

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3284**

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 30 2026

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

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred H.B. No. 2050, H.D. 1, entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Increase the expenditure limit and the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all elective offices;
- (2) Adjust the minimum amount of qualifying contributions certain candidates must receive to participate in the program;
- (3) Increase the matching fund payments for excess qualifying contributions; and
- (4) Appropriate funds for the Partial Public Campaign Financing Program.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Campaign Spending Commission,



Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action, Indivisible Hawai'i, Imua Alliance, and twenty-five individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from two individuals.

Your Committee finds that the State has had a Partial Public Campaign Financing Program in place for decades. Few candidates participate, however, because the Program's existing model fails to provide sufficient resources to run competitive campaigns. This measure will give candidates choosing to participate in the Partial Public Campaign Financing Program a realistic chance to keep pace with candidates utilizing private financing.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Increasing the maximum amount of public funds available in each election to:
 - (A) Twenty percent of the expenditure limit for a candidate for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu or County of Hawaii; and
 - (B) Twenty-five percent of the expenditure limit for a candidate for the office of state senator, state representative, Mayor of the County of Kauai or the County of Maui, county council member, or prosecuting attorney;
- (2) Increasing matching fund payments to \$4 for each \$1 of excess qualifying contributions;
- (3) Amending section 1 to reflect its amended purpose;
- (4) Inserting an effective date of March 22, 2075, to encourage further discussion; and
- (5) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

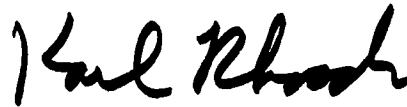
Your Committee notes that although this measure contains an unspecified appropriation amount, should your Committee on Ways



and Means choose to deliberate on this measure, your Committee respectfully requests that it considers inserting an appropriation amount of \$3,000,000 to be deposited into the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund.

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

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,



KARL RHOADS, Chair



