

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:55:30 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>
John & Rita Shockley	Testifying for Free Access Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition supports SB2530.

Hawaii is a small state. We cannot afford candidates who receive "pay-to-play" contributions by private and corporate entities.

We need to rebuild trust in our government. This is a step in that direction.

Mahalo for your time.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:13:50 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>
Nakoʻolani Warrington	Testifying for Kupuna for the Moopuna	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**STRONG SUPPORT for SB 2530 SD1.**

Mahalo.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:16:15 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>
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

*My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i, I am writing , on behalf of our members, in very strong support of SB2530. SD1.*

*This measure will close a very important loophole in our "pay to play" version of politics. Money corrupts elections and this is a small move towards fairer elections. It will also provide some level of transparency and help to keep the electorate from being puppets for the contractors. Time to cut those strings!*

*Green Party of Hawai'i urges you to Pass SB2530 SD1!*

*Mahalo,*

*Susan RobertsEmery*

*Green Party of Hawai'i*

*Paaulo*

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:24:17 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>
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for hearing SB2530.

a member of Indivisible Hawaii

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:59:40 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>
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2530.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:00:01 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>
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 2:34:35 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>
Kanani Kai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB2530.

Mahalo,

Kanani Kai

Member Indivisible Hawaii

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:56:24 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>
Michelle Bonk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Preventing contractors and grantees from donating to politicians reduces the risk of undue influence or favoritism in government decisions and in the awarding of contracts and grants.

When the public sees that government contracts and grants are free from political influence, their trust in elected officials and government increases, leading to better democracy.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:40:06 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>
James E Raymond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:06:40 AM

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

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

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my written testimony in support of SB2530. As a Lahaina resident and member of Indivisible Hawai'i, I respectfully urge you to pass SB2530 to address the issue of pay-to-play political spending by contractors, permitting unfettered influence of our State elections.

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

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

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

Accordingly, it is imperative that you act now on SB2530, tackling the issue of corruption in government contracting. Please do your part in keeping our elections as fair and transparent as possible, and fostering public trust by preventing State and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.

Thank you for your time and commitment to our democracy.

Respectfully,

Danielle Goren

Lahaina

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2016/bills/HCR29\\_.htm](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2016/bills/HCR29_.htm).

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

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:58:10 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>
Gail Morrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of SB2530

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

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

Mahalo, Gail Morrison, Honolulu 96815

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:00:06 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>
Nancy D Moser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:48:14 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>
Cassidy Hollenbeck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB2530.



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 9:15AM

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

**Re:** Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT/SUPPORT of SB 2530, SD1

Dear 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 2530.

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

This bill will make our elections more honest and transparent. It will also build trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without creating any perception of political strings attached.

Again, we thank you for supporting SB 2530.

Sincerely,

Marlene Thom

Indivisible Hawai'i 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-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:03:07 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in **strong support of SB2530**, which would restrict campaign contributions from state and county contractors and grantees. This bill is a straightforward, necessary step to reduce pay-to-play politics and restore public trust in how government does business.

**SB2530 prevents contractors and grantees from donating to politicians.** By prohibiting contributions from those seeking or holding large government contracts—\$100,000 or more for goods and services, \$250,000 or more for construction—this bill reduces the risk of undue influence or favoritism in government decisions. It ensures that contracts and grants are awarded based on merit, not access. It draws a clear line between doing business with the state and buying influence over it.

**The bill extends this prohibition to officers and their immediate family members.** This is not about punishing individuals; it is about closing a known loophole. Without this provision, the ban could be easily circumvented by routing contributions through family members or company principals. SB2530 closes that door and ensures the law cannot be gamed.

**Stronger ethics laws build stronger democracy.** When the public sees that government contracts and grants are free from political influence, their trust in elected officials and institutions grows. That trust is the foundation of a functioning democracy. SB2530 sends a clear message: in Hawai‘i, public dollars are for public good, not political favors.

I urge you to pass this bill. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Eileen Cain  
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635  
eileencaïn808@gmail.com  
February 24, 2026

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

Dear Senators,

**My love of fairness in government makes it necessary for me to ask you to vote in favor of SB2530 HD1, "Relating to Campaign Contributions."**

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

**Please vote yes on SB2530 HD1.**

Mahalo,

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

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:57:35 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:

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

I am am testifying personally and as a member of the Hawaii Indivisible Statewide Network in strong support of SB2530. Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active will close a serious loophole and ensure that public funds are used for their intended purposes and not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

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

Mahalo,

Robert Justice, M.D., Kapolei

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 5:59:53 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>
Kehaulani Coleman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 10:24:47 AM

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

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

Comments:

**SB2530 SD1 LIMIT CONTRACTORS' POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION**

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my written testimony in support of SB2530. As a Lahaina resident and member of Indivisible Hawai'i, I respectfully urge you to pass SB2530 to address the issue of pay-to-play political spending by contractors, permitting unfettered influence of our Stateelections.

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

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

We in Hawai'i are lucky to have representatives and officials who take into account and respect the sentiment of their constituents in maintaining fair and transparent elections. Here, you can restore our citizens' faith in the system and act in furtherance and protection of our fragile

democratic constitutional republic. Unchecked corporate political spending is an absolute threat to our democracy, permitting corporations to buy policies antithetical to the common good.

Accordingly, it is imperative that you act now on SB2530, tackling the issue of corruption in government contracting. Please do your part in keeping our elections as fair and transparent as possible, and fostering public trust by preventing State and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active.

Thank you for your time and commitment to our democracy.

Respectfully,  
Jason Lewis

Lahaina resident

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 11:24:15 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>
DeWaine Tollefsrud	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of SB2530

County contractors and/or their families should not be allowed to contribute exorbitant amounts of money to influence lawmakers in ways that would benefit them.

This bill makes our elections more honest and more transparent. Nothing wrong with that!

Mahalo!

DeWaine Tollefsrud, Kea'au

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 11:31:07 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>
Shari saiki Rodrigues	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not think politicians should receive contributions from any company or person that has contracts and business in Hawaii.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:27:32 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>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:59:43 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>
Susan Douglas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TY!

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 1:19:57 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 SB2530*

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

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

*Mahalo,*

*Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo*

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 5:28:29 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>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, STRONGLY OPPOSE

PUBLIC/PRIVATE CAMPAIGN DONATIONS

2530 SB RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 6:15:13 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-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 7:43:56 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 SB2530

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

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

Mahalo,

Jen Lum, 'Ewa Beach

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 8:02:16 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>
Roger Hamada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SB2530 SD1. Given the recent history of specific legislators and donors suffering legal consequences of the apparent pay to play norm in Hawaii politics, measures which undercut this behavior are critically important. Maybe if citizens see that legislators are serious about challenging this norm, more of us will vote.

Thank you for allowing me testify today.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 9:05:49 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>
Robert Douglas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Strong Support of SB2530

SB2530 is a necessary and long-overdue reform to protect the integrity of Hawai‘i’s democratic process. While current law prohibits direct contributions from government contractors during active contracts, it still allows company officers, executives, owners, and their immediate family members to donate to the very officials who oversee or influence contract awards. That loophole defeats the purpose of the law.

When individuals with a direct financial stake in public contracts can legally contribute to decision-makers, it creates a troubling appearance of pay-to-play politics — even if no explicit quid pro quo exists. Public confidence in government depends not only on fairness, but on the perception of fairness. SB2530 closes this gap by extending restrictions to those who materially benefit from government contracts, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are awarded based on merit, not political access.

This bill does not silence anyone’s voice. It simply draws a clear ethical boundary between public contracting and campaign fundraising. Hawai‘i residents deserve to know that public funds are distributed through transparent, competitive processes — not influenced by campaign contributions.

Passing SB2530 would strengthen accountability, restore trust in government, and demonstrate that Hawai‘i is committed to clean governance. I respectfully urge you to support this important reform.

Bob Douglas

Hilo, HI



**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:07:03 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 writing in strong support of SB2530

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

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

We must make government more transparent and trustworthy.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:17:40 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 SB2530

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

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

Mahalo,

Charlene Kiana Rowley, Kula Maui

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:19:10 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>
John C Wert III	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2530, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems and goes hand in hand with SB2313.

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, SB2530 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support SB2530. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:20:37 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 SB2530, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, SB2530 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:26:48 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>
Julia Marrack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2530, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, SB2530 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support SB2530. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Julia Marrack 96743

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:46:50 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-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:54:54 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>
Eliza Yoshida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2530, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, SB2530 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support SB2530. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:55:10 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>
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members,

I am writing to ask that you support SB2530. Please close the Pay to Play loophole for government contracts.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 9:03:25 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>
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 SB2530 SD1. This bill would close the "Pay to Play" loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making contributions.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 9:27:12 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>
Kaylee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2530, SD1, which prohibits compensated officers of state or county contractors and grantees, as well as their immediate family members, from contributing to candidates, committees, or any political purpose while their contracts or grants are in effect. This measure strengthens transparency and accountability in our election process and ensures that government contracts and grants are not used as leverage for political influence.

By requiring disclosure of officers and immediate family members and making this information accessible to candidate and noncandidate committees, the bill provides clear guidance to prevent conflicts of interest. The provision for returning unlawful contributions or directing them to the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund further reinforces integrity in campaign financing.

SB2530 protects public trust by ensuring that state and county contracts and grants are awarded and administered without political favoritism. It safeguards the democratic process and promotes fairness for all candidates and voters. I respectfully urge the committee to pass SB2530, SD1, and support stronger transparency and integrity in Hawai'i elections.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 9:31:02 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 2530, 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 2539. 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-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 9:35:02 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 CORRUPTION BY OUR ELECTED LEADERS THAT WE TRUSTED FROM CORPORATE POWER AND AI OLIGARCH INFLUENCE FOR GOOD NOW!!!!

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 9:35:08 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 want to see our elections as clean and clear. All donations must disclosed to the public. No more pay to play, graft, or corruption in our politics.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 9:41:20 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>
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 9:42:55 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>
Lori Poaipuni	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB2530 and I urge you to support this as well.

Money and politics are never a good mix especially when it involves contractors/businesses that have contracts with the State. Including immediate family members in this bill is a step in the right direction.

Please be the leaders we hope you are and support SB2530.

Mahalo,

Loriann Poaipuni

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 9:47:54 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>
Tanja Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2530, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, SB2530 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support SB2530. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Tanja Miller

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 10:01:15 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:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2530, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, SB2530 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support SB2530. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 10:13:36 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. Those with money to support candidates do not represent the majority of the population. We need leaders that represent the people not just the rich. End pay to play.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 10:14:02 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:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2530, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, SB2530 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support SB2530. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 10:17:45 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:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing with faith that you believe in NOT enabling those who wish to buy influence in this body.

I wish to express my strong support of SB2530, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, SB2530 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support SB2530. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all. Our democracy is being severely tested by those who have money. This bill is a step in the direction of reclaiming power for the people.

Please move this bill forward. Mahalo nui.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 10:24:23 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:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2530, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, SB2530 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support SB2530. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Safia Gravel, Hilo HI

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 10:39:25 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>
TOM DIGRAZIA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support!

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 11:02:32 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>
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2530, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, SB2530 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support SB2530. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Andrew Isoda  
Lahaina, Mau'i

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 11:02:53 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>
Elizabeth Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Elizabeth Nelson and I strongly support this measure. It aims to close the "pay to play" loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawaii's electoral and procurement systems.

Thank you for your courage.

Elizabeth Nelson

Kaneohe

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 11:37:53 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>
Mackenzie Harrington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2530, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, SB2530 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support SB2530. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:11:39 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>
David Dinner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is a strong step in the right direction. Please pass.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:20:23 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>
Valerie Weiss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this measure.

