

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2810

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR - 5 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2447
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 S.B. No. 2447 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to provide that the period of limitations for criminal prosecutions under campaign finance laws commences upon discovery of the offense by the Campaign Spending Commission, rather than being limited to five years from the violation date or report filing date.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Campaign Spending Commission, Imua Alliance, League of Women Voters of Hawaii, Green Party of Hawai'i, and fifteen individuals.

Your Committee finds that the criminal prosecution of campaign finance law violations shall not commence after five years from the date of the violation or date of filing of the report covering the period in which the violation occurred, creating a gap between the date of violation and its discovery. This gap may be exploited by an offender to delay discovery. For example, a candidate may revise submitted campaign finance reports long after the originals were submitted. Consequently, the statute of limitations may expire or be near expiration before the violation is discovered, allowing the offender to go unpunished.



This measure will clarify that the statute of limitations for campaign finance law violations begins when the offense is discovered by the Campaign Spending Commission to ensure that candidates are held accountable.

Your Committee notes the concern raised by the Campaign Spending Commission that this measure, in its current form, would reduce the current five-year statute of limitations for class C felonies and misdemeanors, which comprise most campaign finance law violations, to three years and two years, respectively. Therefore, amendments to this measure are necessary to address this concern.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the Campaign Spending Commission shall be allowed five years from the date of discovery of a violation to commence prosecution of any campaign finance law violation; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

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 S.B. No. 2447, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2447, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

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



KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2947	Committee Referral: JDC	Date: 2/13/26		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley				✓
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.				✓
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	3	—	—	2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes