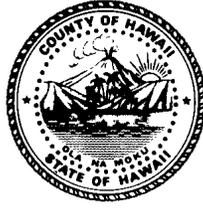


**Jennifer Kagiwada**  
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



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

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: February 25, 2026  
TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member  
Council District 2  
SUBJECT: SB2313

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

I strongly support SB2313. Public campaign financing is essential to keeping Hawaii's elections fair and transparent. In a state with small, island-based communities, personal connections and wealthy donors can give some candidates an unfair advantage over others who may have stronger community support but less funding. By encouraging small contributions from everyday voters, this bill strengthens local participation and ensures candidates reflect the voices of residents rather than private interests. It also builds public trust by making the electoral process more transparent.

Hawaii's unique geography, small districts, and history of close ties between money and politics make public financing a critical tool for fairer elections. This system empowers both candidates and communities, ensuring that political power stays with the people—not outside interests with no regard for local needs.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenn Kagiwada'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jenn Kagiwada

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:51:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition supports SB2313.

If the public's trust in government can be revived, it will be when private and corporate interests are not the primary funders of candidates for office. Most dedicated and honest candidates cannot afford to conduct a modern campaign. This would be a step in the right direction.

Mahalo for your time.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:10:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nako?olani Warrington	Testifying for Kupuna for the Moopuna	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**STRONG SUPPORT for SB 2313 SD1**

Support Clean Elections! Mahalo.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 6:47:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Vice-Chair Moriwaki,

I am writing in strong support of SB2313, which seeks to provide comprehensive public financing for state- and countywide elections beginning in 2028. We have seen the pernicious effects of monied interests in our state politics, which have been increasingly marred by corruption and pay-to-play scandals. Public financing both lowers the bar for talented candidates to run for office and restores the public's trust in our system being a fair one that represents the will of the people. Hawaii is ready to bear the modest cost for a freer and fairer democratic system in exchange for the invaluable faith in our democratic systems. Please amend this bill as it was originally intended and in a form that will pass cleanly through both chambers without the need for reconciliation and the closed-door deliberations that entails.

Mahalo nui loa,

David Ball

Waiialae-Kahala

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:22:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for hearing SB2313.

a member of Indivisible Hawaii

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:58:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB2313.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:01:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

By allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without relying on private donations, this bill helps level the playing field and encourages more community-focused leaders to step forward. It also allows elected officials to spend more time listening to constituents and working on solutions, instead of constantly fundraising.

Hawai‘i has already shown a commitment to clean elections, and past pilot programs demonstrated that public financing can work here.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:40:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

It is obviously vitally important to remove money from elections in Hawaii. One way to do this is public financing. I saw this work when I lived in Maine. Let's learn from successful examples and make elections about the qualifications of the candidates, and not about who has more money.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 2:39:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB2313.

Mahalo,

Kanani Kai

Member Indivisible Hawaii

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 6:00:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please help level the playing field and encourage more community-focused leaders to step forward, and allow elected officials to spend more time listening to constituents and working on solutions, instead of constantly fundraising, by passing this bill

Hawai'i has already shown a commitment to clean elections, and past pilot programs demonstrated that public financing can work here.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:38:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:50:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

I am in strong support of SB2313.

Money shouldn't be the driving factor in elections. Politicians need to be concerned with issues at hand rather than fundraising and bowing to wealthy donors and special interests. We must give everyday people a real voice in our elections. This bill helps level the playing field and encourages more community-focused leaders to step forward.

Mahalo, Gail Morrison, Honolulu 96815

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:55:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

In support

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:44:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in support.



Protect Democracy

Move Forward

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

[info@indivisiblehawaii.org](mailto:info@indivisiblehawaii.org)

**To:** Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee

**Hearing Date/Time:** 03-02-26 10:31 AM

**Place:** Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 211

**Re:** Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2313, SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Indivisible Hawai'i, I thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2313.

Too many people believe our political system is driven by money instead of community needs. Public financing is a proven way to reduce the influence of wealthy donors and special interests, while giving everyday people a real voice in our elections.

By allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without relying on private donations, this bill helps level the playing field and encourages more community-focused leaders to step forward. It also allows elected officials to spend more time listening to constituents and working on solutions instead of constantly fundraising. (Incidentally, Chair Dela Cruz, I'm one of your constituents in Mililani Mauka.)

Hawai'i has already shown a commitment to clean elections, and past pilot programs demonstrated that public financing can work here. We thank you for your support of SB 2313.

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.*

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 4:54:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am testifying today in strong support of SB2313, which would establish a comprehensive system of publicly-financed elections for Hawai‘i.

Our democracy is built on a simple, powerful ideal: that every voter has an equal voice and that elected officials are accountable first and foremost to the people they serve. Yet, the reality of our current campaign finance system has eroded this foundation. Running for office has become a relentless fundraising race, where candidates must spend countless hours dialing for dollars from wealthy individuals, corporations, and special interests.

This creates a cycle of dependency and influence that distorts our democracy. When campaigns are privately funded, candidates are understandably beholden to the priorities of their largest donors. This dynamic shapes which issues are championed, which bills are advanced, and whose voices are heard loudest in the halls of power. It means that a donor with a large checkbook often has more access and influence than an ordinary constituent.

SB2313 offers a transformative solution: it allows qualified candidates to fund their campaigns using public funds, freeing them from the private fundraising treadmill. This "clean elections" model has a proven track record. In jurisdictions that have adopted similar systems—from Maine to Arizona to cities across the nation—we see more competitive races, more diverse candidates who can run without personal wealth or wealthy networks, and legislators who report spending far more time listening to constituents instead of courting donors.

