

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **155**

Honolulu, Hawaii

**FEB 10 2025**

RE: S.B. No. 809  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 809 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to reduce the potential for donations to unduly influence policy-making and to improve actual and perceived standards of conduct by expanding the prohibition against contributions to candidate and noncandidate committees to include contributions from state and county grantees and the officers and immediate family members of a state or county contractor or grantee.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Campaign Spending Commission, League of Women Voters of Hawaii, Education Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Our Hawai'i, and fifty-one individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the State Procurement Office.

Your Committee finds that the State's existing campaign finance law prohibits companies who receive state and county contracts from making campaign contributions. However, the prohibition does not extend to any owners, officers, or family members of the contractor, meaning that those individuals can



still make contributions to election campaigns. Your Committee also finds that there are no campaign prohibitions on organizations that receive grants from the State or counties. These grantees receive public funds appropriated by a legislative body, similar to state or county contractors.

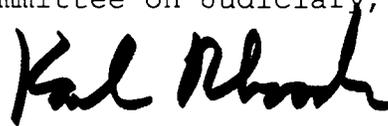
Your Committee notes that according to testimony on this measure, as written, it may have the potential to reach owners of a very small interest in the contractor. Your Committee also notes that it is unclear whether this measure would apply certain reporting requirements to all contracts, regardless of the dollar value or method of procurement, and that requiring agencies to submit a report for every single contract will be an administrative burden.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Exempting contracts under the small purchase threshold of \$100,000 for goods or services or \$250,000 for construction from the mandatory disclosure requirement;
- (2) Defining "owner" to mean a person with at least a five percent interest in the contractor or grantee; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 809, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 809, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Judiciary,



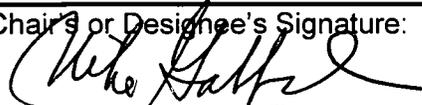
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KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Third Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes  
 Committee on Judiciary  
 JDC**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>SB 809</i>	Committee Referral: <i>JDC, WAM</i>	Date: <i>1/31/25</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton				✓
<b>TOTAL</b>	<i>4</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>1</i>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office     Drafting Agency     Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes