



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS
FOR HB2050 HD1**
RELATING TO PARTIAL PUBLIC FINANCING OF
ELECTIONS

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka ‘Oihana ‘Imi Kālā
Ke Kapikala o Hawai‘i

Pepeluali 26, 2026

2:00PM

Lumi 308

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee on
Finance:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS HB2050 HD1**, which increases the amount of public funds available to candidates for public office who participate in the State’s Partial Public Financing program and increases participating candidates’ expenditure limits.

OHA supports public financing as a good government measure, as it makes the public financing program a more viable option for candidates by increasing available funding. Publicly financed campaigns make elections more accessible, open, and fair.

However, OHA objects to the continued disparity with which it is treated under the Partial Public Financing law. HRS § 11-423(d) sets the campaign expenditure limits for candidates receiving public financing using a formula that multiplies the “number of voters in the last preceding general election registered to vote” in the relevant voting district by a specific dollar amount. OHA Trustees are the only candidates who run Statewide election campaigns that are not explicitly listed in this subpart, and thus default to the lowest multiplier category with “other offices,” or \$0.20 (20 cents). As a point of comparison, the Lieutenant Governor, who also runs a Statewide campaign, has a dollar multiplier of \$1.40. As a result, current expenditure limits for OHA candidates are approximately \$172,174, while expenditure limits for the Lieutenant Governor are \$1,205,215.

The statewide OHA Trustee races receive comparable votes to the Lieutenant Governor races. In the 2024 General Election, the OHA Moloka'i-Lāna'i race received 287,216 votes, the Kaua'i race received 284,571 votes, and the OHA At-Large race received 325,858 votes. In the 2022 Primary Election, the Democrat Lieutenant Governor's race received a total of 242,350 votes, and the Republican Lieutenant Governor's race received 66,830 votes.

The total expenditure limits in HRS § 11-423(d) in turn affect the amount of public financing available to a candidate under HRS § 11-425, which sets public funding as a percentage of the total expenditure limits. While OHA appreciates that this measure would increase the maximum amount of public financing available to OHA candidates, this is still far below what comparable office holders would receive.

As a matter of fairness and equity, OHA respectfully requests that OHA be treated comparably to other statewide office holders through **necessary amendments to HRS sections 11-423 and 425**. Specifically, **the multiplier set in HRS § 11-423 should put OHA candidates' expenditure limit on parity with the Lieutenant Governor, another statewide office holder (increase from \$0.20 to \$1.68)**.

For the reasons stated above, OHA respectfully urges this committee to **PASS HB2050 HD1 with AMENDMENTS**.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this critical issue.



**House Committee on Finance
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports HB2050 HD1
Thursday February 26th, at 2pm; Conference Room 309**

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee,

HAPA strongly supports HB2050 HD1, modernizes Hawai'i's partial public campaign financing program by increasing expenditure limits, strengthening matching funds, and updating qualifying contribution thresholds for state and county elective offices

The current system no longer reflects the realities of today's political landscape and inadequate as a viable alternative to private fundraising. HB2050 HD1 addresses this problem by adjusting expenditure limits, increasing the amount of public funds available to participating candidates, and strengthening incentives to participate in the program.

Recent data underscores the need for these reforms. Since 1994, incumbents in the Hawai'i House have spent an average of nearly \$58,000 per election when adjusted for inflation, while challengers spent approximately \$16,500. This persistent imbalance has contributed to a reelection rate of roughly 90 percent for incumbents over the past decade. Public financing was intended to help level this playing field, but without updates, it cannot serve that purpose effectively.

HB2050 HD1 builds on prior reform efforts undertaken by the Legislature. In recent years, lawmakers have enacted several recommendations from the Foley Commission, including strengthening penalties for government fraud and reforming lobbying practices. However, we still have to make progress on reforms of expanding public financing and reducing candidates' dependence on large private donations. This measure helps close those gaps.

HB2050 HD1 represents a thoughtful and necessary update to Hawai'i's partial public financing system. It responds directly to inflation, campaign spending realities, and the public's desire for a more equitable and transparent electoral process. We respectfully urge you to support this measure.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is positioned above the typed name.

Anne Frederick, Executive Director
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action



FEBRUARY 26, 2026

HOUSE BILL 2050 HD1

CURRENT REFERRAL: FIN

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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 2050 HD1, relating to partial public financing of elections, which increases the expenditure limit and the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all elective offices; adjusts the minimum amount of qualifying contributions certain candidates must receive to participate in the program; and increases the matching fund payments for excess qualifying contributions.

Imua Alliance is a Hawai'i-based organization dedicated to ending all forms of exploitation, including corporate abuse of our democracy. Government should work for the public interest, not special interests.

Hawai'i has had partial public campaign financing in place for decades, rooted in the 1978 Constitutional Convention's direction to establish a campaign fund for partial public financing. Few candidates participate, however, because the current partial funding model fails to provide sufficient resources to run competitive campaigns.

Hawai'i's electoral environment is comparatively uncompetitive. An average of about 90% of incumbents were reelected over the past decade and challengers face structural disadvantages in establishing fundraising networks and building name recognition. Strengthening the match and availability of public funds, as this bill proposes, is helps give: participating candidates a realistic chance to keep pace with private financing.

Public financing programs are also associated with broader and more diverse participation in democracy, particularly when they amplify small contributions. For example, analysis of New York City's matching system found it increased both the number and diversity of residents who participate as donors, shifting candidate incentives toward engaging everyday constituents instead of concentrating time on large donors. Importantly for Hawai'i, this policy conversation is not abstract:

Hawai'i has confronted repeated corruption scandals in recent years, and a UHERO policy brief explicitly situates public campaign financing as one reform to reduce reliance on wealthy donors and corporate interests.

Buttressing public campaign financing also has indirect, but important benefits for Hawai'i's clean economy and climate action goals. Hawai'i has some of the most ambitious climate targets in the nation—codifying 50% greenhouse gas reductions by 2030 and a carbon-neutral economy by 2045—but achieving these goals depends on responsive, accountable governance, and public trust in policy decisions that affect energy, transportation, land use, and economic incentives.

Research on public financing systems finds that when candidates rely less on large special-interest money and more on broad public support, they are encouraged to engage more directly with voters and prioritize community-wide concerns over narrow donor agendas, including long-term challenges like climate resilience and clean energy transitions.

Reinforced public financing can help ensure that elected leaders are empowered to advance policies—such as investments in renewable energy, equitable EV infrastructure, and climate adaptation funding—that reflect broad public support rather than industry influence. By making Hawai'i's democratic process more transparent and competitive, HB 2050 supports governance that is better aligned with the state's clean economy and climate commitments.

Strengthening partial public financing is a pragmatic democracy reform: it can make elections more competitive, expand the role of small donors, and reduce candidates' dependency on narrow funding networks, while building on recent good government reforms to diminish the corrupting role of corporate money in local politics.

With aloha,

Kris Coffield

President, Imua Alliance



Committee on Finance
Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi
Thursday, February 26, 2pm
Room 308 and videoconference
HB2050 HD1 – Relating to Partial Public Financing of Elections

TESTIMONY

Beppie Shapiro, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports HB2050 HD1, which would increase the expenditure limit and the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all elective offices; adjust the minimum amount of qualifying contributions certain candidates must receive to participate in the program; increase the matching fund payments for excess qualifying contributions; and appropriate funds for the program. We also offer a suggestion for your consideration.

The League of Women Voters of the US believes that methods of financing political campaigns should enable candidates to compete equitably for public office and ensure that candidates have sufficient funds to communicate their messages to the public. Hawaii's Partial Public Funding Program (PPFP) is intended to support those goals.

The amount available through the PPFP to publicly funded candidates has not changed in over two decades. Inflation in media prices, postage, and labor costs make the current amounts far less than competitive. The current amounts available to qualified candidates for public funding are far below the amounts spent by privately funded candidates who won election to the same office. Not surprisingly, the number of candidates using the PPFP has decreased every year since at least 2016. The increases proposed in HB2050 HD1 unquestionably offer an improvement on the status quo.

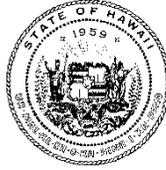
In addition, HB2050 HD1 cuts the number of qualifying contributions required to access public funding for several offices, making the program easier to access.

Finally, recognizing the increased costs for these changes, and for the intended increase in the number of qualifying candidates, HB2050 HD1 provides for increased funding for Hawaii election campaign fund (HECF). This is important because under the definition of the PFPF, if the HECF runs out of money before all qualified candidates have received the anticipated payments, the program will stop making the payments, thus eroding both candidates' trust and willingness to use the program and citizens' appreciation of the PFPF.

Suggestion: Recognizing the CSC staff demands of adjusting to these changes and to the intended increase in the number of candidates initiating use of the PFPF, we suggest adequately funding, including importantly an added staff position to the CSC, which is already overloaded with important requirements for its small staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

KRISTIN E. IZUMI-NITAO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 25, 2026

TO: The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
House Committee on Finance

The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Members of the House Committee on Finance

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on H.B. No. 2050, H.D.1, Relating to Partial Public Financing of Elections.**
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission (“Commission”) supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to enhance Hawaii’s partial public financing program by increasing the maximum amount of public funds available for all offices by 50%¹ (except for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (“OHA”) which will be significantly enhanced by over 1,000%) to qualified candidates. It also makes a downward adjustment of the minimum qualifying contributions for certain offices because it appears that publicly financed candidates for those offices were having a difficult time raising the minimum qualifying contributions. Respectfully, the Commission is submitting this bill as an attempt to boost an existing program that is mandated by the State Constitution which has not changed and whose maximum dollar amounts have not changed since 1995.

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) sections as follows:

- 1) Increases the expenditure limits for elected offices by 20%,

¹ The percentage of the expenditure limit, which determines the maximum amount of public funding available for each office, is increased by 50% in the bill.

- 2) HRS §11-425 by increasing the maximum amount of public funds available for all offices (except for the offices of the Mayor of the County of Kauai, Mayor of the County of Maui, and OHA trustee) by 50%. The bill also increases the maximum amount available for candidates for Mayor of the counties of Kauai and Maui by 125% by moving those offices from subsection (a) to subsection (b) and increasing the maximum amount of public funds available for a candidate for trustee of OHA from \$1,500 for the election period to 7.5% of the expenditure limit for each election established in HRS §11-423(d),
- 3) HRS §11-429(a) by increasing the amount of qualifying contributions required for a candidate for trustee of OHA from more than \$1,500 in the aggregate to more than \$5,500 in the aggregate,
- 4) HRS §11-429(a) by providing a downward adjustment of the minimum amounts of qualifying contributions for the office of prosecuting attorney for the city and county of Honolulu (from \$30,000 to \$25,000), and counties of Hawaii (from \$10,000 to \$5,000) and Kauai (from \$5,000 to \$3,000), and for the office of county council for the county of Maui (from \$5,000 to \$4,000), and
- 5) HRS §11-429(b) by increasing matching fund payments from \$1 for each \$1 of qualifying contributions in excess of the minimum qualifying contribution amounts to \$2 for each \$1 of excess qualifying contributions.

For illustration, here is a comparison of the present partial public funding program in contrast to the enhanced partial public funding program set forth in this bill. For a qualified Senate candidate running opposed in District 1 in the 2026 election, the maximum amount of public funds available is \$7,269 in the primary election and another \$7,269 in the general election. In contrast, under this bill, this same candidate would receive \$10,903 in the primary election and another \$10,903 in the general election. For a qualified House candidate running opposed in District 1 in the 2026 election, the maximum amount of public funds available is \$3,562 in the primary election and another \$3,562 in the general election. In contrast, under this bill, this same candidate would receive \$5,343 in the primary election and \$5,343 in the general election.

For a qualified candidate running opposed for Kauai Mayor in the 2026 election, the maximum amount of public funds available is \$9,635 in the primary election and another \$9,635 in the general election. In contrast, under this bill, this same candidate would receive \$21,679 in the primary election and \$21,679 in the general election. For a qualified candidate running opposed for Maui Mayor in the 2026 election, the maximum amount of public funds available is \$23,002 in the primary election and another \$23,002 in the general election. In contrast, under this bill, this same candidate would receive \$51,754 in the primary election and \$51,754 in the general election. Lastly, for a qualified OHA candidate running opposed in the 2026 election,

the maximum amount of public funds available is \$1,500 for the election period. In contrast, under this bill, this same candidate would receive \$15,496 in the primary election and \$15,496 in the general election.

Under the bill, assuming one qualified candidate for each elective office² in the state, the maximum amount of public financing available would be \$2,339,652 in the 2026 primary election and another \$2,339,652 in the 2026 general election. As of June 30, 2025, the Hawaii Election Campaign Fund (“HECF”) balance was \$2,412,282.94. A general fund appropriation into the HECF is necessary if this bill is passed.

The Commission requests that this committee pass this bill.

² The Commission is aware that not all elective offices appear on the ballot in an election year.

HB-2050-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:26:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Greetings Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of HB2050. By increasing the expenditure cap and adjusting matching funds to 2:1, this measure encourages more candidates to participate in the partial public funding program. Public financing levels the playing field for candidates without establishment backing and allows campaigns to focus on reaching voters instead of donors. This bill is a significant step toward enabling more candidates to utilize this program and reduces the influence of big money in our elections. PLEASE HELP KEEP BIG MONEY OUT OF POLITICS!

Mahalo for your attention.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

HB-2050-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 6:04:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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 **support of HB2050**, which would increase expenditure limits and partial public financing amounts for candidates participating in Hawai‘i's campaign financing program. While a more comprehensive system of full public financing for all candidates—such as that proposed in SB2313—would be a stronger and more transformative step, HB2050 represents a meaningful improvement to the current program and deserves passage.

HB2050 strengthens Hawai‘i's partial public financing system. By increasing expenditure limits and the amount of public funds available, this bill helps candidates run competitive races without relying exclusively on large donations from private interests. It adjusts the minimum number of qualifying contributions required to participate, ensuring the program remains accessible while maintaining a demonstration of community support. It also increases matching fund payments for excess qualifying contributions, amplifying the impact of small-dollar donors.

Public financing reduces the influence of money in politics. When candidates can rely on public funds rather than corporate PACs, wealthy donors, or special interest groups, they are free to represent their constituents—not their funders. It encourages broader participation, levels the playing field for candidates without personal wealth or established networks, and restores public confidence that elections are decided by voters, not dollars.

HB2050 is a step forward, even as we continue to push further. The bill makes needed updates to a program that has not kept pace with the rising cost of running for office. It will make participation more viable for more candidates. But we should also recognize that a truly comprehensive system—one that provides full public financing for all candidates seeking state and county office—would be even more effective at removing money from politics and ensuring that every voice has a chance to be heard. SB2313 offers that vision, and I urge this committee to keep it in mind as you consider HB2050.

In the meantime, HB2050 is a practical, achievable improvement that will benefit candidates and voters alike.

I urge you to pass this bill. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2050-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:42:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Oppose

2050 HB RELATING TO PARTIAL PUBLIC FINANCING OF ELECTIONS.

BANNED CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS TO ALL CANDIDATES AND RE-ELECTION
CAMPAIGNS

HB-2050-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 9:44:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation

David Ball

Waiialae-Kahala

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

I am in strong support of HB2050.

This measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program. It is important to increase the expenditure cap and adjusting matching funds to 2:1.

Public financing encourages candidates without establishment backing, and allows campaigns to focus on reaching voters instead of donors.

This bill is a significant step toward enabling more candidates to utilize this program and reduces the influence of big money in our elections.

Mahalo,

Keith Neal
Waimea

HB-2050-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:15:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nani Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Full public funding of our elections is the goal but I think that more and better partial public funding of our elections is a great strong. I am in strong support of this bill.

Mahalo,

Nani Brown

HB-2050-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:15:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jackie Keefe, and I am in **strong support of HB2050.**

The funding amounts and expenditure limits have remained unchanged since 1995. In that time, Hawai'i's cost of living has grown faster than the national average, impacting the true value of campaign funds. Increasing the match and updating the limits helps campaigns keep pace with rising expenses, such as printing, venue rentals, and advertising. By increasing the expenditure cap and adjusting matching funds to 2:1, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program.

Public financing levels the playing field for candidates without establishment backing and allows campaigns to focus on reaching voters instead of donors.

This bill is a significant step toward enabling more candidates to utilize this program and reduces the influence of big money in our elections.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Chris Todd, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Wednesday, February 26, 2026 at 2:00 pm
Conference Room 308 and Via Videoconference
State Capitol

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT : HB 2050, HD1, RELATING TO PARTIAL PUBLIC FINANCING OF ELECTIONS.

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, my Rep. Miyake for Wailuku, Rep. Yamashita of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews. I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui and an attorney licensed for over 25 years. I write to you today in **strong support of HB 2050, HD1**, Relating to Partial Public Financing of Elections, which increases the expenditure limit and the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all elective offices, adjusts the minimum amount of qualifying contributions certain candidates must receive to participate in the program, increases the matching fund payments for excess qualifying contributions, and appropriates funds for the program.

