



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION**

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 13, 2026

TO: The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on H.B. No. 2107, Relating to Political Fundraising by Executive Branch Employees.**  
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

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

This bill adds a new section to part II of Chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes prohibiting executive branch employees appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate from organizing, attending, hosting, or soliciting contributions for any political fundraiser for any candidate for elective office or from soliciting contributions from any individual or entity. The Commission supports this bill which we believe will prevent “pay -to-play” practices, or at least the appearance of these practices and represents a step towards improving public confidence in government.

The Commission requests that this committee pass this measure.



# HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

*Komikina Ho'opono Kulekele o Hawai'i Moku'āina*

Committee: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Bill Number: HB 2107  
Hearing Date/Time: February 19, 2026, 2:00 pm  
Regarding: Testimony in Support

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of HB 2107. This measure would prohibit certain executive branch nominees in compensated, Senate-confirmed positions from engaging in specified campaign fundraising activities. The Legislature has recognized that public confidence in state government depends on assurance that procurement decisions are made free from political influence. Even in the absence of actual misconduct, the perception that fundraising relationships could influence contract awards or contract management can undermine trust in the fairness and integrity of governmental decision-making. This measure proposes narrow restrictions on a defined group of senior executive-branch officials whose roles likely affect procurement decisions.

The proposed safeguards are consistent with core ethics principles that governmental authority – particularly authority involving the expenditure of public funds – must remain independent from political financial considerations. Clear separation between **procurement authority** and **campaign fundraising** helps protect vendors, public officials, and the public from circumstances that could reasonably call the objectivity of contracting decisions into question.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission respectfully supports HB 2107 as a targeted measure to reduce pay-to-play risk and strengthen public confidence in the State's public government.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your consideration of this measure.

Very truly yours,

/S/ Robert D. Harris  
Robert D. Harris  
Executive Director and General Counsel

**HB-2107**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 9:57:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire	Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands & Ohana Unity Party	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

**\*\*Testimony in Strong Support of HB2107 – Relating to Political Fundraising by Executive Branch Employees\*\***

Aloha kakou, Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM, Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I., Chairman of the Ohana Unity Party. Aloha nui loa from the heart of our islands, where we live by the guiding spirit of **\*\*aloha\*\***—love, compassion, mercy, kindness, and grace—and where **\*\*‘ohana\*\*** means we demand **\*\*kuleana\*\*** and integrity from those who serve in government, ensuring public trust remains unbroken and decisions are made in the true interest of our people, as the ‘ōlelo no‘eau teaches: **\*‘Ike aku, ‘ike mai. Kōkua aku, kōkua mai. Pēlā ka nohona ‘ohana.\*** “Observe others, be observed. Help others, be helped. That is the way of family life.”

Today, I stand in full, unwavering support of HB2107, urging its swift passage to prohibit high-level executive branch employees from engaging in political fundraising activities that create—or even appear to create—undue influence over state contracts and procurement decisions. This targeted, ethics-driven bill—introduced as part of the State Ethics Commission package—amends Chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by adding a new section in Part II to prohibit employees nominated or appointed by the Governor to **\*\*compensated positions subject to Senate confirmation\*\*** (those with significant procurement or contract influence) from:

- Organizing, attending, hosting, or soliciting contributions for any political fundraiser for a candidate for elective office.

- Directly or indirectly soliciting campaign contributions from any individual or entity. The prohibition is narrowly tailored to this small group of high-level appointees whose roles involve decisions on state contracts, where the risk of "pay-to-play" perceptions is greatest. Importantly, the bill explicitly preserves their rights as private citizens: they may still vote, make personal political donations, and express their opinions freely. No broader restrictions apply to other employees or elected officials.

Hawaii's public trust in government has been tested by scandals involving influence, favoritism, and the appearance of corruption—issues that erode confidence when high officials mingle fundraising with procurement authority. Recent events, including ongoing investigations into

alleged improper payments to influential figures, underscore the need for stronger safeguards. By preventing these employees from participating in fundraising events or solicitations, HB2107 eliminates the risk that contractors or vendors might feel pressured to donate in hopes of favorable treatment—or that the public might perceive such influence.

This is not about limiting free speech; it's about ensuring state decisions remain free from political pressure and focused on the public good. The bill's findings are clear: public confidence depends on contract decisions made without political influence; mere attendance at fundraisers can create undue perceptions; and preventing "pay-to-play" is essential for integrity.

This measure is a common-sense step to restore faith in our executive branch, align with ethical best practices, and demonstrate that Hawaii values **\*\*pono\*\***—righteousness and justice—in governance.

**\*\*In closing, with deepest aloha and a call to mālama our government by closing doors to the appearance of corruption, I respectfully ask the Committee to pass HB2107 without delay. Key reasons include:\*\*** - Prohibits Senate-confirmed, Governor-appointed executive branch employees with procurement influence from organizing, attending, hosting, or soliciting for political fundraisers or campaign contributions—directly targeting "pay-to-play" risks in state contracting.

- Narrowly focused on a small group of high-level appointees—preserving all other employees' rights and the personal freedoms of those affected (voting, private donations, opinion expression).

- Strengthens public trust amid concerns over influence in government decisions—addressing appearances of favoritism that undermine confidence in fair procurement and resource allocation.

- Aligns with State Ethics Commission recommendations for clean government—preventing indirect signals to contractors that donations could sway contracts.

- True embodiment of Hawaiian values: **\*\*aloha\*\***, **\*\*‘ohana\*\***, **\*\*mālama\*\***, **\*\*kuleana\*\***, and **\*\*pono\*\***—ensuring those in power serve the people without shadow of impropriety, restoring integrity with wisdom, accountability, and heart.

Mahalo nui loa for your kuleana in this vital work to uphold ethical governance. I am available for any questions and urge you to pass HB2107—let us protect our democracy and public trust with aloha in action.

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I. Ohana Unity Party, Chairman [www.Ohanaunityparty.com](http://www.Ohanaunityparty.com) [Presidentbillionaire@gmail.com](mailto:Presidentbillionaire@gmail.com)



Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe  
Thursday, February 19, 2026, 2:00 pm  
Room 325

HB2107- RELATING TO POLITICAL FUNDRAISING BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH  
EMPLOYEES

TESTIMONY

Judith Mills Wong, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports HB 2107**

The League of Women Voters believes in holding government to high ethical standards. In recent times, public confidence in the integrity of Hawaii government has been shaken. It is vital to public trust and to good decision-making that state contracts are free from political influence. Political fundraising by executive branch employees creates the appearance and the risk that decisions made by those employees could be tainted by political influence.

This bill prohibits key employees of the Executive Branch from hosting political fundraisers or soliciting contributions for any candidate. We believe this would increase the public trust in government. For that reason, we support HB2107.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**HB-2107**

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 9:51:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, OPPOSE CAMPAIGN DONATIONS,

IT LEADS TO CORRUPTION

IT LEADS TO POLITICIANS WALLETS

ANNUAL INCOME TAX AUDIT TO ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS

2107 HB RELATING TO POLITICAL FUNDRAISING BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH  
EMPLOYEES.

**HB-2107**

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 3:53:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a good government bill, which, given the latest news tied to Ty Cullen, must be passed. It will help restore the public's faith in government.

Please move this bill forward.

Lynne Matusow

**HB-2107**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 9:17:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daniel R Freund	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I hope you will support this good government proposal.

- Dan Freund, Kapaa

**HB-2107**

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 3:36:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha.

I am in full support for this bill which prohibits any Executive Branch employee who is nominated or appointed by the Governor to a compensated position subject to confirmation by the Senate from engaging in certain campaign fundraising activities.

Thank you,

Mary Lu Kelley

Koloa, Kauai

**HB-2107**

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 7:15:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cristina Holt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am submitting testimony in support of HB 2107.

This one is pretty simple to me. When someone the governor appointed to a powerful position shows up at a political fundraiser, everyone there understands what that means. You do not have to say a word. The contractors in the room get the message just fine.

That kind of influence has no place in how our government hands out contracts and makes decisions with public money. It is not fair to the public, and it is not fair to the businesses that are just trying to compete on merit.

This bill does not take away anyone's right to vote or have political opinions. It just says that if you hold one of these powerful appointed positions, you should not be out there raising money for campaigns. That seems pretty reasonable to me.

I urge the committee to pass HB 2107.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

To: Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: February 18, 2026

RE: House Bill 2107  
Measure Title: RELATING TO POLITICAL FUNDRAISING BY EXECUTIVE  
BRANCH EMPLOYEES.  
Report Title: State Ethics Commission Package; Contributions; Solicitation

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I support House Bill 2107. Thank you for introducing this bill.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore

**HB-2107**

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 11:48:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Jackie Keefe and I am **in strong support of HB2107**, which was introduced at the request of the State Ethics Commission to strengthen public confidence in the integrity of our State Government.

HB2107 was created to prevent "pay-to-play" practices by restricting a small, clearly defined group of high-level executive branch employees (those nominated or appointed by the Governor to compensated positions subject to Senate confirmation whose position has influence on procurement decisions and contract management) from attending or participating in fundraising activities.

Please **pass HB2107** to protect the integrity of our elections.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina