

MAR 16 2026

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS  
NECESSARY AND WITHIN ITS POWER TO ENSURE CANDIDATE  
COMMITTEES' FULL COMPLIANCE WITH STATE CAMPAIGN FINANCE  
LAWS.

1           WHEREAS, the State's Campaign Spending Commission was  
2 established to maintain the integrity and transparency of the  
3 process of funding election campaigns by enforcing campaign  
4 finance laws, educating the public, administering public  
5 campaign financing, and training campaign committees to comply  
6 with applicable laws; and

7  
8           WHEREAS, the Legislature has assigned the Hawaii State  
9 Campaign Spending various powers and duties to enable the  
10 Commission to fulfill its mission; and

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12           WHEREAS, section 11-410, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
13 authorizes the Commission to assess fines for violations of  
14 campaign finance laws; and

15  
16           WHEREAS, since 2018, the Legislature has enacted thirty-one  
17 measures that have amended the State's campaign financing laws;  
18 and

19  
20           WHEREAS, since 2018, the Commission has not audited any  
21 campaign account to verify the accuracy of the campaign's  
22 reports and filed documents; and

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24           WHEREAS, the Commission's current strategic plan, adopted  
25 in 2018, includes the following goals:

- 26  
27           (1) "To provide training, education, and access to  
28 committees for purposes of [increasing] compliance  
29 with, and . . . awareness of, campaign finance laws  
30 and rules"; and  
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1 (2) "To obtain compliance with campaign finance laws and  
2 rules through enforcement actions"; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the Commission provides in-person training  
5 opportunities only twice per year during election years, and  
6 only during normal business hours; and  
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8 WHEREAS, ninety percent of candidate committees are managed  
9 by volunteers who may not be able to attend in-person training  
10 sessions during normal business hours; and  
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12 WHEREAS, section 11-340, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
13 authorizes the Commission to fine a candidate committee if the  
14 committee files a substantially defective or deficient report  
15 and fails to correct the report within the time allowed; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, the Commission has not adopted rules clearly  
18 defining what constitutes a substantially defective or deficient  
19 report under section 11-340, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, although the Commission has taken some actions to  
22 help ensure that candidate committees comply with campaign  
23 finance laws, including publishing online a schedule of fines,  
24 as well as guidebooks, manuals, on-demand videos, and answers to  
25 frequently asked questions, the Commission needs to take  
26 additional proactive measures to ensure compliance; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, the Commission should also make it a priority to  
29 ensure that candidates and the volunteers who assist with their  
30 campaigns have the information and training necessary to comply  
31 with campaign spending laws; now, therefore,  
32

33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the  
35 House of Representatives concurring, that the Campaign Spending  
36 Commission is urged to:  
37

38 (1) Conduct automatic audits of candidate committees that  
39 expend more than \$500,000 during any election period;  
40



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- 1           (2)    Subsidize the costs of independent audits for
- 2                    candidate committee that want to undergo independent
- 3                    audits;
- 4
- 5           (3)    Adopt rules, pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised
- 6                    Statutes, that clearly define what constitutes a
- 7                    substantially defective or deficient report under
- 8                    section 11-340, Hawaii Revised Statutes, so that
- 9                    candidate committees have the information necessary to
- 10                   submit compliant reports;
- 11
- 12           (4)    Provide in-person training sessions on a more frequent
- 13                    basis, and during non-business hours, to facilitate
- 14                    campaign volunteers' attendance at those sessions; and
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- 16           (5)    Take any other actions necessary and within its power
- 17                    to ensure candidate committees' full compliance with
- 18                    state campaign finance laws; and
- 19

20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair and Executive  
 22 Director of the Campaign Finance Commission, Chairperson of the  
 23 Elections Commission, and Chief Election Officer.

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OFFERED BY: 