As a resident of Maui, it is time to get money out of our politics. Here on Maui, large global corporations and outside investors and developers have influenced our policies in a way that harms our environment, our communities, and our sense of trust in government. Methods of financing political campaigns should enable candidates to compete equitably for public office and ensure that candidates have sufficient funds to communicate their messages to the public.

Comprehensive public funding programs, such as proposed by SB2313, are the best way to meet these goals, but the enhancement to Hawaii's Partial Public Funding Program (PPFP) proposed by HB 2050, HD1 is an important step toward those goals. The money available to candidates through the PPFP has not changed in over twenty years. Over that time, increases in media prices, postage, and labor costs have made the current amounts inadequate, far below amounts spent by privately funded candidates who won election to the same office. As a result of the disparity, the number of candidates using PPFP continues to decrease. The increases proposed in HB2050, HD1 are an improvement and HB2050, HD1 also cuts the number of qualifying contributions required to access public funding for several offices, making the program easier to access.

House Bill 2050, HD 1 also provides for increased funding for Hawaii election campaign fund (HECF). This is important because under the definition of the PPFP, if the HECF runs out of money before all qualified candidates have received anticipated payments, the program will stop making payments. This erodes candidates' trust in and their willingness to use the program. It is time to help level the playing field so that the candidate best qualified to serve their constituents, not just the one most able to fundraise from wealthy donors, are able to be elected to office. I respectfully request your **vote in support of HB 2050, HD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony,

Christine Andrews, JD
Wailuku, Maui

HB-2050-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:22:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

HB-2050-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:37:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joell Edwards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joell Edwards. I am a resident of Wainiha and have served as a campaign manager and treasurer for several grassroots campaigns here on Kaua‘i. I am testifying in strong support of HB2050.

By increasing the expenditure cap and adjusting matching funds to 2:1, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the public financing program.

From my experience managing grassroots campaigns, I know firsthand how difficult it is for community-based candidates to compete financially—especially in rural districts where outreach costs, travel, printing, and communications continue to rise. The current caps do not reflect the real cost of running a viable campaign. Updating the matching structure to 2:1 makes the program functional again and restores its original intent.

Public financing levels the playing field for candidates without establishment backing and allows campaigns to focus on reaching voters instead of constantly fundraising. It empowers everyday community leaders—educators, small business owners, parents, and advocates—to run competitive campaigns without relying on large donors.

HB2050 is a significant step toward strengthening participation in the public financing system and reducing the outsized influence of big money in our elections. It modernizes the program and reinforces public trust in the integrity of our democratic process.

Please support HB2050.

HB-2050-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:52:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of HB2050.

By increasing the expenditure cap and adjusting matching funds to 2:1, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program.

Public financing levels the playing field for candidates without establishment backing, and allows campaigns to focus on reaching voters instead of donors.

{Insert additional comments here}

This bill is a significant step toward enabling more candidates to utilize this program and reduces the influence of big money in our elections.

Mahalo,

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

HB-2050-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:55:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Douglas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TY!

HB-2050-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:55:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Burt Furuta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Member of the Committee

I strongly support HB2050. The current partial public financing program is rarely utilized because it does not allow a candidate to run a viable campaign. HB2050 will encourage more candidates to use the program. Even if people relying on this partial public funding are heavily outspent, as will likely be the case, at least they will be able to get their message out to voters, and that is the purpose of this program. More people may run for office. There will be less unopposed races. Maybe more people will vote because there will be more choices on the ballot, and at least the appearance of competition.

I urge you to pass this bill as a step in the right direction. Reform bills pass both chambers but die in conference committee. The public gets more cynical because nothing changes. Let's make some progress this session.

Thank you.

HB-2050-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 1:18:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ross Isokane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support efforts to strengthen public financing.

With all the very public local scandals and stories about our influential elected officials and government contractors (who profit big time and can afford to buy fancy houses with taxpayer-funded revenues from contracts), I believe it can be an effective tool to help reduce the influence monied interests has on policy making and to help restore public confidence in government.

The current system allows those with money to have more access to elected officials. The additional funding investment in public financing, I believe, will provide returns in the form of better policy outcomes (as opposed to the current system that many in the public believe is rife with graft, wasteful spending, and pay-to-play).

