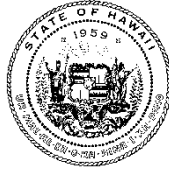


JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



BONNIE KAHAKUI
ADMINISTRATOR

DAYNA OMIYA
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

P.O. Box 119
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119
Tel: (808) 586-0554
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<http://spo.hawaii.gov>

TESTIMONY
OF
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
WAYS AND MEANS
APRIL 6, 2026, 10:32 AM

HOUSE BILL 1519, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 1519, HD1, SD1. The State Procurement Office (SPO) appreciates the intent of this Senate Draft 1 to enhance transparency and public trust by expanding campaign contribution prohibitions and disclosure requirements for state and county contractors and grantees but has deep concerns regarding the removal of the small purchase threshold exemption for the disclosure requirement.

Comments

The removal of the small purchase threshold exemption, which extends compensated officer disclosure requirements to all state and county contracts, will significantly increase the administrative burden on agencies. The intent of small purchase process is to be a streamlined, efficient method for procuring low-dollar goods and services. Requiring disclosure for **all** contracts, including those below the small purchase threshold, will reduce efficiency and undermine the purpose of the small purchase process, misaligning compliance requirements with its original intent.

Recommendations

The SPO respectfully recommends the following revisions and reinsertion of the small purchase threshold exemption:

- **SECTION 2, Page 2, lines 18-21, and Page 3, lines 1-3 to read:**

"(a) Within thirty calendar days of fully executing a state or county contract for goods, services, or construction exceeding the small purchase threshold described in section 103D-305 (a), the contracting agency shall, pursuant to section 11-355, require the contractor to provide a list of the names of all compensated officers of the contractor and the immediate family members of each officer. The campaign spending commission shall prescribe a standard form and require the contractor to certify the accuracy of the information on [e#] the form."

- **SECTION 2, Page 3, lines 18-21, to read:**

"A contracting state agency may [~~withhold execution~~] delay the notice to proceed, suspend performance, or pursue remedies available under the contract or applicable law until the required information is submitted."

- **SECTION 3, Page 4, lines 7-13, to read:**

"(a) Within thirty calendar days of fully executing a contract for a grant under this chapter, or for a county under a county charter or code exceeding the \$250,000, the expending agency executing the contract shall require the recipient to provide a list of the names of all compensated officers of the recipient. The campaign spending commission shall prescribe a standard form and require the recipient to certify the accuracy of the information on [e#] the form."

- **SECTION 4, Page 5, line 17-21, and page 6, lines 1-2 to read:**

"(a) Within thirty calendar days of fully executing a state or county contract for goods, services, or construction, Within thirty calendar days of fully executing a state or county contract for goods, services, or construction exceeding the small purchase threshold described in section 103D-305 (a), the purchasing agency shall, pursuant to section 11-355, require the contractor to provide a list of the names of all compensated officers of the contractor. The campaign spending commission shall prescribe a standard form and require the contractor to certify the accuracy of the information on [e#] the form."

- **SECTION 5, Page 7, lines 5-11, to read:**

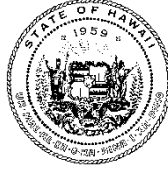
"(a) Within thirty calendar days of fully executing a state or county contract exceeding the small purchase threshold described in section 103D-305 (a), the purchasing agency shall, pursuant to section 11-355, require the contractor or provider to provide a list of the names of all compensated officers of the contractor or provider. The campaign spending commission shall prescribe a standard form and require the contractor or provider to certify the accuracy of the information on [ef] the form."

- **SECTION 5, Page 8, lines 6-9, to read:**

"A purchasing agency may [withhold execution] delay the notice to proceed, suspend performance, or pursue remedies available under the contract or applicable procurement law until the required information is submitted."

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

KRISTIN E. IZUMI-NITAO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



PHONE: (808) 586-0285
FAX: (808) 586-0288
WWW.HAWAII.GOV/CAMPAIGN

STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 2, 2026

TO: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Kristin Izumi-Nitao, Executive Director
Campaign Spending Commission KEI

SUBJECT: **Testimony on H.B. No. 1519, H.D.1, S.D.1, Relating to Campaign Contributions.**
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Monday, April 6, 2026, at 10:32 a.m.
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) supports this bill with comments which we believe will prevent the corruption, or at least the appearance of corruption, of elected officials as well as represents a crucial step towards transparency and accountability in government spending. In this respect, this bill will help improve public confidence in government and the electoral process.

S.D.1 amends this measure by: 1) extending the ban on contributions to include compensated officers of county contractors during the duration of the contract, 2) extending the ban on contributions to include county grantees and its compensated officers, 3) removing monetary threshold disclosure requirements of compensated officers of contractors and grantees for goods, services, and construction, 4) removing immediate family members of compensated officers of state contractors and grantees from the disclosure requirements, 5) removing language limiting the ban on contributions from compensated officers to same branch of state government awarding or administering the contract, and 6) revising the definition of “officer” under HRS §11-355.

The Commission appreciates the amendments made in S.D.1. extending the ban to county contractors and grantees, removing language limiting the ban to the same branch of government

awarding or administering the contract, and revising the definition of “officer” in HRS §11-355. The Commission is concerned, however, that failing to extend the ban to immediate family members of state and county contractors and state and county grantees undermines the intent of this bill and will not capture all possibilities of corruption. The Commission recommends extending the ban to include immediate family members of state and county contractors and state and county grantees. The Commission notes that this bill limits the scope of individuals prohibited from making contributions for the duration of the contract or grant to “compensated” officers. While the Commission supports narrowing the scope of individuals prohibited from making contributions, it is concerned that uncompensated officers can influence legislation to benefit the company and/or organization and recommends removing “compensated” from the bill.

The bill requires state contractors or grantees to provide to the contracting, expending, or purchasing agency a list of the names of any compensated officers of the state or county contractor or state or county grantee within thirty calendar days of executing a state or county contract or grant and within thirty calendar days of changes to officers and immediate family members.

These list of names shall then be available to candidate and noncandidate committees on a password-protected section on the Commission’s website. The Commission requests an appropriation of: 1) \$250,0000 to build a password-protected section in its electronic filing system and to provide training, and administrative support, 2) \$150,000 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) information technology specialist, and 3) \$20,000 for equipment, supplies, software, and licenses to implement this part.

With respect to any constitutional concerns regarding the scope of this bill, the Commission defers to the Department of the Attorney General but believes that there are other jurisdictions including Connecticut that have extended the campaign contributions ban to state contractors’ principals and family members and withstood challenge on First Amendment grounds.

The Commission requests that this Committee pass this bill with amendments.



APRIL 6, 2026

HOUSE BILL 1519 HD1 SD1

CURRENT REFERRAL: WAM

808-679-7454
kris@imuaalliance.org
www.imuaalliance.org
@imuaalliance

Kris Coffield,
President

David Negaard,
Director

Mireille Ellsworth,
Director

Justin Salisbury,
Director

Eileen Roco,
Director

Beatrice DeRego,
Director

Corey Rosenlee,
Director

Amy Zhao,
*Policy and Partnerships
Strategist*

POSITION: SUPPORT

Imua Alliance supports HB 1519 HD1 SD1, relating to campaign contributions, which requires disclosure of the names of compensated officers of state and county contractors and grantees; prohibits the compensated officers of state and county contractors and grantees from making, promising, or soliciting certain campaign contributions for the duration of the contract or grant from making, promising, or soliciting certain contributions for the duration of the contract or grant; and requires unlawful contributions to be returned to the contributor or escheat to the Hawai'i Election Campaign Fund.

Our democracy belongs to we, the people.

At a time when our nation is experiencing extreme political turmoil and basic civil liberties are under assault, we must take steps in Hawai'i to safeguard democratic participation. In the 2024 primary election, for example, our state experienced its lowest turnout in 65 years, with only 32.1 percent of registered voters filling out a ballot. This is, in part, a reflection of the public's deep cynicism with our electoral processes.

Hawai'i continues to be embroiled in public corruption scandals, following the bribery allegations that were levied against former Senate Majority Leader Kalani English and former State Representative Ty Cullen. Legal clouds surrounding a \$35,000 alleged bribery scandal are swirling around the legislature, to the detriment of public confidence, with the Hawai'i Attorney General opening an investigation into the potential offenses and the State

House adopting a measure to begin this session calling for a thorough and hasty enquiry into the matter.

Other public officials, such as employees at local permitting offices, have also recently been ensnared in bribery scandals, in some cases with connections to Milton Choy, the lobbyist who was responsible for coordinating the bribery scheme that Sen. English and Rep. Cullen became a part of. These cases show that we have a moral crisis in our public institutions and must do all we can to restore integrity to government.