This bill is an investment in the integrity of our government and the power of our people. It puts voters back in the driver's seat. When candidates are not obligated to any special interest, they are free to be truly accountable to the public interest. They can debate policies on their merits, respond to the needs of their communities, and make decisions based on what is best for Hawai‘i's future, not what satisfies a donor.

Publicly financed elections will foster a healthier, more robust democracy where ideas compete on a level playing field, and where any committed citizen of good character can run for office without being forced into a system of legalized corruption.

For a government that is truly of, by, and for the people, I urge you to pass SB2313.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:34:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Justice, M.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network. I strongly support SB2313 which strengthens Hawai'i's public campaign financing system by offering full public funding to qualified candidates for state and county office who agree not to accept private campaign donations. Too many people believe our political system is driven by money instead of community needs. Public financing is a proven way to reduce the influence of wealthy donors and special interests, while giving everyday people a real voice in our elections.

By allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without relying on private donations, this bill helps level the playing field and encourages more community-focused leaders to step forward. It also allows elected officials to spend more time listening to constituents and working on solutions, instead of constantly fundraising.

Hawai'i has already shown a commitment to clean elections, and past pilot programs demonstrated that public financing can work here.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify for this bill.

Robert Justice, M.D., Kapolei

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 5:58:13 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you



## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2313, RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

March 2, 2026

#### To the Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports **SB2313 SD1**. This measure strengthens Hawai'i's commitment to fair, trustworthy elections by reducing the influence, or appearance of influence, of big money in politics and expanding meaningful participation in our democracy.

Free and fair elections depend on public confidence that policy decisions are made in the public interest, not purchased through access or donations. SB2313 SD1 directly responds to long-standing concerns that campaign finance systems can advantage wealthy donors and special interests, and it establishes a voluntary "clean elections" style option so candidates can run viable campaigns without relying on private donations.

With elections too often dominated by those well well-established in politics, who are either incumbents or running for higher office, who use existing connections to raise funds and scare off any competition, it is essential our state and county establish comprehensive public campaign financing to allow anyone with sufficient community support to be able to run without fear of the financial hurdle.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB2313 SD1. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Democratic Party of Hawai'i at [legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org](mailto:legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org).

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 11:28:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

<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 former candidate for State House who ran twice on partial public funding I am writing you in strong support of comprehensive public funding. Everyone else is going to tell you the reasons why this is important (which I sincerely agree with after advocating for publicly funded elections at the County and State level for two decades), so I'd like to focus instead on two points to strengthen this bill.

After reading the current bill I have two items I'd like you to consider.

1) Please consider a change in the formula used for calculations regarding Hawaii County Council funding. \$13,400 is extremely low and would be almost impossible for a first time candidate to run a competitive campaign at that rate. Please consider an amendment to adjust that.

2) I continue to remain of the mind that unless and until ALL candidates are required to abide by the same contribution and expenditure restrictions, regardless of public financing or otherwise, it will be impossible to have truly "free and fair" elections. Please continue to use your positions of influence to advocate for ways to get private interest money out of our elections.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Shannon M.

Hawai'i Island Resident

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:25:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:58:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

TY!

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 1:15:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee  
I am in strong support of SB2313.*

*Too many people believe our political system is driven by money instead of community needs.  
Public financing is a proven way to reduce the influence of wealthy donors and special interests,  
while giving everyday people a real voice in our elections.*

*By allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without relying on private donations, this  
bill helps level the playing field and encourages more community-focused leaders to step  
forward. It also allows elected officials to spend more time listening to constituents and working  
on solutions, instead of constantly fundraising.*

*Hawai'i has already shown a commitment to clean elections, and past pilot programs  
demonstrated that public financing can work here.*

*Mahalo,*

*Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo*

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 2:53:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mala Wingerd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

**I support of SB2313.**

Although I support any and all efforts to get corporate 'bribes' out of our politics, this bill is still not enough! We should require ALL candidates use only public money, and no longer allow ads or money from *any* private 'donors'! They do this in France, and although their govt is not perfect, it a good start to cleaning up graft!

Thank you for reviewing our comments.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 5:20:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, STRONGLY OPPOSE

CAMPAIGN DONTATION/FUNDRAISING FOR PUBLIC OFFICE.

THIS IS THE ONLY POSITION IN THE USA W/O A JOB INTERVIEW. PAY TO PLAY.

2313 SB RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 6:14:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you!

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 7:34:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB2313.

Too many people believe our political system is driven by money and not community needs. Public financing is a proven way to reduce the influence of wealthy donors and special interests, while giving everyday people a real voice in our elections.

By allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without relying on private donations, this bill helps level the playing field and encourages more community-focused leaders to step forward. It also allows elected officials to spend more time listening to constituents and working on solutions, instead of constantly fundraising.

Hawai'i has already shown a commitment to clean elections, and past pilot programs demonstrated that public financing can work here. And we want to provide candidates who can get things done for the people, and not just wealthy people who have enough money to support politicians.

Mahalo,

Jen Lum, 'Ewa Beach

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 7:36:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Shimata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee  
I am in strong support of SB2313.*

*Many people believe our political system is driven by money instead of community needs. Public financing is a proven way to reduce the influence of wealthy donors and special interests, while giving everyday people a real voice in our elections.*

*By allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without relying on private donations, this bill helps level the playing field and encourages more community-focused leaders to step forward. It also allows elected officials to spend more time listening to constituents and working on solutions, instead of constantly fundraising.*

*Hawai'i has already shown a commitment to clean elections, and past pilot programs demonstrated that public financing can work here. Please support SB2313.*

*Mahalo,*

*Kathy Shimata*

*Honolulu*

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 7:40:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB2313 SD1 and am pleased to see that Senator Gabbard who represents my district of Kapolei is a co-introducer of this bill.

I believe that many voters may feel that their legislators are more responsive to the needs and interests of big donors to their campaigns and less responsive to the average constituents in their community. This attitude may result in feelings of helplessness to affect the lawmaking process, alienation from civic involvement, and declining to exercise the all-important right to vote.

Full public financing of campaigns will counter this perception because it levels the playing field, allows new blood to run for office without concerns about raising large sums of money, and frees legislators to legislate rather than fund-raising.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:09:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee  
I am in strong support of SB2313.

Too many people believe our political system is driven by money instead of community needs. Public financing is a proven way to reduce the influence of wealthy donors and special interests, while giving everyday people a real voice in our elections.

By allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without relying on private donations, this bill helps level the playing field and encourages more community-focused leaders to step forward. It also allows elected officials to spend more time listening to constituents and working on solutions, instead of constantly fundraising.

Hawai'i has already shown a commitment to clean elections, and past pilot programs demonstrated that public financing can work here.

We must make our elections and government more transparent.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony,

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:11:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Charlene K. Rowley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee  
I am in strong support of SB2313.

Too many people believe our political system is driven by money instead of community needs. Public financing is a proven way to reduce the influence of wealthy donors and special interests, while giving everyday people a real voice in our elections.

By allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without relying on private donations, this bill helps level the playing field and encourages more community-focused leaders to step forward. It also allows elected officials to spend more time listening to constituents and working on solutions, instead of constantly fundraising.

Hawai'i has already shown a commitment to clean elections, and past pilot programs demonstrated that public financing can work here. Please restore our faith in congress by supporting this measure and passing meaningful reforms this legislative cycle.

Sincerely,

Charlene Kiana Rowley, Kula Maui

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:13:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Greetings Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of SB2313, which will provide comprehensive public funding of elections. By providing full public financing for qualified candidates, SB 2313 will break the link between private money and electoral success. This will create a fairer and more honest system where elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than big donors.

So many people today are highly cynical about the political process and distrustful of politicians. We need to get the influence of big money out of politics!! We have had too many examples recently of why this is needed!

Mahalo for your attention.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:16:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

I fully support SB2313. It's about time we removed big money from our elections. Hawai'i's political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 2313 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

By providing full public financing for qualified candidates, SB 2313 will break the link between private money and electoral success. This will create a fairer and more honest system where elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than big donors. Importantly, similar programs in other states show that public financing does not lead to higher incumbent turnover or drastic shifts in political makeup, but it does change who holds influence in government—ensuring that everyday people, not just the wealthy few, have a voice.

Public financing is both popular and cost-effective. Three out of four voters support a clean elections program. States like Connecticut and Maine have successfully run similar programs for decades, and Hawai'i County piloted a version in 2010 and 2012. Even if Hawai'i saw higher participation rates than any other state, estimates show the cost would be less than \$10 million per year—just 0.05% of the state budget. That's under \$7 per resident or less than \$1 per tourist—a small price to pay for a more transparent, accountable government.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:25:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawaii’s public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Hawai‘i’s political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 2313 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

By providing full public financing for qualified candidates, SB 2313 will break the link between private money and electoral success. This will create a fairer and more honest system where elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than big donors. Importantly, similar programs in other states show that public financing does not lead to higher incumbent turnover or drastic shifts in political makeup, but it does change who holds influence in government—ensuring that everyday people, not just the wealthy few, have a voice.

Public financing is both popular and cost-effective. Three out of four voters support a clean elections program. States like Connecticut and Maine have successfully run similar programs for decades, and Hawai‘i County piloted a version in 2010 and 2012. Even if Hawai‘i saw higher participation rates than any other state, estimates show the cost would be less than \$10 million per year—just 0.05% of the state budget. That’s under \$7 per resident or less than \$1 per tourist—a small price to pay for a more transparent, accountable government.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Julia Marrack

Kamuela, 96743



**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:45:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:53:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawaii’s public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Hawai‘i’s political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 2313 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

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For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:53:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I am writing to ask that you support SB2313 the Comprehensive Public Financing of Elections bill.

Thank you for your attention and onsideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:56:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

My name is Jane Arnold and I live in Kaimuki. I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawaii's public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:58:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
frederick a.nitta, md, inc	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Passing this bill is one of the only means of establishing trust in our government. For too long, special interests have controlled the entire state. As a service to all present and future residents of Hawaii, please change the status quo, where those in power control the state for their own interests.

Please choose the path that is good for all of us.

Dr. Frederick A Nitta, M.D., Inc.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 9:08:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jodi Robinson, and I am testifying in strong support of Senate Bill 2313 as an individual.

I care deeply about strengthening democracy in Hawai‘i, especially creating pathways for more grassroots and community-based candidates to run and win. Over the years, I have watched how powerful special interests shape elections—both locally and nationally. The constant pressure to raise money from large donors and PACs distorts who can run, who can compete, and ultimately who gets heard. It has become clear to me that we must begin to decouple money from politics if we want a government that truly reflects our communities.

Too often, fundraising ability, not community trust or lived experience, determines viability. This discourages everyday leaders, especially working parents, young people, and those without wealthy networks, from even considering a run for office. SB 2313 offers a meaningful solution by strengthening Hawai‘i’s public campaign financing system and allowing qualified candidates to run competitive campaigns without relying on special interest money.

Public financing changes who has influence. It allows candidates to spend their time talking with constituents rather than dialing for dollars. Evidence from other states shows that clean elections programs do not destabilize political systems or create extreme swings, but they do make space for a broader range of candidates and reduce the outsized power of wealthy donors.

This reform is also practical and cost-effective. Even at high participation levels, the estimated cost would represent a tiny fraction of the state budget. An investment of just a few dollars per resident each year to strengthen public trust and accountability in government. SB 2313 would help ensure that elected officials are accountable first and foremost to the people they represent, instead of those who contribute resources to their campaigns.

I respectfully urge you to pass SB 2313.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 9:29:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawaii’s public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Dr. Laurence Ward, ND

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 9:32:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Donna Sue Shepherd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STOP BACK DOOR CORUPTION BY OUR LEADERS FOR GOOD NOW!!

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 9:33:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
JNovel808	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in favor of public financing for elections to help ensure that all elections are clean and clear.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 9:40:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

support

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 9:49:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawaii’s public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Hawai‘i’s political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 2313 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

By providing full public financing for qualified candidates, SB 2313 will break the link between private money and electoral success. This will create a fairer and more honest system where elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than big donors. Importantly, similar programs in other states show that public financing does not lead to higher incumbent turnover or drastic shifts in political makeup, but it does change who holds influence in government—ensuring that everyday people, not just the wealthy few, have a voice.

Public financing is both popular and cost-effective. Three out of four voters support a clean elections program. States like Connecticut and Maine have successfully run similar programs for decades, and Hawai‘i County piloted a version in 2010 and 2012. Even if Hawai‘i saw higher participation rates than any other state, estimates show the cost would be less than \$10 million per year—just 0.05% of the state budget. That’s under \$7 per resident or less than \$1 per tourist—a small price to pay for a more transparent, accountable government.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Tanja Miller

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 10:00:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brodie Lockard.

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawaii’s public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Hawai‘i’s political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 2313 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

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For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 10:11:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

We need to have fair elections. End pay to play.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 10:11:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawaii’s public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Hawai‘i’s political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 2313 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

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For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 10:13:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

<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:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

It's past time to do something about the corrrpting influnce of money in our politics. Voters expect and deserve bettter,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawaii’s public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Hawai‘i’s political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 2313 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

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For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 10:23:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawaii’s public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Hawai‘i’s political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 2313 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

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For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Safia Gravel, Hilo HI



**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 10:31:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

I like the idea of equal public financing for qualified candidates. I think this will be fairer than big donors. Vote support!

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 10:36:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in favor of SB2313

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 10:38:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strongly support!

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 10:57:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Elizabeth Nelson and I strongly support this measure. I have heard over and over that people do not feel their votes count, that the money people will take over the vote anyway. We need to change this. So I am counting on you to help this happen.

Thank you, Elizabeth Nelson

Kaneohe

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 11:00:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawaii’s public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Hawai‘i’s political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 2313 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

By providing full public financing for qualified candidates, SB 2313 will break the link between private money and electoral success. This will create a fairer and more honest system where elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than big donors. Importantly, similar programs in other states show that public financing does not lead to higher incumbent turnover or drastic shifts in political makeup, but it does change who holds influence in government—ensuring that everyday people, not just the wealthy few, have a voice.

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For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Andrew Isoda  
Lahaina ‘ Mau’i



**COMMENTS ON SB2313 SD1**  
RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR  
CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ke Ki‘ina Hana a me nā  
Kumuwaiwai  
Ke Kapikala o Hawai‘i

Malaki 2, 2026

10:31AM

Lumi 211

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Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers **COMMENTS** on **SB2313 SD1**, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for candidates running for office in State and County elections.

OHA supports public financing as a good government measure. Increased access to publicly financed campaigns makes elections more accessible, open, and fair. However, OHA is concerned about the disparate funding provisions included in this proposed measure. In SB2313 SD1, OHA candidates participating in the program would receive a maximum \$40,000 in public funds. Candidates for OHA Trustee are required to run statewide election campaigns on par with candidates for Lieutenant Governor, who receive a maximum \$1,200,000. In the 2024 General Election, the OHA Moloka‘i-Lāna‘i race received 287,216 votes, the Kaua‘i race received 284,571 votes, and the OHA At-Large race received 325,858 votes. In the 2022 Primary Election, the Democrat Lieutenant Governor’s race received a total of 242,350 votes, and the Republican Lieutenant Governor’s race received 66,830 votes.

For the public financing program to meet its full potential and appropriately fund OHA candidates, **we respectfully request that section 2, lines 13-15 be amended for OHA candidates to receive \$804,000 in the primary, \$396,000 in the general, for a maximum of \$1,200,000, on par with the lieutenant governor.** This amendment is necessary for candidates for OHA Trustee to effectively reach voters Statewide and run well-informed and fair campaigns.

For the reasons stated above, OHA respectfully urges this committee to **consider our concerns and adopt our proposed amendment** to help us better serve our Constitutional obligations to Native Hawaiians and promote equitable governance. Without these amendments, candidates for OHA Trustee do not have equal access to public financing provisions.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this critical issue.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 11:33:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawaii’s public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Hawai‘i’s political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 2313 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

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For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 11:46:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

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Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawaii’s public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Hawai‘i’s political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 2313 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

By providing full public financing for qualified candidates, SB 2313 will break the link between private money and electoral success. This will create a fairer and more honest system where elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than big donors. Importantly, similar programs in other states show that public financing does not lead to higher incumbent turnover or drastic shifts in political makeup, but it does change who holds influence in government—ensuring that everyday people, not just the wealthy few, have a voice.

Public financing is both popular and cost-effective. Three out of four voters support a clean elections program. States like Connecticut and Maine have successfully run similar programs for decades, and Hawai‘i County piloted a version in 2010 and 2012. Even if Hawai‘i saw higher participation rates than any other state, estimates show the cost would be less than \$10 million per year—just 0.05% of the state budget. That’s under \$7 per resident or less than \$1 per tourist—a small price to pay for a more transparent, accountable government.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 11:48:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Lindsay Roth, and I am a licensed clinical social worker and small business owner on Hawai'i Island. I am writing in strong support of SB2313.

In my clinical practice, I see firsthand how policy decisions ripple into the daily lives of individuals and families. When legislation prioritizes fairness, transparency, and community well-being, it strengthens not only our systems but also the mental and emotional health of our people.

SB2313 represents a thoughtful step toward building a more accountable and resilient Hawai'i. Policies that protect community interests and promote long-term stability reduce stress, increase trust in institutions, and support collective well-being. Prevention-oriented legislation is far more effective — and humane — than responding after harm has already occurred.

As a social worker, I understand that systemic stressors compound over time. Strengthening safeguards at the policy level protects families, keiki, and future generations from preventable hardship.

I respectfully urge you to pass SB2313.

Mahalo for your time and service to our state.

Sincerely,  
Lindsay Roth, LCSW  
Hawai'i Island

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Monday, March 2, 2026 at 10:31 am  
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2313, SD1 - RELATING TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR CANDIDATES TO ELECTED OFFICE.**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Senator Hashimoto for my district, Senator DeCoite for Upcountry Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews. I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui and an attorney licensed for over 25 years. I write to you today in **strong support of SB 2313, SD1**, Relating to Public Financing for Candidates to Elected Office, which 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; requires the Campaign Spending Commission to submit reports to the Legislature; and appropriates funds.

As a resident of Maui, it is time to get money out of our politics. Here on Maui, large global corporations and outside investors and developers have influenced our policies in a way that harms our environment, our communities, and our sense of trust in government. Methods of financing political campaigns should enable candidates to compete equitably for public office and ensure that candidates have sufficient funds to communicate their messages to the public.

Comprehensive public funding programs are the best way to meet these goals. It is far past time for the comprehensive reform envisioned by SB 2313, SD1, and while the investment it will require is substantial, the dividends of such a program will enhance government efficiency by reducing corruption and self-dealing by our electeds. The money available to candidates through Hawaii's Partial Public Funding Program (PPFP) has not changed in over twenty years. Over that time, increases in media prices, postage, and labor costs have made the current amounts inadequate, far below amounts spent by privately funded candidates who won election to the same office. As a result of the disparity, the number of candidates using PPFP continues to decrease. It is time for the comprehensive public funding program envisioned by SB 2313, SD1. **I call upon you all to bring this vision to fruition by voting in support of SB 2313, SD1.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony,

Christine Andrews, JD  
Wailuku, Maui

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:07:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Until we get corporate aand big spender support out of our elections, we will continue to experience these unfortunate election mishaps. Money should not sway elections and at this time, it is really the only thing that matters. Please support this bill to level the playing field.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:36:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support the goals of this bill, which include, but not limited to the following:

- Reduce influence of large donors
- Encourage more people to run for office
- Increase transparency and trust in elections

Mahalo,

Brian C. Mark

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:41:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawaii’s public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Hawai‘i’s political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 2313 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

By providing full public financing for qualified candidates, SB 2313 will break the link between private money and electoral success. This will create a fairer and more honest system where elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than big donors. Importantly, similar programs in other states show that public financing does not lead to higher incumbent turnover or drastic shifts in political makeup, but it does change who holds influence in government—ensuring that everyday people, not just the wealthy few, have a voice.

Public financing is both popular and cost-effective. Three out of four voters support a clean elections program. States like Connecticut and Maine have successfully run similar programs for decades, and Hawai‘i County piloted a version in 2010 and 2012. Even if Hawai‘i saw higher participation rates than any other state, estimates show the cost would be less than \$10 million per year—just 0.05% of the state budget. That’s under \$7 per resident or less than \$1 per tourist—a small price to pay for a more transparent, accountable government.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

The Rev David J. Gierlach



**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 1:02:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

<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-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 1:13:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Barbour	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawai'i's public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

The following has been written by the Our Hawai'i campaign, and I attest that I have read and strongly agree with all of it.

Hawai'i's political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 2313 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

By providing full public financing for qualified candidates, SB 2313 will break the link between private money and electoral success. This will create a fairer and more honest system where elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than big donors. Importantly, similar programs in other states show that public financing does not lead to higher incumbent turnover or drastic shifts in political makeup, but it does change who holds influence in government—ensuring that everyday people, not just the wealthy few, have a voice.

Public financing is both popular and cost-effective. Three out of four voters support a clean elections program. States like Connecticut and Maine have successfully run similar programs for decades, and Hawai'i County piloted a version in 2010 and 2012. Even if Hawai'i saw higher participation rates than any other state, estimates show the cost would be less than \$10 million per year—just 0.05% of the state budget. That's under \$7 per resident or less than \$1 per tourist—a small price to pay for a more transparent, accountable government.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 1:37:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

**Strong Support for SB2313 — Comprehensive Public Financing of Elections**

Aloha Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Christopher Egbo, and I am a concerned citizen of Honolulu writing in strong support of SB2313, which would establish a comprehensive system of public financing for candidates seeking election to state and county offices in Hawai‘i.

Our state is at a crossroads. Recent headlines about bribery allegations, undisclosed campaign donations, and the ongoing federal cases that sent former legislators to prison have eroded public trust in our government . We cannot afford a "pay-to-play" culture where everyday citizens wonder if decisions are made for the public good or for the highest bidder. SB2313 offers a clear path forward.

The statistics around campaign financing are telling. When legislators must constantly raise money from a small pool of large donors, it creates a system where access is limited to the wealthy and well-connected. SB2313 flips that model. By providing public financing for candidates who agree to reject private contributions, we allow our leaders to focus on representing their constituents—not courting donors . This is a win-win for our communities: voters get representatives who answer to them, and qualified candidates from all walks of life can run for office without being wealthy or reliant on special interests.

As the Clean Elections Hawai‘i coalition has made clear, this is not an anti-business measure—it is pro-democracy, pro-transparency, and pro-people . It ensures that our government works for everyone, not just those who can write large checks. With each new corruption scandal, the cost of inaction grows higher. Investing in publicly financed elections is investing in the integrity of our government itself.

In the wake of repeated ethics failures—from the 2022 convictions of Kalani English and Ty Cullen to the more recent questions surrounding the 2022 legislative session—our reliance on a donor-driven system has proven unsustainable . SB2313 would ensure that candidates are accountable to voters, not special interests. It would open up the political process to everyday people and restore faith that our leaders are working for us.

This is a smart, necessary, and long-overdue investment in the future of our democracy. I urge you to support SB2313.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Christopher Egbo  
Concerned Citizen of Honolulu

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 1:49:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support comprehensive full public funding of elections. No half measures - We need Clean Elections now.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 1:55:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am a resident in the State of Hawaii and I support this Bill

Hope that the Legislature approves this Bill based on the desires of the population.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 2:01:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

I urge you to support this bill.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 2:11:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawai‘i’s public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Hawai‘i’s political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 2313 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

By providing full public financing for qualified candidates, SB 2313 will break the link between private money and electoral success. This will create a fairer and more honest system where elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than big donors. Importantly, similar programs in other states show that public financing does not lead to higher incumbent turnover or drastic shifts in political makeup, but it does change who holds influence in government—ensuring that everyday people, not just the wealthy few, have a voice.

Public financing is both popular and cost-effective. Three out of four voters support a clean elections program. States like Connecticut and Maine have successfully run similar programs for decades, and Hawai‘i County piloted a version in 2010 and 2012. Even if Hawai‘i saw higher participation rates than any other state, estimates show the cost would be less than \$10 million per year—just 0.05% of the state budget. That’s under \$7 per resident or less than \$1 per tourist—a small price to pay for a more transparent, accountable government.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 2:19:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank DeGiacomo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawaii’s public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Hawai‘i’s political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 2313 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

By providing full public financing for qualified candidates, SB 2313 will break the link between private money and electoral success. This will create a fairer and more honest system where elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than big donors. Importantly, similar programs in other states show that public financing does not lead to higher incumbent turnover or drastic shifts in political makeup, but it does change who holds influence in government—ensuring that everyday people, not just the wealthy few, have a voice.

***Hawai`i is facing an existential crisis. Between various climate catastrophes that are coming any day, a potential financial crisis resulting from the federal government being dismantled and fragile economic conditions for the country as whole due to tariffs/low wages/high debt loads/high housing and medical costs etc., to the brain drain from Hawai`i due to the high cost of living, as well as the coming AI unemployment tsunami, if you at all care about this state we need lots of change faster. Currently special interest money from rich folks and corporations is slamming the breaks on absolutely***

***imperative change. We need the ability to elect people to provide bold leadership that will have an agenda of change in favor of everyday people. Instead we're arguing over saving your jobs and spending \$10mil.***

Public financing is both popular and cost-effective. Three out of four voters support a clean elections program. States like Connecticut and Maine have successfully run similar programs for decades, and Hawai'i County piloted a version in 2010 and 2012. Even if Hawai'i saw higher participation rates than any other state, estimates show the cost would be less than \$10 million per year—just 0.05% of the state budget. That's under \$7 per resident or less than \$1 per tourist—a small price to pay for a more transparent, accountable government.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 2:20:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawaii’s public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Hawai‘i’s political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 2313 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

By providing full public financing for qualified candidates, SB 2313 will break the link between private money and electoral success. This will create a fairer and more honest system where elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than big donors. Importantly, similar programs in other states show that public financing does not lead to higher incumbent turnover or drastic shifts in political makeup, but it does change who holds influence in government, ensuring that everyday people, not just the wealthy few, have a voice.

Public financing is both popular and cost-effective. Three out of four voters support a clean elections program. States like Connecticut and Maine have successfully run similar programs for decades, and Hawai‘i County piloted a version in 2010 and 2012. Even if Hawai‘i saw higher participation rates than any other state, estimates show the cost would be less than \$10 million per year—just 0.05% of the state budget. That’s under \$7 per resident or less than \$1 per tourist, a small price to pay for a more transparent, accountable government.

I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 2:38:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
janice palma-glenie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

cleaning up elections, including getting special interest money out of campaigns is THE most importnat way to help protect and improve our democracy.

Hawai`i Island had a good program years ago, but it had glitches that needed working out. instead, the program was dropped -- unitl, hopefully, now.

your voice, your integrity, your power are needed to help prerserve the concept of a public-driven republic. Here's your big chance to make a positive impact on all of us and the keiki of the future.

mahalo for support SB2313.

janice palma-glennie

kailua-kona

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 3:00:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Nanea Lo**, and I am a resident of Hawai‘i. I am submitting this testimony in **strong support of SB2313**, which establishes a system of comprehensive public financing for candidates for state and county office beginning with the 2028 general election.

I support this bill because Hawai‘i’s current campaign finance system too often gives outsized influence to wealthy donors and special interests instead of everyday voters. Candidates should be able to focus on serving their communities—not spending countless hours fundraising or relying on large private contributions. SB2313 helps shift the balance of power back to the people by allowing candidates with genuine grassroots support to run viable campaigns without dependence on big money.

Comprehensive public financing strengthens our democracy by reducing the influence of special interests, increasing public trust in elected officials, and encouraging broader participation in civic life. When campaigns are funded by the public, elected leaders are accountable to voters—not donors. This system also opens the door for more working-class residents, young people, and community leaders to run for office, bringing diverse perspectives into government.

SB2313 builds on Hawai‘i’s long-standing commitment to ethical governance and fair elections. By investing in clean, publicly financed elections, we invest in a more transparent, inclusive, and accountable democracy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **pass SB2313**.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Member

Hawai‘i Workers Center Board Member

Clean Elections Hawai‘i Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

350 Hawai'i Member

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i Member

Hawai'i Tax Fairness Coalition Member

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 4:10:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I support this measure wholeheartedly. We need an even playing field for ALL potential candidates, not just the ones with name recognition. I would love to see younger folks with great ideas, honesty and a love for Hawaii be able to be elected for the betterment of Hawaii's future.