I prefer other campaign finance bills that establish a comprehensive system of public financing more than this one. I urge legislative and committee members to make sure those get a hearing. But from a pragmatic perspective, I'll take what I can get. The only thing I'll truly be unhappy about is a session that results in no meaningful changes and simply promotes the status quo.

HB-2050-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 1:28:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gregory Misakian	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the FIN Committee,

I currently serve as the President of the Kokua Council, Vice President of the Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA), Director, Keoni Ana AOA, and was formerly a Waikiki Neighborhood Board Member from Jan. 2023 until June 2025. I'm also a member of the Good Government Caucus.

I am in strong support of HB2050 HD1. Fair elections can only exist when all candidates, regardless of their financial wealth, have enough campaign funds to run a campaign.

The best approach is to have a pool of public financing subsidized by the State (as needed), with each candidate receiving **the same amount**.

Respectfully,

Gregory Misakian (as an individual)

HB-2050-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 1:30:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB2050 HD1. I believe it is a vital step in leveling the playing field for candidates and strengthening a representative democracy. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-2050-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 2:45:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tristyn Wiehl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of HB2050.

By increasing the expenditure cap and adjusting matching funds to 2:1, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program.

Public financing levels the playing field for candidates without establishment backing, and allows campaigns to focus on reaching voters instead of donors.

As someone who values civic participation and fair representation, I believe public financing helps ensure that qualified community leaders — not just those with access to large donor networks — can run viable campaigns. Increasing the cap and adjusting the match makes the program more realistic and accessible in today’s economic climate, especially for grassroots candidates.

This bill is a significant step toward enabling more candidates to utilize this program and reduces the influence of big money in our elections.

HB-2050-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 6:26:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Dorsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I urge you to support HB2050.

By increasing the expenditure cap and adjusting matching funds to 2:1, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program.

Public financing levels the playing field for candidates without establishment backing, and allows campaigns to focus on reaching voters instead of donors.

This bill is a significant step toward enabling more candidates to utilize this program and reduces the influence of big money in our elections.

Thank you

HB-2050-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:17:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of HB2050.

By increasing the expenditure cap and adjusting matching funds to 2:1, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program.

Public financing levels the playing field for candidates without establishment backing, and allows campaigns to focus on reaching voters instead of donors.

This bill is a significant step toward enabling more candidates to utilize this program and reduces the influence of big money in our elections.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony,

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

HB-2050-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 7:52:28 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlene K. Rowley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of HB2050.

By increasing the expenditure cap and adjusting matching funds to 2:1, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program.

Public financing levels the playing field for candidates without establishment backing, and allows campaigns to focus on reaching voters instead of donors.

This bill is a significant step toward enabling more candidates to utilize this program and reduces the influence of big money in our elections.

Mahalo,

Charlene Kiana Rowley, Kula Maui

HB-2050-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 11:52:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of HB2050.

By increasing the expenditure cap and adjusting matching funds to 2:1, this measure reflects the economic realities of today and encourages more candidates to participate in the program.

Public financing levels the playing field for candidates without establishment backing, and allows campaigns to focus on reaching voters instead of donors.

{Insert additional comments here}

This bill is a significant step toward enabling more candidates to utilize this program and reduces the influence of big money in our elections.

Mahalo,

*AndrewIsoda
Lahaina, Mau'i*

HB-2050-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 3:07:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and I respectfully submit testimony in **strong support of HB2050**, which expands partial public financing for elections.

HB2050 is an important step toward strengthening democracy in Hawai‘i by reducing the outsized influence of big money in our political system. When candidates rely heavily on large private donations, everyday residents can be left without a meaningful voice. Expanding partial public financing helps level the playing field and allows candidates to focus on serving their communities rather than fundraising from special interests.

This bill promotes fairness, transparency, and accountability in our elections. By increasing access to public financing, HB2050 encourages broader participation from candidates of diverse backgrounds and helps ensure that elected officials are responsive to voters—not wealthy donors.

Public trust in government is strengthened when elections are competitive, accessible, and free from undue influence. Expanding partial public financing supports a healthier democratic process and reinforces the principle that public office should be accessible to those motivated to serve, not just those with financial backing.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to **support HB2050** and advance this critical reform.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Member

Hawai‘i Workers Center Board Member

Clean Elections Hawai‘i Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

350 Hawai'i Member

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i Member

Hawai'i Tax Fairness Coalition Member