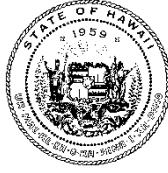


JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



BONNIE KAHAKUI
ADMINISTRATOR
DAYNA OMIYA
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

P.O. Box 119
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119
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<http://spo.hawaii.gov>

**TESTIMONY
OF
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
FEBRUARY 3, 2026, 2:00 PM**

**HOUSE BILL 1519
RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS**

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 1519. The State Procurement Office (SPO) appreciates the intent of this bill to improve transparency and public trust by expanding campaign contribution prohibitions and disclosure requirements for state and county contractors and grantees. The SPO's comments focus only on sections that amend Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapters 103D and 103F and may affect procurement administration or purchasing agencies.

SECTION 5, Page 5, lines 12-21, and Page 6, lines 1-6, adds a new section to HRS Chapter 103D to require purchasing agencies, at the time of execution of a state or county contract exceeding \$250,000, to collect from the contractor a list of the names of all compensated officers of the contractor and their immediate family members, and to send that information electronically to the Campaign Spending Commission for purposes of HRS section 11-355.

SECTION 6, Page 6, lines 7-20, adds a new section to HRS Chapter 103F to require purchasing agencies, at the time of execution of a state or county contract exceeding \$250,000, to collect from the contractor a list of the names of all compensated officers of the contractor and their immediate family members, and to send that information electronically to the Campaign Spending Commission for purposes of HRS section 11-355.

Comments

The SPO respectfully offers the following comments:

1. **Timing:** The bill requires disclosure "at the time of execution" of a contract. Clarification is needed when the disclosure must be submitted to the Campaign Spending Commission.

2. Format and Standardization: The bill does not specify the format, certification, or update requirements for the list of compensated officers and immediate family members. Standardized format and requirements are needed to ensure consistency.
3. Scope of Purchasing Agency Responsibility: Subsection (b) requires the purchasing agency to make the reported information available electronically to the Campaign Spending Commission. Clarification is needed if the purchasing agency is responsible for verifying the information submitted to the Campaign Spending Commission.
4. Definitions of “Immediate family members” and “Officer” in HRS Section 11-302 apply specifically to candidates, not contractors.

Recommendations

The SPO recommends that the bill is amended to:

- Specify that the list of compensated officers and immediate family members must be submitted within 30 calendar days of a **fully executed contract**.
- Require a uniform disclosure form approved by the Campaign Spending Commission, and a certification statement by the contractor to confirm accuracy.
- Define if updates are needed when officers or family members change during the contract term.
- State that purchasing agencies act only as a **conduit** for transmitting information and are not responsible for verifying accuracy.
- Add clear penalties for non-compliance (e.g. fines, contract suspension)
- Ensure that definitions for “immediate family members” and “officer” as they apply to contractors are consistent and easy to interpret. The definitions in HRS 11-302 apply specifically to candidates.
- Appropriate funds for system updates, training, and administrative support to implement these requirements.

Thus, the SPO recommends amendments to the following:

- SECTION 5, Page 5, lines 12-18:

"103D- Disclosure of compensated officers and immediate family members for state or county contracts. (a) Within 30 days of the fully executed state or county contract exceeding \$250,000, as described in section 11-355, the purchasing agency shall require the contractor to provide a list of the names of all compensated officers of the contractor and the immediate family members of each officer. The Commission shall prescribe a standard form and require the contractor to certify the accuracy of the form. Contractors shall update disclosures within 30 days of any change in officers or immediate family members."

- SECTION 5, Page 5, lines 19-21:

"(b) The purchasing agency shall make the reported information available electronically within 30 calendar days of a fully executed contract, to the campaign spending commission without obligation to verify completeness or accuracy for purposes of section 11-355."

- SECTION 6, Page 6, lines 7-14:

"103F- Disclosure of compensated officers and immediate family members for state or county contracts. (a) Within 30 days of the fully executed state or county contract exceeding \$250,000, as described in section 11-355, the purchasing agency shall require the contractor to provide a list of the names of all compensated officers of the contractor and the immediate family members of each officer. The Commission shall prescribe a standard form and require the contractor to certify the accuracy of the form. Contractors shall update disclosures within 30 days of any change in officers or immediate family members."

- SECTION 6, Page 6, lines 15-17:

"(b) The purchasing agency shall make the reported information available electronically within 30 calendar days of a fully executed contract, to the campaign spending commission without obligation to verify completeness or accuracy for purposes of section 11-355."

The SPO also recommends that definitions for "Immediate family member" and "Officer" **as they apply to contractors** are added to the HRS provide clarity.

Administrative Impact

While the bill does not appropriate funds, the SPO notes that there may be administrative impacts associated with implementation, including staff time to collect, transmit, and potentially respond to questions regarding disclosure information for contracts under HRS Chapters 103D and 103F. Any system modifications, form development, or training needs are unknown at this time. Fiscal impacts are also to be determined.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.



**STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION**

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 2, 2026

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

The Honorable Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on H.B. No. 1519, Relating to Campaign Contributions.**
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill¹. The Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) supports this bill with comments which we believe will prevent the corruption, or at least the appearance of corruption, of elected officials as well as represents a crucial step towards transparency and accountability in government spending. In this respect, this bill will help improve public confidence in government and the electoral process.

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) §11-355 by extending the ban on contributions from state and county contractors to the compensated officers of the state and county contractors and their immediate family during the duration of the contract exceeding \$250,000. The ban is limited to the branch of government awarding or administering the contract. The Commission believes that it is common for contractors to get around the ban by having those persons connected to the contractor make political contributions. A few of these situations also involved false name contributions where the contributors were reimbursed for their contributions. The Commission is concerned that limiting the ban to the same branch of government may not capture all possibilities of corruption and recommends removing this restriction.

¹ The companion bill is S.B. No. 2530.

Testimony of the Campaign Spending Commission
Thirty-Third Legislature, 2026
H.B. No. 1519, Relating to Campaign Contributions
February 2, 2026
Page 2

The bill also extends the ban to HRS Chapter 42F grantees of the state and grantees of the counties via county charter or code, and the compensated officers of the grantee and their immediate family during the duration of the grant exceeding \$250,000. Grantees, similar to contractors, receive state and local funds and thus should be treated similarly in the context of political contributions.

The Commission notes that this bill limits the scope of individuals prohibited from making contributions for the duration of the contract or grant to “compensated” officers. While the Commission supports narrowing the scope of individuals prohibited from making contributions, it is concerned that uncompensated officers have the ability to influence legislation to benefit the company and/or organization and recommends removing “compensated” from the bill. The bill also defines “immediate family member” to include a person’s spouse or reciprocal beneficiary and any dependent children. The Commission supports this definition but believes the definition should be expanded to also include any dependent and the spouse or reciprocal beneficiary of the dependent to tighten the ways in which individuals can get around the ban. The Commission further notes the restriction does not apply to ballot issues. The Commission staff is concerned that some ballot issues can result in large contracts where potential for corruption could exist and would appreciate additional information on this to share with the Commissioners at its next meeting.

Finally, this bill requires the state or county contractor or grantee to provide to the state or county office executing the contract or grant a list of the names of any officers and immediate family members of the state or county contractor or grantee. Further, the bill provides that the state or county office shall make the reported information available electronically to the Commission which shall then make the information available to candidate and noncandidate committees on a password-protected section on the Commission’s website. Commission staff is in discussion with its vendor designing the Commission’s upgraded electronic filing system to determine the amount of additional funding the Commission will need to build a password-protected section in its electronic filing system.

With respect to any constitutional concerns regarding the scope of this bill, the Commission defers to the Department of the Attorney General but believes that there are other jurisdictions including Connecticut that have extended the campaign contributions ban to state contractors’ principals and family members and withstood challenge on First Amendment grounds.

The Commission requests that this Committee pass this bill with amendments.

HB-1519

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 3:51:26 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanani Kai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill.

Mahalo,

Kanani Kai

Member Hawaii Indivisible/

HB-1519

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 3:43:21 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martha Nakajima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Thank you, Martha Nakajima, Honolulu, member of Indivisible

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:03:43 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James E Raymond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you -- I am a member of Indivisible Windward.



Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe
Tuesday, February 3 2 pm
Room 325 and Videoconference
HB1519 – RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports HB1519, which prohibits compensated officers of state or county contractors or grantees with contracts or grants exceeding \$250,000, and their immediate family members, from making or soliciting certain campaign contributions for the duration of the contract; requires disclosure of the names of compensated officers and their immediate family members of state or county contractors and grantees; and requires unlawful contributions to be returned to the contributor or escheat to the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund.

To save time for readers already familiar with the analysis of Hawaii Campaign Spending Commission (CSC) data published in the New York Times (NYT) in 2024*, I refer readers to the NYT article (link on p.2 below) for more detailed data. The article's sobering conclusion cries out for the changes described in HB1519.

Our support is based on the following:

- 1) The same considerations of pay-to-play apply to grantees as to contractors.
- 2) Between 2006 - the year the pay-to-play law (HRS 11-355) was implemented – and 2024, people tied to government contractors gave state and local Hawaii politicians more than \$24 million: **about one-fifth of all donations** made. Most often, these donations were given to politicians with the most power to determine contract awards. HRS 11-355 is undermined by contributions from officers, employees, and their families. HB1519 would restore the intent of HRS 11-355.
- 4) Returning illegal contributions to the contributor within 30 days, or, failing that, escheating the money to the appropriate state agency, is standard practice across

campaign finance regulations. The money added to HECF funds will help offset CSC expenses of monitoring contributions by contractor officers and their immediate families.

4) One weakness in implementation of HRS 11-355 is that CSC staff often don't know the identities of a contractor's officers and their immediate families. HB1519 cures this problem.

LWVHI is grateful to those who drafted and introduced this important bill, and to those who will carry it forward.

*Blaze Lovell, Eric Sagara & Irene Casado Sanchez. *Inside the Late-Night Parties Where Hawaii Politicians Raked In Money*. New York Times; January 17, 2024.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/17/us/hawaii-contractors-campaign-donations.html?searchResultPosition=7>

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



FEBRUARY 3, 2026

HOUSE BILL 1519

CURRENT REFERRAL: JHA

808-679-7454
kris@imuaalliance.org
www.imuaalliance.org
@imuaalliance

Kris Coffield,
President

David Negaard,
Director

Mireille Ellsworth,
Director

Justin Salisbury,
Director

Eileen Roco,
Director

Beatrice DeRego,
Director

Corey Rosenlee,
Director

Amy Zhao,
Policy and Partnerships Strategist

POSITION: SUPPORT

Imua Alliance supports HB 1519, relating to campaign contributions, which requires disclosure of the names of compensated officers, and their immediate family members, of state or county contractors and grantees with contracts or grants exceeding \$250,000; prohibits the compensated officers of state or county contractors, and their immediate family members, from making or soliciting certain campaign contributions for the duration of the contract; prohibits state or county grantees, including compensated officers and their immediate family members, from making or soliciting certain contributions for the duration of the grant exceeding \$250,000; requires unlawful contributions to be returned to the contributor or escheat to the Hawai'i Election Campaign Fund.

Imua Alliance is a Hawai'i-based organization dedicated to ending all forms of exploitation, including corporate interference in our democracy.

Our democracy belongs to we, the people.

At a time when our nation is experiencing extreme political turmoil and basic civil liberties are under assault, we must take steps in Hawai'i to safeguard democratic participation. In the 2024 primary election, for example, our state experienced its lowest turnout in 65 years, with only 32.1 percent of registered voters filling out a ballot. This is, in part, a reflection of the public's deep cynicism with our electoral processes.

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. Legal clouds surrounding a \$35,000 alleged bribery scandal are swirling around the legislature, to the detriment of public confidence, with the Hawai'i Attorney General opening an investigation into the potential offenses and

the State House adopting a measure to begin this session calling for a thorough and hasty enquiry into the matter.

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.

In 2024, a Civil Beat/New York Times investigation unveiled just how deeply pay-to-play culture is ingrained in local politics. After reviewing hundreds of thousands of campaign contributions and more than 70,000 government contracts, reporters found that nearly \$1 out of every \$5 donated to politicians came from people tied to companies doing business with state and local governments.

As Civil Beat reported at the time, when some companies were on the cusp of winning major government contracts, people connected to them donated large amounts of campaign funds to influential public officials who were in positions to sway the awards.

Perhaps the most telling part of the report is encapsulated in the following excerpt from the special investigation: *Even though those contributors generally didn't acknowledge their connections to the companies, they were not violating Hawai'i law, which only prohibits donations directly from the firms. "Everyone gets very upset with pay-to-play, but it's legal," said Kristin Izumi-Nitao, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Campaign Spending Commission."*

It might be legal today, but it shouldn't be any longer if we care about our future. Government should work for the public interest, not special interests. It is in that spirit that we support this and other reforms to restore integrity to our state's electoral and governmental processes.

With aloha,

Kris Coffield

President, Imua Alliance

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:26:53 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Weltin	Ka'u Voices-Indivisible Group	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of HB1519

Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active closing a loophole and ensuring public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

Election integrity on all levels is important especially at this time when Americans are worried about undue influence on candidates, electeds and policy makers. We need to shore up our elections so the electorate can trust our government.

This bill makes our elections fairer and more transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Mahalo,

Elizabeth Weltin, Naalehu Ka'u Voice an Indivisible Chapter and part of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network



House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
February 3, 2026 at 2 PM
Room 325

Testimony with COMMENTS for HB1519

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations (HANO) submits **comments on HB1519**, which addresses “pay-to-play” concerns by restricting certain campaign contributions by state and county contractors, grantees, and their compensated officers when grants or contracts exceed \$250,000. HANO supports efforts to strengthen transparency, accountability, and public trust in government decision-making, and we recognize that this measure is primarily intended to address risks associated with large, for-profit contractors.

HANO is a statewide, sector-wide professional association of nonprofits that works to strengthen and unite the nonprofit sector as a collective force to improve the quality of life in Hawai'i. Since 2006, HANO has been a leading voice for the nonprofit sector, leveraging resources, educating and advocating for policies and practices that promote the professionalism, sustainability, and effectiveness of nonprofits and the communities they serve.

HB1519 Reflects a More Balanced Approach to Pay-to-Play.

HANO appreciates that HB1519 takes a more measured and targeted approach than other proposals considered by this committee. In particular, the bill's \$250,000 threshold and its limitation to *compensated officers* reflect an effort to focus restrictions where a personal financial interest may reasonably exist. These elements better align the policy with the underlying purpose of preventing improper influence, while reducing unintended impacts on volunteer leadership.

Nonprofits Differ Fundamentally from For-Profit Contractors.

Nonprofit organizations that receive government grants do so to advance public purposes, not to generate profit. Compensation for nonprofit officers is mission-driven and does not necessarily create the same incentives that pay-to-play laws are designed to address. While HB1519 is more narrowly drawn, its application to nonprofits still warrants careful consideration to ensure that charitable organizations are not treated identically to for-profit contractors in ways that do not reflect these structural differences.

Existing Safeguards Already Address Pay-to-Play Risks.

The nonprofit sector already operates within robust accountability and oversight systems. HRS §42F-103(c) requires nonprofits receiving state grants to maintain uncompensated governing

boards free from material conflicts of interest, and IRC §501(c)(3) strictly prohibits charitable organizations from making political contributions. These safeguards help protect taxpayer funds and promote ethical conduct, and they should be considered as part of the overall transparency framework in evaluating additional restrictions.

Risk to Civic Engagement and Nonprofit Sustainability.

Nonprofit leaders already operate under significant limits on political activity and face complex requirements to secure and administer public funding. Additional restrictions, even when well intentioned, may narrow civic engagement at a time when nonprofit perspectives are critical to effective policymaking. This concern is heightened as nonprofits face severe operational strain from federal funding disruptions, rising costs, and increasing demand for services. Nonprofits are essential partners in delivering services on behalf of the State and counties, and grantmaking should support, not hinder, nonprofit participation in public programs and service in leadership roles through clear, fair, and workable rules.

For these reasons, HANO supports **HB1519 as a more reasonable and balanced approach** to addressing pay-to-play concerns, while respectfully urging the Legislature to continue refining the measure to ensure that it is narrowly tailored, constitutionally sound, and appropriately applied for a nonprofit context. We offer these comments in the spirit of strengthening transparency while preserving the integrity and effectiveness of government–nonprofit partnerships.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.



House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB1519
Tuesday February 2nd, at 2 pm; Conference Room 235

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

HAPA supports HB1519, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole. When large public contracts and grants are awarded, the public deserves clear visibility into who benefits and who may have access to political decision-makers.

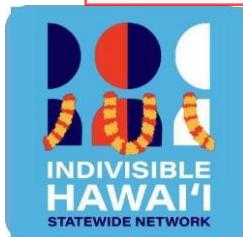
This bill strengthens existing prohibitions by expanding contribution bans to cover state or county grantees, including compensated officers and their immediate family members, during the life of a contract or grant. These restrictions apply to contracts of \$250,000 or more.

When large sums of public money are involved, the public deserves to know who is benefiting. HB1519 advances this core democratic value by requiring disclosure of the names of compensated officers and their immediate family members for state or county contractors and grantees receiving contracts or grants exceeding \$250,000. Transparency at this level helps prevent hidden conflicts of interest and reassures the public that government decisions are being made in the open.

HB 1519 affirms that public dollars must be accountable to the public, not shielded from scrutiny. By strengthening transparency and ethical standards, this bill helps restore confidence in Hawai'i's electoral and procurement systems.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Frederick".

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



Protect Democracy

Move Forward

www.indivisiblehawaii.org
info@indivisiblehawaii.org

To: Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee

Hearing Date/Time: 02-03-26 2:00 PM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 235

Re: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1519

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

On behalf of Indivisible Hawai'i, I thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB1519.

Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active closes a loophole and ensures that public funds are used for their intended purposes, and not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

For too long these loopholes have eroded people's trust in elected officials and elections. We need to stop these nod-and-wink transactions that cause people to lose faith in government and reinvigorate citizen participation in our politics.

This bill makes our elections fairer and more transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Sincerely,
Marlene Thom
Indivisible Hawai'i Good Government & Secure Elections Team

The mission of the 14-chapter Indivisible Hawai'i Statewide Network (IHSN) is to protect Hawai'i and democracy by defending civil rights, communities and values, most importantly, Hawai'i's Constitutionally protected spirit of Aloha. In October 2025, IHSN with other partners turned out over 22,000 residents on all major islands to say No Dictators! and to stand up for democracy. This call-to-action was part of Indivisible national's mobilization of more than 7 million across the country as the voice of the people, committed to election integrity and to evolving as a place of equity, opportunity and peace.

HB-1519

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 8:10:53 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1519.