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 2530, SD1 - RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.**

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-time resident of Wailuku, Maui and an attorney licensed in Hawai'i for over 25 years. I write to you today in **support of SB 2530, SD1**, Relating to Campaign Contributions, which prohibits state or county contractor's compensated officers and any officer's immediate family, with contracts of \$100,000 or more for goods or services or \$250,000 or more for construction, from contributing to candidate or noncandidate committees, candidates, or any person for any political purpose for the duration of the contract. Senate Bill 2530, SD1 also prohibits grantees, grantees' compensated officers and grantees' officer's immediate family, with grants of more than \$100,000, from contributing to candidate or noncandidate committees, candidates, or any person for any political purpose for the duration of the grant. The bill also requires any unlawful contribution to be returned to the contributor or it will escheat to the Hawai'i election campaign fund; requires the disclosure of names of any compensated officers and immediate family members of a state or county contractor or grantee for contracts or grants exceeding a certain amount, and requires the Campaign Spending Commission to make available to candidate and noncandidate committees the disclosed names in a password-protected database.

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

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

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

Senate Bill 2530, SD1 is a necessary and timely mechanism to address concern about corruption and to rebuild trust in our elected officials. When the public sees that government contracts and grants are free from political influence, their trust in elected officials and government increases. This bill builds on feedback from similar legislation that made it all the way to Conference Committee last year by focusing on paid officers of organizations and implementing disclosure requirements. Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active closes a loophole and will help ensure that public funds are used for their intended purposes, rather than to sway political campaigns or decisions. Based upon the foregoing, **I request your vote in strong support of SB 2530, SD1.**

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

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

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 12:44:23 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:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2530, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, SB2530 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support SB2530. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

The rev David J. Gierlach

## Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB2530**

**TO:** The Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

**HEARING DATE:** March 2, 2026, at 10:31 AM

**FROM:** Jasmine Steiner, KahuPuna, Puna, Hawai'i

**SUBJECT: Strong Support for SB2530 – Ending the "Pay-to-Play" Cycle of Desecration**

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jasmine Steiner. I am a daughter of the Puna 'āina, born and raised, and I run community grassroots organization KahuPuna. I also am the daughter of the pro se filer of the 2024 Hawai'i Geothermal Injunction (which is currently active in the intermediate court of appeals in Hawaii), on behalf of the Puna community. I stand in **strong support of SB2530**.

Puna has been oppressed for 40 years because the laws allow those who profit from our land to fund the politicians who regulate them.

We see this conflict in District 4, where Representative **Ashley Kierkiewicz** acts as a bridge for PGV's "community benefits" and studies, her previous career being Hastings and Pleadwell (PGV's Lawyer firm) , **even as the community sues for fraud, and begs her for any help or even a shred of decency via community engagement for years**. When developers, grantees, and their immediate families are allowed to pour money into campaign coffers, the voices of the people are silenced. SB2530 is a necessary check on the "quid pro quo" culture that has allowed geothermal expansion to bypass environmental justice. **Pass SB2530**.

### **Closing the Loophole on Corruption**

For 40 years, the Puna community has been a "sacrifice zone" for geothermal experimentation. We have watched as millions in state and federal grants are poured into projects that desecrate our sacred lands and poison our air. This has been allowed to happen because of a massive loophole in our campaign finance laws—a loophole that **SB2530** finally seeks to close.

- **The Problem:** Currently, while direct "contractors" are barred from donating to political campaigns, "grantees" and the family members of these developers are free to funnel money to the very politicians who approve their funding.
- **The Puna Reality: We see "quid pro quo" corruption in action every time a new geothermal grant is issued while our community's reports of health harms and scientific fraud are ignored. Money buys silence, and it buys "fast-track" bills like SB2834.**

## Restoring Public Trust

The Puna community is currently in the Intermediate Court of Appeals proving that the Puna Geothermal Venture (PGV) is operating under a **fraudulent Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**. Public trust in our state agencies and the legislative process is at an all-time low because we know that "grants" often follow "donations."

- **SB2530** levels the playing field by prohibiting compensated officers and their immediate family members from contributing to candidate committees for the duration of a grant.
- It ensures that when \$15 million or \$30 million is appropriated for "geothermal exploration," that money isn't being recycled back into the re-election campaigns of the people who signed the check.

## Conclusion

Justice for Puna requires more than just stopping the physical desecration; **it requires stopping the financial corruption that fuels it.** We have been shown over and over during real crisis that we the people cannot rely on 911 or the Fire Department during a geothermal crisis because the system is designed to protect the industry, not the people. **SB2530 is a critical step in breaking the financial ties that bind our regulators to the developers.**

I urge this committee to **PASS SB2530** to ensure that state grants are awarded based on merit and safety, not on political favors and campaign contributions.

**Me ke aloha 'āina,**

**Jasmine Steiner**

***KahuPuna***



*Wearepuna@gmail.com*

[wearepuna.wixsite.com/aloha-activism](http://wearepuna.wixsite.com/aloha-activism)

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 1:04:02 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-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 1:16:35 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>
Sarah Barbour	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2530, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.

The following has been written by the Our Hawai‘i campaign, and I attest that I have read and strongly agree with the contents.

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, SB2530 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support SB2530. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 1:17:53 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Aynessazian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair**

**Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair**

Committee on Ways and Means

Monday, March 2, 2026

10:31AM Conference Room 211

RE: SB2530 SD1 Contractor Loophole Campaign Contributions – Strong Support

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

My name is Tanya Yamanaka Aynessazian, and I strongly support **SB 2530 SD1**.

This bill closes a significant loophole in our campaign finance laws by prohibiting officers, owners, and immediate family members of state and county contractors and major grantees from making political contributions during the term of their contracts. Current law bars the contracting entity itself, but not those who directly benefit financially. That gap weakens public trust.

A 2024 New York Times and Civil Beat analysis found that since 2006, people tied to government contractors gave more than \$24M to Hawai'i politicians — one-fifth of all campaign donations. Six million dollars came from individuals connected to just 15 companies.

That's not coincidence. That's not moral failure. That's structural dependence.

That's the climate that our democracy is trying to survive in.

The people want a more self-aware, self-governing body to acknowledge the changes we need. The status quo must go. Closing the contractor loophole is a common sense safeguard and guardrail for our democracy.

In a small state like Hawai'i, where relationships and influence are closely intertwined, even the appearance of pay-to-play politics erodes confidence in government. This measure strengthens transparency and ensures that public contracts are awarded based on merit, not political access.

Tanya Yamanaka Aynessazian

Hilo

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 1:39:37 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 SB2530 — Close the Pay-to-Play Loophole for Government Contractors**

Aloha Chairperson Rhoads and Members of the Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Christopher Egbo, and I am a concerned citizen of Honolulu writing in strong support of SB2530, which would close a significant loophole in our campaign finance laws by prohibiting officers of state and county contractors and their immediate family members from making political contributions.

Our state has witnessed too many corruption scandals in recent years. From the federal convictions of former legislators J. Kalani English and Ty Cullen to the conspiracy cases involving high-profile figures like Louis and Katherine Kealoha, the message is clear: Hawai'i's pay-to-play culture has eroded public trust in our government . We cannot allow the perception—or the reality—that government contracts can be influenced by campaign donations.

The statistics are staggering. A Civil Beat/New York Times investigation found that nearly one out of every five dollars donated to Hawai'i politicians since 2006 came from people tied to companies doing business with state and local governments . Currently, only the contracting firms themselves are prohibited from making contributions—a loophole that allows owners, officers, and family members to donate freely, creating an obvious path for influence . SB2530 closes this loophole.

This bill has been requested by the Campaign Spending Commission for several years and has broad public support, with zero opposition at its recent Judiciary Committee hearing . It represents a commonsense reform: if a company is receiving taxpayer dollars through a government contract, its leadership and their families should not be writing checks to the very officials who approve those contracts . This is not about restricting political speech—it is about ensuring that government decisions are made based on merit, not campaign contributions.

The 2005 law banning contractor contributions was a good start, but the exemptions for officers and family members created a glaring weakness . As the Connecticut court noted in upholding similar restrictions, leaving these loopholes open would "invite the very circumvention that the General Assembly was trying to prevent" . SB2530 simply finishes the job.

Some have raised concerns about privacy and implementation, but these are manageable. The Campaign Spending Commission has proposed reasonable solutions, including a non-public database for compliance purposes . The more important question is this: can we afford to leave this loophole open any longer?

Every session that passes without closing this gap is another session where the public wonders whose interests are truly being served at the Capitol. I urge you to pass SB2530 and send a clear message that Hawai'i is serious about restoring integrity to our government.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Christopher Egbo  
Concerned Citizen of Honolulu

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 1:51:58 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 and help end or at least reduce pay to play legal corruption of the legislative process.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 1:59:10 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 of the State of Hawaii and I support this Bill.Hope that the Legislature approves this Bill based on the wishes of the Hawaii population.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 2:03:37 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>
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support this bill. It is time to clean up the corruption.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 2:13:12 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:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2530, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, SB2530 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support SB2530. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 2:23:30 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>
Katherine Fryer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2530, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, SB2530 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and incentivizes elected officials to serve their constituents, rather than donors with vested interests.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support SB2530. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 2:33:55 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>
Troy Schacht	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

we need money out of politics

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 2:41:47 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>
janice palma-glenie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

it's understnadable why this might be a difficult bill for some reps to support, but it's your kuleana to do so.

This is another critical way to help put the power of democracy in the hands of the electorate-- not special interests. We've seen too often how contractor contracts are Pay to Play for our state and elsewhere.

this is your big chance to do the pono thing. Throw your critical upport behind SB2530.

mahalo and best regards,

janice palma-glennie

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 3:01:30 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 SB2530**, which closes the loophole that currently allows government contractors to make campaign contributions to elected officials whose decisions directly affect their contracts.

Every day, hardworking families in Hawai‘i expect fairness, transparency, and integrity in how taxpayer dollars are spent. The current loophole, however, lets companies seeking or holding government contracts make political contributions that can influence—or appear to influence—decision-making. This undermines public trust and erodes confidence in our democratic process.

SB2530 strengthens our ethics and campaign finance laws by ensuring that contractors and vendors doing business with the state cannot use campaign contributions to gain preferential treatment or access. This bill protects the integrity of public contracting and promotes fair competition by:

- **Keeping taxpayer money free from conflicts of interest**, ensuring decisions are made based on merit, not on political donations.
- **Restoring public trust in government**, so residents feel confident that contracts are awarded fairly and transparently.
- **Encouraging ethical participation in both government procurement and civic life**, without fear or perception of pay-to-play influence.

Public service should be grounded in fairness and accountability. Closing this loophole is a significant step toward a more transparent, ethical, and trustworthy government—one that works for the people of Hawai‘i, not special interests.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **pass SB2530**.

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-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 3:47:00 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,

Please support this measure to disallow contractors to influence the elections of candidates who may be swayed by the "permit" they may need.

Thank you. It's only fair.

Pamela Burrell, Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 4:36:22 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>
Jane Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**I am in strong support of SB2530**

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

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

**Mahalo, Jane Aquino, Oahu**

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 4:55:26 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>
Anna Camacho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

I am writing in strong support of SB2530, a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai'i's electoral and procurement systems.

When contractors can legally fund the campaigns of officials who award their contracts, the system rewards money and access over public benefit and results. And the little trust we might have left erodes a even more.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

I urge you to pass this measure which is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.

Mahalo.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 5:21:10 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 SB2530, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, SB2530 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support SB2530. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.

Thank you

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 5:40:52 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>
Forest Frizzell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2530, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, SB2530 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support SB2530. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 5:50:21 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>
Jim Klyman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let find a way to thwart "pay to play" financing of Hawaii politics.

It has gotten too easy to buy elections and making the money stream convoluted to follow to the source, and make sure it is from a legitimate funding source.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 5:51:08 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:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2530, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, SB2530 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support SB2530. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Peter Daspit, Kailua

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:26:48 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:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2530, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, SB2530 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support SB2530. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 6:36:52 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary True	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

*I am in strong support of SB2530*

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

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

*Thanks for your attention to this matter, Mary True, Pepe`ekeo*

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 9:36:42 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 support SB2530.*

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

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

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 10:33:46 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,

Please support this bill. This will restore some faith in government by stopping large political donations by state and county contractors, grantees, and their families while contracts or grants are active.

mahalo,  
Cory Harden, Hilo

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 11:10:13 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>
Vernelle Oku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions.