Even the playing field. Give new ideas a chance to be heard.

Imua,

Pamela Burrell, Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 4:30:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

When 2 in 3 people believe their elected officials answer to donors before constituents, that's not cynicism, that's learned distrust.

SB2313 would strengthen Hawaii's public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Full public financing means a candidate from Pālolo or Pāhoa can run a real campaign and win with community support, rather than just check writers.

States like Connecticut and Maine have successfully run similar programs for decades, and Hawai'i County piloted a version in 2010 and 2012.

Estimates show the cost would be less than \$10 million per year, or 0.05% of the state budget. That's under \$7 per resident or less than \$1 per tourist!

3 out of 4 voters support clean elections. The people are already there; the question is whether this body is willing to meet them.

We deserve a government that answers to the people. For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 2313.

Mahalo.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 4:32:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

**Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,**

**I am in strong support of SB2313.**

**Too many people believe our political system is driven by money instead of community needs. Public financing is a proven way to reduce the influence of wealthy donors and special interests, while giving everyday people a real voice in our elections.**

**By allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without relying on private donations, this bill helps level the playing field and encourages more community-focused leaders to step forward. It also allows elected officials to spend more time listening to constituents and working on solutions, instead of constantly fundraising.**

**Hawai'i has already shown a commitment to clean elections, and past pilot programs demonstrated that public financing can work here.**

Mahalo, Jane Aquino, Oahu

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 5:12:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
The Rev. Prof. GREGORY JOHNSON	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keep our elections CLEAN and FREE of undisclosed financial contributions.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 5:18:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I urge you to support Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawaii’s public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Hawai‘i’s political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 2313 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

By providing full public financing for qualified candidates, SB 2313 will break the link between private money and electoral success. This will create a fairer and more honest system where elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than big donors. Importantly, similar programs in other states show that public financing does not lead to higher incumbent turnover or drastic shifts in political makeup, but it does change who holds influence in government—ensuring that everyday people, not just the wealthy few, have a voice.

Public financing is both popular and cost-effective. Three out of four voters support a clean elections program. States like Connecticut and Maine have successfully run similar programs for decades, and Hawai‘i County piloted a version in 2010 and 2012. Even if Hawai‘i saw higher participation rates than any other state, estimates show the cost would be less than \$10 million per year—just 0.05% of the state budget. That’s under \$7 per resident or less than \$1 per tourist—a small price to pay for a more transparent, accountable government.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai‘i.

Thank you

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 5:34:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou, I have supported Clean Elections in Hawai‘i since 2005 and give my strong support for SB2313. 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. 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 SB2313 now. Mahalo!

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 5:40:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawai‘i’s public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Hawai‘i’s political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 2313 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

By providing full public financing for qualified candidates, SB 2313 will break the link between private money and electoral success. This will create a fairer and more honest system where elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than big donors. Importantly, similar programs in other states show that public financing does not lead to higher incumbent turnover or drastic shifts in political makeup, but it does change who holds influence in government—ensuring that everyday people, not just the wealthy few, have a voice.

Public financing is both popular and cost-effective. Three out of four voters support a clean elections program. States like Connecticut and Maine have successfully run similar programs for decades, and Hawai‘i County piloted a version in 2010 and 2012. Even if Hawai‘i saw higher participation rates than any other state, estimates show the cost would be less than \$10 million per year—just 0.05% of the state budget. That’s under \$7 per resident or less than \$1 per tourist—a small price to pay for a more transparent, accountable government.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 5:49:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Peter R Daspit	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawaii’s public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Hawai‘i’s political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 2313 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

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For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Peter Daspit, Kailua



**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 5:59:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Yes Please, lets make funding election campagins easier for the candidates. There has to be some method to fund campagins that will weed out wanna be non-serious candidates, but I'm not sure how to fairly make this determination, but it should be well explained in this law.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:24:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawaii’s public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Hawai‘i’s political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 2313 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

By providing full public financing for qualified candidates, SB 2313 will break the link between private money and electoral success. This will create a fairer and more honest system where elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than big donors. Importantly, similar programs in other states show that public financing does not lead to higher incumbent turnover or drastic shifts in political makeup, but it does change who holds influence in government—ensuring that everyday people, not just the wealthy few, have a voice.

Public financing is both popular and cost-effective. Three out of four voters support a clean elections program. States like Connecticut and Maine have successfully run similar programs for decades, and Hawai‘i County piloted a version in 2010 and 2012. Even if Hawai‘i saw higher participation rates than any other state, estimates show the cost would be less than \$10 million per year—just 0.05% of the state budget. That’s under \$7 per resident or less than \$1 per tourist—a small price to pay for a more transparent, accountable government.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 9:32:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C.Yamamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*I am in strong support of SB2313.*

*Too many people believe our political system is driven by money instead of community needs. Public financing is a proven way to reduce the influence of wealthy donors and special interests, while giving everyday people a real voice in our elections.*

*By allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without relying on private donations, this bill helps level the playing field and encourages more community-focused leaders to step forward. It also allows elected officials to spend more time listening to constituents and working on solutions, instead of constantly fundraising.*

*Hawai'i has already shown a commitment to clean elections, and past pilot programs demonstrated that public financing can work here.*

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 10:08:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawaii’s public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Hawai‘i’s political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 2313 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

By providing full public financing for qualified candidates, SB 2313 will break the link between private money and electoral success. This will create a fairer and more honest system where elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than big donors. Importantly, similar programs in other states show that public financing does not lead to higher incumbent turnover or drastic shifts in political makeup, but it does change who holds influence in government—ensuring that everyday people, not just the wealthy few, have a voice.