HB-1519

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 8:36:06 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorna Holmes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Since the type of campaign contribution regulated here is really a thinly disguised bribe, clearly it should not be acceptable. And \$250,000 is quite a generous lower limit; no contractor of any amount should be contributing to the campaign of the official overseeing the contract. I urge you to pass this measure.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Dr. Lorna Holmes, Honolulu 9826

HB-1519

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 8:45:55 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy D Moser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you

HB-1519

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 9:38:13 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jody Weidemann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

no campaign contribution by contractors

HB-1519

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 9:17:35 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Kanehailua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1519. We need to make votes counted more fairly. Just because you are rich or wealthy doesn't mean your vote should carry more weight or influence than any other citizen. Thank you for you consideration.

HB-1519

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 9:25:41 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Leo Braulick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo,

Nathan Leo Braulick

96826

HB-1519

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 11:33:48 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

As former chair of the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct (CISC), I submit this testimony on support of HB1519 RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.

CISC proposed a similar bill to "amend the prohibition against contributions to a candidate committee or noncandidate committee by state and county contractors, to include state and county grantees and owners, officers, and immediate family members of a state or county contractor or state or county grantee." CISC December 1, 2022 Report at 33.

Judge Daniel Foley (ret.)

HB-1519

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 11:51:13 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Troy MD	Maui Indivisible member	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support no campaign contribution by contractors

HB-1519

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 11:58:13 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roger Hamada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1519.

Voters are skeptical that the current system works equitably. Many believe that the lawmaking mechanism is biased towards Big Money. Failure by the Legislature to pass measures like those contained in this Bill during the 2025 session reinforces the impression that at least key legislators are looking out for the interests of Big Money to the detriment of their "average" constituents. Please demonstrate that this is not the case by passing this bill and SB2471.

Thank you.

HB-1519

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 12:47:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Younghée Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for hearing this measure.

Younghée Overly,

a member of Indivisible Hawaii.

HB-1519

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 1:32:56 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doris Segal Matsunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1519

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 9:06:22 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JANE TOLLEFSRUD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for trying to make political contributions more accountable by extending donation limits to include family and corporate associates. It is a good idea to reduce potential for campaign contributions that would unduly influence policy making, and at the same time help maintain public trust in government decision making.

Eileen Cain
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635
eileencain808@gmail.com
February 1, 2026

Testimony in Favor of HB1519, Relating to Campaign Contributions

Dear Representative Tarnas, Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

My love of fairness in government makes it necessary for me to ask you to vote in favor of HB1519.

1. This bill would eliminate undue financial influence over or even intimidation of elected officials. Perhaps some elected officials feel that it is difficult for them to vote for what is in the public's best interest because of contractors acting out of selfishness, trying to sway officials or even intimidate them. Publicly financed elections would allow officials to breathe easy, to be free from such tactics by monied interests.
2. This bill would safeguard the public interest. Citizens like me need to trust that decisions made by elected officials are not dominated by powerful lobbies paid for by contractors or large corporations.
3. We citizens need to know that our voices are actually heard when we give testimony, that our needs and views are given serious consideration, even if we don't have a lot of money.

Please vote yes on HB1519.

Mahalo,

Eileen Cain
Mō'ili'ili, Honolulu, Hawai'i

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 5:32:55 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Van Horne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let's take the money out of politics and community leadership. No private money for campaigns or politicians.

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 10:10:27 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse Hutchison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you!

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 7:38:40 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diann Karin Lynn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation for futher discussion.

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:11:45 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Bonk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you.

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:34:56 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let's end corruption. I support this bill.

Thank you,

Jane Aquino, Indivisible Hawaii and Hawaii J20

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:02:50 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel R Freund	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please to the right thing and advance this good government initiative. - Dan Freund (Kapaa)

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:38:38 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Goren	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my written testimony in support of HB1519. As a Lahaina resident and member of Indivisible Hawai'i, I respectfully urge you to pass HB1519 to address the issue of pay-to-play political spending by contractors, permitting unfettered influence of our State elections.

The Supreme Court's 2010 decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*,[\[1\]](#) opened the floodgates of independent election spending, allowing outside actors to pour exorbitant sums of money into political campaigns across the country, undermining our "bedrock principles like 'one person, one vote' and 'government of, by, and for the people'[]'."[\[2\]](#) Hawai'i is not exempt from the corruption *Citizens United* has ushered in.[\[3\]](#)

Not surprisingly, the *Citizens United* decision is wildly unpopular, with the majority of Americans disapproving of it,[\[4\]](#) and voters opposing it by a nearly 3-1 margin.[\[5\]](#) Despite this, Congress has failed to act to institute any post-*Citizens* reforms or implement a Constitutional amendment, even though in 2014, a majority of the U.S. Senate debated and voted in favor of S.J. Resolution 19, the "Democracy for All Amendment" to the Constitution, but did not achieve the 67 votes required to pass the Senate.[\[6\]](#) Significantly, 842 local government resolutions calling for a Constitutional amendment have been passed, 22 States – including Hawai'i – and Washington D.C. have called for a Constitutional amendment, and 121 members of Congress are co-sponsoring legislation to overturn *Citizens United*.[\[7\]](#)

We in Hawai'i are lucky to have representatives and officials who take into account and respect the sentiment of their constituents in maintaining fair and transparent elections. Here, you can restore our citizens' faith in the system and act in furtherance and protection of our fragile democratic constitutional republic. Unchecked corporate political spending is an absolute threat to our democracy, permitting corporations to buy policies antithetical to the common good.[\[8\]](#)

Accordingly, it is imperative that you act now on HB1519, tackling the issue of corruption in government contracting. Please do your part in keeping our elections as fair and transparent as possible. Heed the words of President Abraham Lincoln in satisfying the great task you are charged with fulfilling, ensuring "that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."[\[9\]](#)

Thank you for your time and commitment to our democracy.

Respectfully,

Danielle Goren

Lahaina

[1] 558 U.S. 130 (2010).

[2] <https://www.citizen.org/article/frequently-asked-questions/>; Daniel I. Weiner, Brennan Center for Justice, 'Citizens United,' *Explained*, pub. Dec. 12, 2019, updated Jan. 29, 2025, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/citizens-united-explained>.

[3] For example, as reported by Honolulu Civil Beat, “[r]eal estate developer Timothy Lee pressured employees to donate to political campaigns in 2020 and padded a payment to a contractor to reimburse him for campaign donations, according to testimony before an O’ahu grand jury.” Blaze Lovell, *Pay-To-Play: Hawai’i CEO Pressured Staff to Make Political Gifts*, Sep. 24, 2025, <https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/09/pay-to-play-hawaii-ceo-pressured-staff-to-make-political-gifts/>

[4] See Ashley Balcerzak, *Study: Most Americans want to kill ‘Citizens United’ with constitutional amendment*, The Center for Public Integrity, May 10, 2018, <https://publicintegrity.org/politics/study-most-americans-want-to-kill-citizens-united-with-constitutional-amendment/>, discussing University of Maryland School of Public Policy’s Program for Public Consultation study, wherein “[t]hree-fourths of survey respondents – including 66 percent of Republicans and 85 percent of Democrats – back a constitutional amendment outlawing *Citizens United*. The study also indicates that most Americans – 88 percent overall – want to reduce the influence large campaign donors wield over lawmakers...” *Id.*

[5] <https://www.citizen.org/article/frequently-asked-questions/>

[6] S.J. Res. 19, A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections, 113th Congress (2013-2014), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-joint-resolution/19>; and Public Citizen, *Corporations are Not People: Frequently Asked Questions About Overturning Citizens United*, <https://www.citizen.org/article/frequently-asked-questions/>; see also, Public Citizen, Text and cosponsors of proposed amendments in the 116th Congress, <https://united4thepeople.org/amendments/>.

[7] Public Citizen, *Overturning Citizens United: By The Numbers*,
<https://www.citizen.org/article/by-the-numbers/>; 2016, Hawai'i House Concurrent Resolution No. 29,

<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2016/bills/HCR29.htm>.

[8] “Corporations, not being citizens, cannot be legitimate political actors.” Daniel Greenwood, *Essential Speech: Why Corporate Speech is Not Free*, 83 Iowa L. Rev. 995, 1054 (1998), <http://ssrn.com/abstract=794785>. “When the pot of [corporate] money enters the political system, it distorts the very regulatory pattern that ensures its own utility. When the pot of money is allowed to influence the rules by which it grows, it will grow faster, thus increasing its ability to influence – setting up a negative feedback cycle and assuring that the political system will be distorted to allow corporations to evade the rules that make them good for all of us (to extract rents, in the economists’ jargon).” *Id.*

[9] Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address, November 19, 1863.

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:39:38 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Winternitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of HB1519

This bill makes our elections more honest and more transparent. It will help restore trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without causing any perception of political strings attached.

Mahalo,

Elizabeth Winternitz

Kula, Maui

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:00:13 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Lewis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my written testimony in support of HB1519. As a Lahaina resident and member of Indivisible Hawai'i, I respectfully urge you to pass HB1519 to address the issue of pay-to-play political spending by contractors, permitting unfettered influence of our State elections.

The Supreme Court's 2010 decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, opened the floodgates of independent election spending, allowing outside actors to pour exorbitant sums of money into political campaigns across the country, undermining our 'bedrock principles like 'one person, one vote' and 'government of, by, and for the people'[].' Not surprisingly, the *Citizens United* decision is wildly unpopular, with the majority of Americans disapproving of it, and voters opposing it by a nearly 3-1 margin. Despite this, Congress has failed to act to institute any post-*Citizens* reforms or implement a Constitutional amendment, even though in 2014, a majority of the U.S. Senate debated and voted in favor of S.J. Resolution 19, the "Democracy for All Amendment" to the Constitution, but did not achieve the 67 votes required to pass the Senate. Significantly, 842 local government resolutions calling for a Constitutional amendment have been passed, 22 States – including Hawai'i – and Washington D.C. have called for a Constitutional amendment, and 121 members of Congress are co-sponsoring legislation to overturn *Citizens United*.

