

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 09 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2050
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 2050 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PARTIAL PUBLIC FINANCING OF ELECTIONS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Increase the expenditure limit and the amount of funds available to candidates qualified to participate in the Partial Public Financing Program, including candidates for the Board of Trustees for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, who run statewide;
- (2) Encourage participation in the Partial Public Financing Program by providing for the adjustment of the amount of minimum qualifying contributions required for certain offices;
- (3) Increase matching fund payments from \$1 to \$2 for each \$1 of qualifying contributions in excess of the minimum qualifying contribution amounts; and



- (4) Appropriate funds from the general revenues of the State to increase the amount of funds available in the Partial Public Financing Program.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Campaign Spending Commission; League of Women Voters of Hawaii; Imua Alliance; Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action; and numerous individuals.

Your Committee finds that the expenditure limits and funding amounts under Hawaii's Partial Public Financing Program have not been updated in many years and no longer reflect present-day campaign costs. Your Committee further finds that strengthening the Partial Public Financing Program would bolster publicly funded elections by expanding the reach of many small donors and relieving candidates of the need to rely on the support of special interest groups or large donors.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriation to an unspecified amount;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider an appropriation amount of \$2,400,000.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2050, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2050, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary &
Hawaiian Affairs,



DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



HSR 103-26

Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Bill/Resolution No.: HB2050	Committee Referral: JHA, FIN	Date: 2/3/2026		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
JHA Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TARNAS, David A. (C)	✓			
2. POEPOE, Mahina (VC)	✓			
3. BELATTI, Della Au	✓			
4. COCHRAN, Elle	✓			
5. HASHEM, Mark J.				✓
6. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
7. SAYAMA, Jackson D.	✓			
8. TAKAYAMA, Gregg	✓			
9. GARCIA, Diamond		✓		
10. SHIMIZU, Garner M.		✓		
TOTAL (10)	7	2	0	1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				