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 5:51:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alana Hendrickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Alana Hendrickson

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 5:55:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai'i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics. I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Andrew Isoda  
Lahaina, Maui

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 6:19:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Falinski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my **strong support** for SB2381, SD2.

Money is increasingly the only thing important in politics. I hope this bill will move us closer to having elections to represent a diversity of voices.

Aloha,

Kim

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 6:34:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gwen Rodrigues	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee, I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely, Gwen Rodrigues



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 6:40:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Beryl Blaich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I join others in strongly supporting this needed and very well crafted bill. Publically funded campaigns will elevate trust in government and, I hope, make it easier for everyone who holds or aspires to hold public office.

Respectfully,

Beryl Blaich

Kilauea, HI 96754

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 6:46:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert N Mansfield, Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Transparent campaign finances is crucial for our democracy.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:46:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 7:50:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
sherri curry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please, allow public financing of elections so the community needs will have priority over corporate and special interests.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:26:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sharron VanDeusen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:03:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amber Coontz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics. I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Amber Coontz (Lahaina, HI)

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:02:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lauren Palakiko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawai‘i has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Lauren Palakiko

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:14:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kanoelani Delatori	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kanoelani Delatori



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:38:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christopher Kaiakapu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Mahalo,

Chris Ka'iakapu

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:54:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
De Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community.

SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program.

**How is money the focus for the goodwill of the people to win? How did Hawai'i come to this? From kama'aina to kanaka, your heart should be *wrecked* to know that it's money that wins elections, not goals of taking care of our people. I ask you respectfully remember that the ali'i were considered the caretakers of the lahui, and when the people weren't well taken care of, ali'i were less important, even cast aside or killed. This is because Hawaiians knew to rule well, the ruling class had to be focused on taking care of their people. How can you be focused on that, when you have concerns about actually winning an election but may not have the funding? The temptation to be drawn into slippery or even devilish agreements with corporate sponsors is a reality for many politicians. Let's end this quandary today.**

A clean elections program like this can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective.

These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year.

If YOU are serious about ENDING CORRUPTION and creating a system that works for ALL residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 NOW.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

D. Austin

Kihei, Maui

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:02:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2381, SD2.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:14:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cyndi Mayo-Akeo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Mahalo,

Cyndi.Mayo-Akeo

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:15:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kazuo Flores	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee, I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai'i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics. I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kazuo Flores

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 10:58:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
joan Levy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In order to preserve democracy and pass legislation that matches the needs of the people who live here and the Hawaiian people who have always lived here- as well as the needs for a sustainable environment- we need to get big money out of politics and our elections. Please vote this bill thru! We need it! Thank you!

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:23:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cynthia Groves	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I concur with the following: I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Cynthia Groves



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:35:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
LorrieAnn Santos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a voter, I ask for the support of SB2381 SD2 to 1) provide full public financing of elections in Hawaii, 2) reduce the influence of special interest money in local campaigns, and 3) make elections a level playing field for anyone and everyone wanting to serve our community.

This bill will enable more candidates to have a better chance of competing without worry about deep-pocket special interests backing candidates who will look out for them, instead of the voters they are supposed to serve.

Your support of SB2381 SD2 can end the corrupting influence of big money in politics.

Respectfully,

Lorrie Ann Santos

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:44:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paula Russo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Government officials should not get any more tax dollars because they use our tax dollars to enrich themselves to fund and support Democratic Campaigns here in the state of Hawai'i. And with our taxpayer money they want to support Democratic Campaigns which is unacceptable. Public Financing for ALL politicians and whoever is in the system getting a raise, should not. THE GOVERNMENT WORKS FOR THE PEOPLE, WE DON'T WORK FOR YOU!

MAHALO

Paula Russo

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 11:44:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Javin Turalva-Albano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Javin Turalva-Albano

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 3:08:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Inda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Inda

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 3:54:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine A Wood	Public Citizen	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit this testimony on behalf of Public Citizen, a non-partisan organization working to strengthen U.S. democracy, to vocalize our support on behalf of our thousands of members of Hawaii residents for SB2381.

To make progress on the key issues impacting communities, including health care, housing costs, racial justice, the environment, and more, our electoral system must serve the people, rather than the interests of the rich and powerful. Right now, the current pay-to-play system gives unchecked power to the wealthy few at the expense of Hawaii residents.

SB2381 however would curb the influence of corporate special interests by making it possible for candidates to seek elected office without relying on ultra-wealthy campaign contributors. Rather, it would incentivize candidates to engage directly with their constituents by requiring them to meet a minimum qualifying threshold of small-dollar donations.

Public financing programs like the one detailed in SB2381 give political power to everyday people –boosting their influence and voice in our elections–and ensures that wealthy donors do not have an outsized influence in our elections and the priorities of lawmakers.

Poll after poll shows that voters are concerned about the role money plays in our elections. A [Pew Research Poll in 2023](#) found that a large majority of voters across party lines feel that campaign donors, lobbyists, and special interest groups have too much influence in our elections. The poll also found that 85% of respondents felt that the cost of political campaigns makes it hard for good people to run for office.

Across the country, municipalities and states are moving towards passing and implementing various forms of public financing. Altogether, over 14 states and more than 20 localities provide an option for candidates to participate in systems that make it possible for people of average means to run for office without relying on wealthy donors. Many of these programs have been in place for decades, including in Maine and Connecticut, which resemble what is proposed in SB2381. With this program, Hawaii has an opportunity to lead the nation by setting an example of what a truly inclusive and representative democracy looks like.

SB2381 would restore trust in government by providing a path for candidates to seek elected office through the support of constituents, rather than wealthy donors. On behalf of Public Citizen and our Hawaii members, I urge you to support SB2381.



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 3:57:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yuki Lyons-Yglesias	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo,

Yuki Lyons-Yglesias

Keauhou Mauka, Hawai'i Island

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 4:04:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. We need clean elections. Vote yes.



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 5:41:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julia Marrack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai'i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics. I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Julia Marrack, Waimea

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 6:21:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha- Please support establishment of a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

Mahalo

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 6:22:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bennett Kalawaia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Bennett Kalawaia

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 6:46:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hannah Fuqua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Hannah Fuqua

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 6:51:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Felili Mendoza	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We pray our good Lord fills you all with wisdom, strength, and patience to serve our people what they need.

Sincerely,

Felili Pousima Mendoza

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 7:01:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tyler Sonnemaker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Money has dominated Hawaii's political system for too long, leading to bad policies being passed and good ones being killed. 2 in 3 people think elected officials are more focused on the interests of their wealthy donors than the needs of their community. SB2381 can break the link between private money and winning elections by freeing candidates from the need to fundraise from special interests and the wealthy. This is why 3 in 4 voters support a clean elections program. This program can lead to a more ethical and representative government that prioritizes the needs of constituents. Connecticut, Maine, and Hawaii County Council have proven that full publicly financed elections can be successful and cost-effective. These examples haven't resulted in incumbents losing at higher rates or the majority parties losing seats, but it has resulted in shifts in how the sitting legislators are influenced. We can easily afford this program's low cost of less than \$10 million per year. If we are serious about ending corruption and creating a system that works for all residents and not just the wealthy few, we need to pass SB2381 now.

Mahalo.

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 7:05:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aulani Dusenberry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Aulani Dusenberry

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 7:26:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karri Ayasanonda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee, I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai'i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics. I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Karri Ayasanonda



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 8:30:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sierra Dew	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Sierra Dew

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 8:42:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sara Patton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Sara Patton

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 8:46:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Riley Bond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**To the Honorable Members of the Hawaii Legislature,**

**I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381 SD2, which establishes public financing for all candidates seeking state and county public offices in Hawaii. This bill addresses the critical issue of money's undue influence in politics and promotes fairness, transparency, and accountability in our electoral system.**

**Public financing levels the playing field, ensuring all candidates, regardless of wealth, have equal opportunities. By reducing reliance on wealthy donors, this bill diminishes the influence of special interests, restores faith in our democratic institutions and ensures that elected officials prioritize the needs of the public over the interests of powerful elites.**

**SB2381 SD2 also mandates transparency, with the Campaign Spending Commission reporting to the Legislature. This ensures responsible use of taxpayer funds and allows for adjustments as needed.**

**I urge you to support SB2381 SD2 and strengthen Hawaii's democracy for generations to come.**

**Sincerely,**

**Riley Bond**

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 8:48:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
robin knox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a former MAui County Council Candidate running against an opponent backed by our of state SUPER PAC, I know that we will NEVER have fair and locally driven elections until you get the big \$\$\$ our of our policitics. My campaign could not compete against the three times week;ly mailers from SUPER PACS supporting my opponent. Please support clean elections in Hawaii.

Robin S. Knox

Kihei, Maui

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 8:48:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Eileen McKee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB2381, SD2. This is a great way to get money out of politics.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Eileen McKee, Kihei

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 9:08:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would ask you to pass this bill. It is past time to get big money out of elections and allow everyone an equal chance to have their voice heard. This is a country of the people, by the people afterall. Thank you so much.

Liz Nelson

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 9:18:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
DIANA L BERINOBIS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process.

A concerned citizen looking to improve the quality of life in Hawaii for our future generations.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Diaha L Berinobis

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 9:20:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pamela Vera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Pamela Vera



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 9:29:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hokulani Delatori	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong SUPPORT for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawaii.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests.

SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Hokulani Delatori

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 9:42:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sandra Snedikor	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Sandra M. Snedikor

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 10:24:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lori Apo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Evslin, Chair Quinland, and Honorable Members of the Committees,  
I am writing to express my strong support for SB2919, SD2, which clarifies that our counties have the clear right to phase out short-term rentals over a reasonable amount of time. The Lahaina fires shed a clear light on the contribution that short-term rentals play in our housing crisis. As we work towards addressing this issue, it is essential to ensure that SB2919 applies to apartment-zoned properties as well. Many communities across the state, including Lahaina, have been adversely affected by the proliferation of short-term rentals in apartment-zoned areas, exacerbating our housing shortage and driving up rental prices. Therefore, I urge you to include language in SB2919, SD2, that explicitly applies to apartment-zoned properties, ensuring that all areas affected by the negative impacts of short-term rentals are adequately addressed.  
Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. Sincerely,  
Lori Apo

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 12:12:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keani Rawlins-Fernandez	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Strong Support

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 12:18:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brenda O McCallum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

B. Oriana McCallum

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 1:11:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Latai Soakai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2381, SD2, which aims to establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai‘i.

Hawaii has experienced the detrimental impacts of pay-to-play politics firsthand, and it is evident that decades of failing to hold utility companies and large private landowners accountable have contributed to environmental mismanagement, ultimately fueling devastating fires like those witnessed in recent years.

In the face of these challenges, we must take proactive measures to address the root causes of these issues and create a political environment that prioritizes the needs of the community over corporate and special interests. SB2381, SD2, represents a significant step in this direction by providing a fair and transparent system of public financing for electoral campaigns, thereby reducing the influence of money in politics.

I urge you to support SB2381, SD2, as it offers a critical opportunity to strengthen our democracy and promote greater equity and accountability in our electoral process. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Latai Soakai

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 1:52:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cheryl Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. I do not want my tax dollars funding candidates.



**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 2:06:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB2381 SD2

**SB-2381-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 2:10:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/14/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kanoë Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SD2