We in Hawai'i are lucky to have representatives and officials who take into account and respect the sentiment of their constituents in maintaining fair and transparent elections. Here, you can restore our citizens' faith in the system and act in furtherance and protection of our fragile democratic constitutional republic. Unchecked corporate political spending is an absolute threat to our democracy, permitting corporations to buy policies antithetical to the common good.

Accordingly, it is imperative that you act now on HB1519, tackling the issue of corruption in government contracting. Please do your part in keeping our elections as fair and transparent as possible. Heed the words of President Abraham Lincoln in satisfying the great task you are

charged with fulfilling, ensuring “that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

Thank you for your time and commitment to our democracy.

Respectfully,
Jason Lewis

Lahaina resident

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:13:56 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of HB1519.

Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active will close a serious loophole and ensure that public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

I believe this to be a positive step and one that should possibly add that those people should have some way of being notified and held accountable for following through as well. The State does not have the funds to enforce every area some of the responsibility must go on the people for whom this bill is designed.

This bill makes our elections more honest and more transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without causing any perception of political strings attached. Please support.

Mahalo,

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:57:38 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of both HB1519 and HB2052. I believe that HB2052 is the stronger approach, but I think at least ONE of them needs to go through.

Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active will close a serious loophole and ensure that public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

This bill makes our elections more honest and more transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without causing any perception of political strings attached. Please support.

Mahalo,

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:59:21 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ross Isokane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Please ensure this gets through committees and makes it to a final vote this session.

Any counterarguments advocating for free speech or privacy rights for the individuals lack validity in my eyes. Profiting off of lucrative, taxpayer funded government projects is a privilege and the entry cost should be refraining from making contributions and also transparent disclosures.

Ideally, the disclosure list of officers and immediate family members should be a publicly available database. That way we don't need the CSC staff expending resources to try to monitor compliance. We can crowdsource compliance (i.e., investigative journalists will be all over it). To me, the public disclosure of these individuals connected to government contract grantees is just as important as the prohibition.

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 12:47:15 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Committee Members,

I am in strong support of HB1519, which would prevent state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active. It will close a serious loophole and ensure that public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

This is one of the most important bills to me in this legislative session. It is SO IMPORTANT to make our elections more honest and more transparent! Many people are now so cynical and distrusting of politics, and the influence of big money is a major reason for that. This bill builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without causing any perception of political strings attached.

I understand that HB1519 is very similar to HB2052. I **prefer the broader provisions in HB2052**, but I'd be happy if either bill were passed.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 1:08:54 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of HB1519

Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active will close a serious loophole and ensure that public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

This bill makes our elections more honest and more transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without causing any perception of political strings attached. Please support.

Mahalo,

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 1:23:26 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB1519. I believe it will increase fairness and transparency with regards to our elections and boon to our representative democracy. Mahalo for your consideration.

02/02/2026

Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1519

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

My name is Alicia Hedlesky, a resident of Moloa'a, Kauai and a member of Indivisible Hawaii. I am writing to strongly support HB1519, which would increase the trust of the public in elected officials and our government institutions. Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active closes a loophole and ensures public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions. Increasing accountability and transparency can only bring benefits to our state.

Thank you for your consideration and time on this important issue,

Alicia Hedlesky

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 1:54:54 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 2:03:26 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Singer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of HB1519

Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active closing a loophole and ensuring public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

We must do that we can to help earn public trust in government. This bill is a step in that direction.

This bill makes our elections fairer and more transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Mahalo,

Dr. Steven Singer, Hawaii Kai

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 2:10:41 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Trecker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in firm support of HB1519. It is a much-needed good government bill to help put the brakes on contractors, grantees, officers and immediate family members from using campaign donations to exert undo pressure and influence on politicians and their campaigns.

Let's make 2026 the year we address pay-to-play politics. Please pass HB 1519!

Thank you

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

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 3:29:05 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Addie Berliner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank You for supporting this bill!

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

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 3:35:58 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MARILYN JOHNSON	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill which is intended to stop the Pay to Play mentality that causes too much opportunity for corruption.

Thank you for bringing this bill forward yet again.

Marilyn Johnson, Pahoa

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 3:38:14 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsay Roth	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB1519.

This bill represents a practical and compassionate approach to strengthening stability and wellbeing for individuals and families across Hawai‘i. HB1519 advances policy that supports fairness, access, and long-term community health.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Roth, LCSW
Kailua-Kona, Hawai‘i

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

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 2 pm

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT - HB 1519, RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, Rep. Cochran from Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a long-time resident of Wailuku, Maui. I write to you today in **support of HB 1519**, relating to campaign contributions. HB 1519 applies to large contracts and grants exceeding \$250,000. It covers compensated officers and their immediate family members, prohibits donations to campaigns and political committees, and includes a disclosure requirement identifying compensated officers and their immediate family members.

Between 2006 - the year the pay-to-play law (HRS 11-355) was implemented – and 2024, people tied to government contractors gave state and local Hawaii politicians more than \$24 million: about one-fifth of all donations made. Most often, these donations were given to politicians with the most power to determine contract awards. HRS 11-355 is undermined by contributions from officers, employees, and their families. Preventing contractors and grantees from donating to political campaigns reduces the risk of undue influence or favoritism in government decisions and in the awarding of contracts and grants.

I am sure the members of the Committee are aware of the New York Times article, “Inside the Late-Night Parties Where Hawaii Politicians Raked In Money,” published in January, 2024, with the tagline, “[a]fter the state passed a law barring government contractors from donating to politicians, fund-raising parties showed just how completely the reform effort failed”¹. As a resident of Maui, at a time when my Lahaina neighbors were depending on the kindness of donations pouring in from around the world to help with recovery from the wildfire, an article highlighting apparent corruption in Hawaii to a national audience is something that needs remedy.

I appreciate the efforts of Chair Tarnas and his staff in drafting HB1519 to address this concern and to rebuild trust in our elected officials. When the public sees that government contracts and grants are free from political influence, their trust in elected officials and government increases. This bill builds on feedback from similar legislation that made it all the way to Conference Committee last year by focusing on paid officers of organizations and implementing disclosure requirements. Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active closes a loophole and will help ensure that public funds are used for their

¹ Blaze Lovell, Eric Sagara & Irene Casado Sanchez. Inside the Late-Night Parties Where Hawaii Politicians Raked In Money. New York Times; January 17, 2024.

intended purposes, rather than to sway political campaigns or decisions. Based upon the foregoing, I request your support of HB1519.

Mahalo nui for all you are doing to restore faith in government,

Christine L. Andrews, J.D.
Wailuku, Maui

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 4:52:59 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of HB1519 / HB2052

Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active will close a serious loophole and ensure that public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

This bill makes our elections more honest and more transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without causing any perception of political strings attached. Please support.

Mahalo,

Andrew Isoda
Lahaina, Mau'i

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 4:55:41 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimdonghyeon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB1519

Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active will close a serious loophole and ensure that public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

This bill makes our elections more honest and more transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without causing any perception of political strings attached. Please support.

Mahalo,

kimdonghyeon

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

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 4:59:52 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kencho Gurung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of HB1519 / HB2052

Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active will close a serious loophole and ensure that public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

This bill makes our elections more honest and more transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without causing any perception of political strings attached. Please support.

Mahalo,

Kencho Gurung, Hilo

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

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 5:59:16 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Waters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill that would lead to less corruption in government and greater public trust in government. I am a member of Indivisible Hawaii. Mahalo.

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 6:32:04 PM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Dorsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

I am in strong support of HB1519 and urge you to pass it.

Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active will close a serious loophole and ensure that public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

This bill makes our elections more honest and more transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without causing any perception of political strings attached. Please support.

Thank you

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 12:37:08 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gregory Misakian	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the JHA Committee,

I am submitting testimony as an individual.

I currently serve as the President of the Kokua Council, Vice President of the Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA), and was formerly a Waikiki Neighborhood Board Member from Jan. 2023 until June 2025.

I am in support of HB1519 and thank all legislators who work to provide more transparency regarding campaign contributions.

Respectfully,

Gregory Misakian

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 3:05:43 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB1519

Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active will close a serious loophole and ensure that public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

This bill makes our elections more honest and more transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without causing any perception of political strings attached. Please support. Mahalo

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

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:08:17 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

thank you for supporting this bill

HB-1519

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:33:12 AM
Testimony for JHA on 2/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and I respectfully submit this testimony in support of both HB2052 and HB1519. I offer this testimony as a board member of the Hawai‘i Workers Center and a member of the Honolulu Tenants Union.

Preventing contractors and grantees from donating to politicians is an important safeguard for the integrity of government. These measures would help ensure that decisions about awarding contracts and grants are based on merit and public need—not political donations. When residents can see that government business is conducted free from political influence, trust in elected officials and public institutions grows, strengthening our democracy.

Between the two proposals, I believe HB2052 represents the stronger approach. Drafted by the Campaign Spending Commission, HB2052 is broader in scope, covering all contractors and grantees—including unpaid nonprofit board members—and applies at a lower contribution threshold. This comprehensive coverage would close loopholes and create clearer, more enforceable standards.

HB1519 also takes important steps by incorporating lessons learned from similar legislation that advanced to Conference Committee last year. By focusing on paid officers of organizations and adding disclosure requirements, it reflects thoughtful refinement and addresses some practical concerns raised in prior sessions.

While both bills move Hawai‘i in the right direction, I urge lawmakers to advance HB2052 as the more robust and effective tool for protecting public confidence in government contracting and grant-making.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Hawai‘i Workers Center Board Member

Honolulu Tenants Union