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 12:39:29 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 strongly support SB2530 to make our elections fair and honest.

Thank you, Robin

Waialua, HI 96791

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 5:34:02 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>
Daniel R Freund	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Trust in the legislature is at an all-time low. Now is the time to do the right thing, rather than maintain the status quo that got us to where we are now. Please advance this bill.

- Dan Freund. Kapaa

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 6:10:45 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:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2530, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems.

Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, SB2530 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions.

This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support SB2530. This measure is essential for restoring trust in our democratic institutions and ensuring an equitable system of governance for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony. Nancy Harter, Lahaina, HI

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 7:08:58 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-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 7:22:00 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>
Margaret ANN Renick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill. Mahalo!

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 8:28:01 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 SB2530*

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

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

*Mahalo,*

*Yvette Kay*

*Kailua Kona, HI*

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 8:36:16 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>
Karen Takamine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2530. Close the pay to play contractor loophole!

**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 8:44:33 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>
Inam Rahman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

**SB2530 SD1 – Relating to Campaign Contributions**

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Inam Rahman, MD, a resident of Honolulu and a small business owner who has worked closely with both public and private systems in Hawaii. I submit this testimony in support of SB2530 SD1, with respectful recommendations to strengthen the bill and ensure its long-term effectiveness.

**Strong Support for the Bill’s Intent**

SB2530 SD1 addresses a legitimate public concern: the perception or reality of “pay-to-play” practices in government contracting. In a small state like Hawaii, where economic networks are interconnected and procurement decisions carry substantial financial impact, safeguarding public trust is essential.

By restricting political contributions from state and county contractors and grantees during the duration of a contract or grant, the bill:

- Reduces perceived conflicts of interest
- Protects elected officials from undue influence
- Enhances transparency in procurement
- Reinforces confidence in the Campaign Spending Commission

Public trust is foundational to democratic governance. This bill moves Hawaii in the right direction.

### Recommended Amendments to Strengthen the Measure

While I strongly support the objective, I respectfully suggest the following refinements to ensure constitutional durability, clarity, and fairness:

#### 1. Narrow the Definition of “Immediate Family”

The prohibition on contributions from immediate family members may raise constitutional concerns if applied too broadly.

Suggested amendment:

Limit application to:

- Spouses or domestic partners, and
- Officers with direct decision-making authority over the contract

This maintains integrity while reducing legal vulnerability.

#### 2. Clarify Scope of “Any Political Purpose”

The phrase “any political purpose” is broad and could create confusion.

Suggested amendment:

Clarify that the prohibition applies only to:

- State and county candidate committees
- State and county noncandidate committees

Excluding federal races and unrelated ballot issues would avoid overbreadth.

### 3. Consider a De Minimis Exception

To avoid penalizing minor civic participation:

Suggested amendment:

Allow contributions under a modest threshold (e.g., \$250 per election cycle), ensuring the bill targets influence—not ordinary civic engagement.

### 4. Add a Sunset Review Clause

Given the significance of this reform:

Suggested amendment:

Include a 4–5 year sunset or legislative review provision to assess impact, compliance burden, and effectiveness.

## Why This Matters for Hawaii

Hawaii's economy depends heavily on public contracting. With that reality comes responsibility. This measure strengthens ethical guardrails without discouraging legitimate business participation—if drafted carefully.

Good governance requires not only integrity, but also balance. SB2530 SD1, with thoughtful amendments, can serve both principles.

## Conclusion

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB2530 SD1 with amendments to ensure:

- Constitutional soundness
- Practical enforceability
- Protection of civic participation
- Long-term public trust

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Inam Rahman, MD

Waipahu, Hawaii



**SB-2530-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 9:06:01 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:

This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai'i's electoral and procurement systems. Ethics is crucial in order for the constituency to have any sense of fairness, unlike some who are convicted felons, frauds, and rapists.