Public financing is both popular and cost-effective. Three out of four voters support a clean elections program. States like Connecticut and Maine have successfully run similar programs for decades, and Hawai‘i County piloted a version in 2010 and 2012. Even if Hawai‘i saw higher participation rates than any other state, estimates show the cost would be less than \$10 million per year—just 0.05% of the state budget. That’s under \$7 per resident or less than \$1 per tourist—a small price to pay for a more transparent, accountable government.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Eileen Cain  
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635  
eileencaïn808@gmail.com  
February 26, 2026

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair,  
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Aloha, Senators,

**I am submitting this testimony in support of SB2313 SD1, "Relating to Public Financing for Candidates to Elected Office." This bill would have numerous beneficial outcomes for the people of Hawai'i.**

- The public's perception of corruption in elected office would be addressed by this bill. SB2313 SD1 proposes to eliminate one possible source of corruption, namely campaign contributions by monied interests.
- 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.
- 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.
- We citizens could believe 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.
- In addition, some people don't run for office, even though they are qualified and have good ideas for the State, because they can't afford campaign expenses. Trying to work for a living, raise a family, and raise funds to run for office is too hard. Thus, the public misses out on candidates who might be knowledgeable and serve them well. **Publicly financed elections** would eliminate this barrier for qualified candidates that the voting public might choose to represent them.

Please vote in favor of **SB2313 SD1**.

Mahalo,

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

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 10:22:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

This bill supports elected officials who are not beholden to private interests, and frees them from the constant strain of fund-raising. Pilot programs have shown great promise. Let's build on them.

mahalo,  
Cory Harden

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 12:34:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB2313

Mahalo, Robin

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 6:09:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2313, which would strengthen Hawaii’s public campaign financing system and help reduce the influence of money in our elections.

Hawai‘i’s political system is broken. The heavy reliance on campaign contributions from wealthy donors and special interests has led to a system where 2 in 3 people believe elected officials are more focused on the interests of their donors than the needs of their communities. As a result, good policies are often blocked while harmful ones move forward. This dynamic erodes public trust and encourages corruption. SB 2313 is a critical step toward fixing this broken system by allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without being dependent on special interest money.

By providing full public financing for qualified candidates, SB 2313 will break the link between private money and electoral success. This will create a fairer and more honest system where elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than big donors. Importantly, similar programs in other states show that public financing does not lead to higher incumbent turnover or drastic shifts in political makeup, but it does change who holds influence in government—ensuring that everyday people, not just the wealthy few, have a voice.

Public financing is both popular and cost-effective. Three out of four voters support a clean elections program. States like Connecticut and Maine have successfully run similar programs for decades, and Hawai‘i County piloted a version in 2010 and 2012. Even if Hawai‘i saw higher participation rates than any other state, estimates show the cost would be less than \$10 million per year—just 0.05% of the state budget. That’s under \$7 per resident or less than \$1 per tourist—a small price to pay for a more transparent, accountable government.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 2313. This bill will restore trust in our democracy, empower candidates to focus on their communities rather than fundraising, and ensure that our government truly serves the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Nancy Harter, Lahaina, HI

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 7:08:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please give Hawai'i clean elections.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 7:16:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Margaret ANN Renick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please PASS this much needed bill!!! Mahalo

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 8:25:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvette Kay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee  
I am in strong support of SB2313.*

*Too many people believe our political system is driven by money instead of community needs.  
Public financing is a proven way to reduce the influence of wealthy donors and special interests,  
while giving everyday people a real voice in our elections.*

*By allowing candidates to run competitive campaigns without relying on private donations, this  
bill helps level the playing field and encourages more community-focused leaders to step  
forward. It also allows elected officials to spend more time listening to constituents and working  
on solutions, instead of constantly fundraising.*

*Hawai'i has already shown a commitment to clean elections, and past pilot programs  
demonstrated that public financing can work here.*

*Mahalo,*

*Yvette Kay*

*Kailua Kona, HI*

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 8:35:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB2313 and **clean elections**. Please do not unalive these bills!

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 8:35:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit testimony in strong support of SB2313, which establishes a comprehensive system of public financing for candidates seeking election to state and county offices in Hawai‘i beginning in the 2028 election cycle.

Public financing of elections represents an important investment in strengthening Hawai‘i’s democracy by ensuring that participation in public office is accessible to community leaders from all socioeconomic backgrounds, not only those with access to significant financial networks or private fundraising resources.

Hawai‘i’s communities are rich with cultural knowledge, lived experience, and local leadership. However, the rising cost of running for office continues to create barriers that disproportionately impact Native Hawaiian leaders, working class residents, young professionals, and individuals rooted in community service rather than political fundraising structures. SB2313 helps remove these structural barriers by allowing candidates to focus on community engagement, policy solutions, and constituent needs instead of continuous fundraising obligations.

A comprehensive public financing system promotes greater equity in political participation, increased transparency and public trust in government, reduced reliance on large private donations, and broader representation reflective of Hawai‘i’s diverse communities.

When candidates are empowered to run viable campaigns without dependence on major donors, policymaking becomes more responsive to residents rather than financial influence. This

strengthens public confidence in government institutions and encourages civic participation across the state.

SB2313 builds upon Hawai'i's commitment to fair elections by modernizing and expanding access to public campaign financing in a way that supports competitive, community centered elections statewide.

Investing in democratic access today helps ensure stronger governance and more representative leadership for future generations.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS SB2313.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**SB-2313-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 9:01:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

By providing full public financing for qualified candidates, SB 2313 will break the link between private money and electoral success.

Elected officials are accountable to their constituents rather than BIG donors.