In 2024, a Civil Beat/New York Times investigation unveiled just how deeply pay-to-play culture is ingrained in local politics. After reviewing hundreds of thousands of campaign contributions and more than 70,000 government contracts, **reporters found that nearly \$1 out of every \$5 donated to politicians came from people tied to companies doing business with state and local governments.**

As Civil Beat reported at the time, when some companies were on the cusp of winning major government contracts, people connected to them donated large amounts of campaign funds to influential public officials who were in positions to sway the awards.

Perhaps the most telling part of the report is encapsulated in the following excerpt from the special investigation: *Even though those contributors generally didn't acknowledge their connections to the companies, they were not violating Hawai'i law, which only prohibits donations directly from the firms. "Everyone gets very upset with pay-to-play, but it's legal," said Kristin Izumi-Nitao, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Campaign Spending Commission.*

It might be legal today, but it shouldn't be any longer if we care about our future. Government should work for the public interest, not special interests. It is in that spirit that we support this bill to restore integrity to our state's electoral and governmental processes.

With aloha,

Kris Coffield

President, Imua Alliance

HB-1519-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 7:42:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Coleman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you

HB-1519-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 8:11:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy D Moser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

in support

HB-1519-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 8:25:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

HB-1519-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 9:09:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aimee E McCullough	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committee,

I'm submitting testimony in support of HB1519 HD1.

This bill closes a loophole that honestly should have been closed a long time ago. Right now, a company can hold a state contract and the company itself can't make campaign contributions, but the CEO and their family members can.

HB1519 HD1 fixes this by extending those contribution restrictions to officers and their immediate family members for the life of the contract or grant, and by requiring public disclosure of who those people are. When public money is involved, the public deserves to know what's going on.

Please insert the amendments recommended by the Campaign Spending Commission. Limiting the contribution ban only to the same branch of government awarding or administering the contract weakens the bill and fails to reflect how corruption actually happens. CSC has warned that contractors can get around these bans by having connected individuals make contributions on their behalf, including situations involving reimbursed or false-name contributions. Removing the same-branch restriction and including officers and their immediate family members helps ensure the law captures these workarounds rather than inviting them.

I urge the committee to strengthen and pass HB1519 HD1

thank you,

AM

HB-1519-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 9:58:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1519.

HB-1519-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 10:01:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

member, Indivisible

HB-1519-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 2:28:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanani Kai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committee,

I'm submitting testimony in SUPPORT of HB1519 HD1.

This bill closes a loophole that honestly should have been closed a long time ago. Right now, a company can hold a state contract and the company itself can't make campaign contributions, but the CEO and their family members can.

HB1519 HD1 fixes this by extending those contribution restrictions to officers and their immediate family members for the life of the contract or grant, and by requiring public disclosure of who those people are. When public money is involved, the public deserves to know what's going on.

Please insert the amendments recommended by the Campaign Spending Commission. Limiting the contribution ban only to the same branch of government awarding or administering the contract weakens the bill and fails to reflect how corruption actually happens. CSC has warned that contractors can get around these bans by having connected individuals make contributions on their behalf, including situations involving reimbursed or false-name contributions. Removing the same-branch restriction and including officers and their immediate family members helps ensure the law captures these workarounds rather than inviting them.

I urge the committee to strengthen and pass HB1519 HD1.

Mahalo,

Kanani Kai

Member Indivisible Hawaii

HB-1519-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 7:02:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

I am in strong support of HB1519

Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active closing a loophole and ensuring public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

We need to stop Pay to PLAY!

This bill makes our elections fairer and more transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Mahalo,

Jane Aquino, Indivisible Hawaii

HB-1519-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 7:57:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Troy MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm submitting testimony in support of HB1519 HD1.

This bill closes a loophole that honestly should have been closed a long time ago.

Equalize playing fields for campaign funding. Stop bribes given for future favors

HB-1519-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 8:36:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James E Raymond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you. I am a member of Indivisible Windward.

HB-1519-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 8:37:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

I am writing in **strong support** of HB1519, which would restrict campaign contributions from state and county contractors and grantees and require disclosure of compensated officers. This bill is a straightforward, essential measure to reduce pay-to-play politics and restore public trust in how government does business.

The Good: Important Improvements Made by the Previous Committee

The previous committee made several meaningful improvements to this bill that I wholeheartedly support:

- **Expanding to include county contractors and grantees.** Originally focused only on state contracts, the bill now applies equally to county contractors and grantees and their compensated officers. This closes a major gap that would have allowed the same pay-to-play dynamics to continue at the county level.
- **Removing monetary thresholds for disclosure.** The original bill included dollar thresholds for disclosure requirements. Deleting these thresholds simplifies the law and ensures that no one slips through based on contract size.
- **Applying disclosure to chapter 42F grantees.** The bill now covers any person who receives a grant or subsidy from the State under chapter 42F, HRS, or from a county pursuant to county charter or code . This captures a significant category of public dollars that might otherwise have been exempt.
- **Prohibiting compensated officers of grantees from contributing.** The bill now explicitly prohibits any compensated officer of a state or county grantee from contributing to any candidate committee, noncandidate committee, or person. This strengthens the ban and ensures it applies across the board.

The Bad: A Dangerous Loophole That Must Be Closed

However, the previous committee also made one deeply concerning change that I strongly urge you to reverse. The committee **deleted language that would have subjected immediate family members of compensated officers to the disclosure requirements** established by this measure

This deletion creates a massive, obvious loophole. Without coverage of immediate family members, the entire prohibition can be easily circumvented by routing contributions through a spouse, child, or parent. We have seen this play out time and time again in Hawai'i politics—money flows through family members to avoid legal restrictions. The public knows this. The lobbyists know this. And the previous committee's amendment invites exactly the kind of evasion this bill is meant to prevent.

If we are serious about reducing pay-to-play politics, we cannot leave the back door open while locking the front. The prohibition on contributions must extend to immediate family members, and the disclosure requirements must apply to them as well. Anything less is a gift to those who would exploit the system.

What HB1519 Does—And Why It Matters

HB1519 prevents contractors and grantees from donating to politicians. By prohibiting contributions from those seeking or holding government contracts, the bill reduces the risk of undue influence or favoritism in government decisions. It ensures that contracts and grants are awarded based on merit, not access. It draws a clear line between doing business with the state and buying influence over it.

The disclosure requirement adds an essential layer of transparency. By requiring contractors and grantees to identify compensated officers, the bill gives the public—and enforcement agencies—the ability to see exactly who is connected to entities receiving public dollars. Transparency is the foundation of accountability.

Stronger ethics laws build stronger democracy. When the public sees that government contracts and grants are free from political influence, trust in elected officials and institutions grows. That trust is the foundation of a functioning democracy. HB1519 sends a clear message: in Hawai'i, public dollars are for public good, not political favors.

I urge this committee to **restore the language covering immediate family members** of compensated officers. The good changes made by the previous committee—expanding to county contractors, removing thresholds, covering grantees, and prohibiting compensated officers from contributing—should be preserved. But the loophole created by deleting family member coverage must be closed.

Please pass HB1519 with the family member coverage restored.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1519-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 9:15:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcela Montalto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Limiting political contributions from government contractors is a necessary safeguard to prevent conflicts of interest and the appearance of pay-to-play politics. This measure helps protect public trust by ensuring that contract awards are based on merit and public need, not political donations or undue influence.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Monday, April 6, 2026 at 10:32 am
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1519, HD1, SD1 - RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Senator Hashimoto for my district, Senator DeCoite of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a long-time resident of Wailuku, Maui. I write to you today in **support, with comments, of HB 1519, HD1, SD1**, relating to campaign contributions, which requires disclosure of the names of compensated officers of state and county contractors and grantees; prohibits the compensated officers of state and county contractors and grantees from making, promising, or soliciting certain campaign contributions for the duration of the contract or grant; requires unlawful contributions to be returned to the contributor or escheat to the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund; and appropriates funds. **I respectfully request that the requirements as to immediate family members, especially spouses or reciprocal beneficiaries, be returned to the bill.** Without such language, it is fairly easy to circumvent the intention of this bill by having a family member make the contribution instead. It is an important loophole to close.

Between 2006 - the year the pay-to-play law (HRS 11-355) was implemented – and 2024, people tied to government contractors gave state and local Hawaii politicians more than \$24 million: about one-fifth of all donations made. Most often, these donations were given to politicians with the most power to determine contract awards. HRS 11-355 is undermined by contributions from officers, employees, **and their families**. Preventing contractors and grantees from donating to political campaigns reduces the risk of undue influence or favoritism in government decisions and in the awarding of contracts and grants.

I am sure the members of the Committee are aware of the New York Times article, “Inside the Late-Night Parties Where Hawaii Politicians Raked In Money,” published in January, 2024, with the tagline, “[a]fter the state passed a law barring government contractors from donating to politicians, fund-raising parties showed just how completely the reform effort failed”¹. As a resident of Maui, at a time when my Lahaina neighbors were depending on the kindness of donations pouring in from around the world to help with recovery from the wildfire, an article highlighting apparent corruption in Hawaii to a national audience is something that needs remedy.

I appreciate the efforts of HB1519, HD1, SD1 to address this concern and to rebuild trust in our elected officials. When the public sees that government contracts and grants are free from political influence, their trust in elected officials and government increases. This bill builds on feedback from similar legislation that made it all the way to Conference Committee last year by focusing on paid officers of organizations and implementing disclosure requirements. Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, **and their families** from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active closes a loophole and will help ensure that public funds are used for their intended purposes, rather than to sway political campaigns or decisions. Based upon the foregoing, I request **your strong support of HB1519, HD1**.

Mahalo nui for all you are doing to restore faith in government,

Christine L. Andrews, J.D.

¹ Blaze Lovell, Eric Sagara & Irene Casado Sanchez. Inside the Late-Night Parties Where Hawaii Politicians Raked In Money. New York Times; January 17, 2024.

HB-1519-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 11:22:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Morrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

I am in strong support of HB1519

Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active closing a loophole and ensuring public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

This bill makes our elections fairer and more transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without any perception of political strings attached.

Mahalo, Gail Morrison, Honolulu

HB-1519-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 5:13:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am very concerned about ethics in our state and subsidiary governments. Please pass this bill to reform campaign finance to increase transparency.

Mahalo,

Diane Ware Volcano 96785

HB-1519-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 9:53:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please accept this testimony as strong support of this measure. It is good, clean government. Pure and simple. Those benefitting from a contract should not be able to make campaign contributions. It appears dirty, just like the \$35,000 a legislator purportedly made in a brown paper bag several years ago.

Please move this bill forward.

Lynne Matusow

HB-1519-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 12:32:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse Hutchison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing in strong support. Thank you!

HB-1519-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 2:12:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1519-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 1:20:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB1519. I believe it will increase fairness and transparency with regards to our elections and boon to our representative democracy. Mahalo for your consideration.

Eileen Cain
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635
eileencaïn808@gmail.com
April 4, 2026

Senator Donovan DelaCruz Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Aloha, Senators,

I am submitting this testimony in Favor of HB1519 HD1 SD1, "Relating to Campaign Contributions."

1. This bill would eliminate undue financial influence over or even intimidation of elected officials. Perhaps some elected officials feel that it is difficult for them to vote for what is in the public's best interest because of contractors acting out of selfishness, trying to sway officials or even intimidate them. Publicly financed elections would allow officials to breathe easy, to be free from such tactics by monied interests.
2. This bill would safeguard the public interest. Citizens like me need to trust that decisions made by elected officials are not dominated by powerful lobbies paid for by contractors or large corporations.
3. We citizens need to know that our voices are actually heard when we give testimony, that our needs and views are given serious consideration, even if we don't have a lot of money.

Please vote yes on HB1519 HD1 SD1.

Mahalo,

Eileen Cain
Mō'ili'ili, Honolulu, Hawai'i

HB-1519-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 4:02:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Committee Members,

I am in strong support of HB1519 HD1 SD1, which would prevent state and county contractors and grantees from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active. It will close a serious loophole and ensure that public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions. I think it is also important to prevent immediate family members of contractors from making political contributions. This issue is one of the most important ones to me in this legislative session. It is SO IMPORTANT to make our elections more honest and more transparent! Many people are now so cynical and distrusting of politics, and the influence of big money is a major reason for that. This bill builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without causing any perception of political strings attached.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

HB-1519-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 5:58:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Bonk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please close campaign contribution loopholes by including the recommended amendments in this bill.

Please help increase public trust in our government and its decisions and contracts by reducing the possibility of undue influence of hidden donations.

HB-1519-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 10:51:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2026 10:32:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to support HB1519.

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii