



STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION


235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 4, 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. 1520, Relating to Campaign Finance.**
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission ("Commission") supports this bill with comments.

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") §11-412(g) by changing the commencement of the statute of limitations period from the date of violation or date of filing of the report to the discovery of the offense by the Commission, and by removing the five-year statute of limitations period. This bill further amends HRS §701-108 to include prosecution under HRS §11-412, with the statute of limitations commencing upon discovery of the offense by the Commission.

While the Commission supports the intent of this bill to provide additional time to investigate potential violations, we are concerned that the proposed amendments may have unintended consequences. Specifically, Section 1 of the bill removes the five-year statute of limitations for commencing prosecution under HRS §11-412(g) and instead applies the statute of limitations in HRS §701-108, as reflected in Section 2 of the bill. Conforming HRS §11-412 to HRS §701-108 would reduce the current five-year statute of limitations for class C felonies and misdemeanors—which comprise most campaign finance law violations—to three years and two years, respectively. To address this concern, we respectfully request that the Commission be provided five years from the date of discovery to commence prosecution of any campaign finance law violation.

The Commission requests that this committee pass this measure with amendments.



**House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports: HB1520
Thursday, February 5th, at 2 pm; Conference Room 325**

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

HAPA strongly supports HB1520, which closes a critical loophole in Hawai'i's campaign finance laws by clarifying that the statute of limitations for criminal violations begins when the offense is discovered by the Campaign Spending Commission, not before.

Campaign finance violations are often concealed and may involve falsified reporting or complicated financial arrangements that are not immediately noticed. When the statute of limitations expires before violations are discovered, enforcement becomes impossible, and misconduct is unchecked.

HB1520 strengthens oversight, promotes fairness, and helps restore public trust in Hawai'i's elections. We urge the committee to pass this measure.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

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

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

HB-1520

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 2:19:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT

HB-1520

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 5:04:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

What a great bill. This puts more teeth in honesty in government. Ty Cullen and Kalani English shamed the legislature, and \$35,000 in a brown bag continues that. Please pass this bill.

HB-1520

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 6:59:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/5/2026 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-1520

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:57:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass!

Judith White, Psy.D.

Member, Kauai Indivisible

HB-1520

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:25:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you for hearing HB1520.

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii

HB-1520

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:39:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support changing the period of limitations for criminal prosecutions for violations of the campaign spending laws.

The proposed change may disincentivize violators from trying to hide their behavior to wait out the limitation and will give investigations more time to unfold.

This change may also be perceived by voters as part of a larger move by the legislature towards cleaning up their ranks.

Thank you for receiving my comments.

HB-1520

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:26:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

thank you

HB-1520

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:37:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ron Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1520.

HB-1520

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:30:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support.

HB-1520

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:43:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB1520.

HB-1520

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:31:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please help keep all public servants accountable for doing what is right and in the public's best interests.

Thank you.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Tuesday, February 5, 2026 at 2 pm

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT - HB 1520, RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE.

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 1520, relating to campaign finance. HB 1520 provides that the period of limitations for criminal prosecutions under campaign finance laws commences upon discovery of the offense by the Campaign Spending Commission, rather than being limited to five years from the violation date or report filing date.

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.

As an attorney licensed in the state of Hawai‘i for over 25 years, it seems clear to me that this change in the start of the statute of limitations for prosecutions under campaign finance law to commence upon the discovery of the offense is in the public interest. The change provided for by HB 1520 will serve to discourage violations of the law as well as the unethical conduct surrounding keeping such violations secret. Hopefully, it will encourage persons with knowledge of offenses to come forward rather than wait for the statute of limitations to run out.

If passed, this bill should enhance public trust in our elected officials and restore faith in government. Based upon the foregoing, I request that you **vote in support of HB 1520**.

Mahalo nui for your efforts to improve upon Hawai‘i’s dark reputation for corruption.

Christine Andrews, J.D.

Wailuku, Maui

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.

HB-1520

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:59:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/5/2026 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.

HB-1520

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:45:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB1520

To the Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Addie Berliner, and I strongly support HB1520.

Removing the five-year filing date limitation is a matter of fairness and justice. Arbitrary deadlines can prevent legitimate claims from ever being heard. HB1520 ensures that cases are evaluated on their merits rather than dismissed due to an inflexible time restriction.

I respectfully urge you to support HB1520 and advance this important reform. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Addie Berliner

HB-1520

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:58:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/5/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Morgan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony to support this bill that starts the lperiod of limitations for campaign finance cases on the date of discovery. These offences should not gp unprosicuted because they were not discovered in time.