

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 09

, 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2053
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. 2053 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to prohibit state and county elected officials from soliciting or accepting campaign contributions during any Regular Session or Special Session of the Legislature, including any extension of any Regular Session or Special Session or any legislative recess day, holiday, or weekend.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Campaign Spending Commission; League of Women Voters of Hawaii; and one individual. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from eight individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from one individual.

Your Committee finds that prohibiting elected officials from soliciting or accepting campaign contributions while the Legislature is in session would reduce the financial advantage of incumbents and promote a fairer electoral system. Your Committee believes that narrowing the prohibition initially to state elected officials will allow the Legislature to take a measured first step in evaluating the effectiveness and impacts of restricting



campaign fundraising during legislative sessions, before considering whether similar restrictions should be extended to county elected officials in the future.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Narrowing the scope of the prohibition to only state elected officials;
- (2) Adding a definition for the term "state elected official";
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

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. 2053, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2053, 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



Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 2053	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)	6	3	0	1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <small>committee acronym(s)</small>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____				
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