



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:
H.B. NO. 2125, RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

BEFORE THE:
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

DATE: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Ashley M. Tanaka, or Christopher J.I. Leong,
Deputy Attorneys General

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General opposes this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to redefine "corporate powers" to no longer permit a corporation to engage in "election activity," defined as activity promoting or opposing a political candidate or position on a ballot question.

It is the Department of the Attorney General's duty to advise on the constitutionality of legislation. While a great many Americans strongly disagree with the U.S. Supreme Court's holding in *Citizens United v. Fed. Election Comm'n*, 558 U.S. 310 (2010), under our federal system of government, it is our duty to state that this opinion remains the law of the land, irrespective of its merits (or lack thereof). In *Citizens United*, the United States Supreme Court rejected the argument that political speech of corporations or other associations should be treated differently under the First Amendment simply because such associations are not "natural persons." The underlying rationale for the Court's holding that corporations have the right to political speech is that they are "associations" of individuals. The Court further explained that, by banning corporate expenditures, "certain disfavored associations of citizens—those that have taken on the corporate form—are penalized for engaging in the same political speech." *Id.* at 356. Although states have authority to determine what powers a corporation has under state law, if a state tries to remove a corporation's ability to

engage in election activity, *Citizens United* suggests that the state would be attempting to take away a corporation's right to speak. This bill is framed as redefining "corporate powers" under state law. Courts, however, generally look to the practical effect of a law, and a restriction that functions as a prohibition on speech may be treated as a First Amendment speech restriction. See, e.g., *Sorrell v. IMS Health Inc.*, 564 U.S. 552 (2011).

This bill removes only speech related to election activity from a corporation's powers, while permitting a corporation to retain its ability to speak in other contexts. Such a content-based restriction on speech, particularly one that disfavors political speech, may be subject to strict scrutiny under the First Amendment. See *Reed v. Town of Gilbert*, 576 U.S. 155 (2015). Strict scrutiny would require the government to prove that the restriction furthers a compelling interest and is narrowly tailored to achieve that interest.

While we sympathize with frustration regarding *Citizens United*, it is our duty to advise that this bill raises substantial constitutional concerns and litigation risk should it pass into law. We respectfully request that it be held.

HB-2125

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:03:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i, we would like to offer our VERY STRONG Support of HB2125, which clarifies that corporations operating under Hawai'i law do not possess a statutory power to engage in election activity. This bill affirms the State's authority to define corporate powers and helps ensure that elections reflect the will of people rather than entities created by law. HB2125 does not restrict individual political participation, but instead reinforces basic democratic principles and accountability. This again is a no brainer. Citizens United VS FEC brought down our entire electoral system single handily. This is a step in the right direction.

Please Support HB2125

Mahalo,

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo



Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe
Tuesday, February 10 2 pm
Room 325 and Videoconference
HB2125 RELATING TO ELECTIONS

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports the intent of HB2125, which provides that any corporation operating under state law shall hold all the corporate powers it previously held; provided that nothing in state law shall be construed to grant or recognize any corporate power to engage in election activity. We also offer comments.

HB2521 would minimize undue corporate influence in Hawaii's elections. The League has consistently opposed unlimited corporate political spending. In 2009, we filed an amicus brief against *Citizens United v. FEC* in order to protect elections from the financial power of wealthy corporations. We argued then, and maintain now, that the concentrated economic power of corporations poses a fundamental threat to democratic self-government. The innovative approach that HB2125 employs of using the state's corporate chartering authority rather than traditional campaign finance regulation aligns with this principled position. If corporate political spending powers are never granted in the first place, they cannot be exercised. This strategy attempts to sidestep the legal barriers that have frustrated campaign finance reform efforts nationwide.

We comment that HB2125 does not explicitly explain the rationale for this approach, compared to, for example, HB2130. We do not know the implications of each approach for future legal challenges.

We also comment that businesses incorporated in Hawaii will need outreach and education to comply with this legislation. It seems to us that logically this would be

assigned to the Campaign Spending Commission, along with compliance monitoring. If that is the case, the budget for the Commission will need to be increased to accommodate this new responsibility.

We support HB2125's groundbreaking effort to restore elections to the people of Hawaii.

Mahalo for your consideration.



FEBRUARY 10, 2026

HOUSE BILL 2125

CURRENT REFERRAL: JHA

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Kris Coffield,
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David Negaard,
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Justin Salisbury,
Director

Eileen Roco,
Director

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Director

Corey Rosenlee,
Director

Amy Zhao,
*Policy and Partnerships
Strategist*

POSITION: SUPPORT

Imua Alliance supports HB 2125, relating to elections, which provides that any corporation operating under state law shall hold all the corporate powers it previously held; provided that nothing in state law shall be construed to grant any corporate power to engage in election activity.

Imua Alliance is a Hawai'i-based organization dedicated to ending all forms of exploitation, including corporate interference in our democracy. This proposal clarifies that while corporations operating under Hawai'i law retain all lawful corporate powers granted under state statute, those powers shall not be construed to permit engagement in election activity.

Under centuries-old corporate law, corporations enjoy certain legal capacities to act in the marketplace and pursue lawful business purposes. At the same time, there is broad consensus among scholars, advocates, and voters that corporate political intervention should not outweigh the political power of individual residents. This proposal aligns state law with this principle by making clear that existing corporate powers do not extend to engaging in political or election activity, including promoting or opposing candidates and ballot questions.

Corporate political influence distorts democratic representation. Since the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, artificial entities such as corporations have been allowed to direct significant financial resources into electoral contests. This has contributed to a surge in political spending by non-individual actors that can drown out the voices of everyday voters and distort policy priorities away from community needs. Clarifying that corporations lack state authority for election activity reinforces that the people are sovereign in Hawai'i's democratic system.

This measure is consistent with state efforts to affirm that public policy must be shaped by the collective will of Hawai'i's residents—not disproportionately by corporate treasuries. By restricting the interpretation of corporate powers in state law to exclude election activities, the measure helps preserve fair competition in the marketplace of ideas and reduces the potential for undue influence by well-funded special interests. This reflects the principle that election outcomes should reflect voters' voices, not the breadth of corporate spending.

The Center for American Progress (CAP) has articulated a novel approach that states can adopt: "Corporations are creatures of state law. They start with zero powers, and states choose which powers to grant." CAP explains that if a state rewrites its corporate statutes to remove the power to spend money in elections, "that power simply does not exist. And without the power, there's no right to protect." This approach leverages state authority over corporate charters to address the root of corporate political influence, potentially sidestepping constitutional barriers that have limited campaign finance reforms since Citizens United.

Finally, this bill does not reduce the legitimate legal capacities of corporations to operate, hire workers, innovate in commerce, or participate in public life as employers and taxpayers. It simply affirms that election participation—especially expenditures or coordinated political advocacy that influences elections—is not among the state-recognized powers those entities may exercise. This legislative clarity can provide certainty for businesses and voters alike, and reduce litigation or ambiguity about corporate political involvement in state and local electoral processes.

With aloha,

Kris Coffield

President, Imua Alliance



Protect Democracy

Move Forward

www.indivisiblehawaii.org

info@indivisiblehawaii.org

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

Hearing Date/Time: 02-10-26 2:00 PM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Re: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2125

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

On behalf of Indivisible Hawai'i, I thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB2125.

This bill clarifies that corporations operating under Hawai'i law do not possess a statutory power to engage in election activity. It affirms the State's authority to define corporate powers and takes an important step toward restoring balance in our elections by reaffirming that elections reflect the will of people rather than entities created by statute and granted special privileges. HB2125 does not restrict individual political participation, but instead reinforces basic democratic principles and accountability.

We thank you for supporting HB2125.

Sincerely,

Marlene Thom

Indivisible Hawai'i Good Government and Secure Elections Team

The mission of the 14-chapter Indivisible Hawai'i Statewide Network (IHSN) is to protect Hawai'i and democracy by defending civil rights, communities and values, most importantly, Hawai'i's Constitutionally protected spirit of Aloha. In October 2025, IHSN with other partners turned out over 22,000 residents on all major islands to say No Dictators! and to stand up for democracy. This call-to-action was part of Indivisible national's mobilization of more than 7 million across the country as the voice of the people, committed to election integrity and to evolving as a place of equity, opportunity and peace.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 2 pm

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT - HB 2125, RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, Rep. Cochran from 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 of HB 2125**, Relating to Elections, which provides that any corporation operating under state law shall hold all the corporate powers it previously held; provided that nothing in state law shall be construed to grant or recognize any corporate power to engage in election activity.

As an attorney and voter, the unfortunate trendline in state and national electoral politics since 2010, when the unfortunate U.S. Supreme Court decision *Citizens United* was decided, is clear. The result of this ruling has been unfettered business donations and interference in elections. Most recently, at the national level, we have seen billionaires try to influence elections, pouring millions into state and national contests. This amplifies the influence of the few, at the expense of the rights of the many. For example, in a recent Texas State Senate election, one candidate vastly outraised another, although one candidate had less than 250 donors and the other had over 1,800.

At the local level, on Maui, we have witnessed large, global corporations use their donations to work to defeat local ballot initiatives and monied mainland investors have tried to shape our representation and influence our elected to serve their interests rather than those of our residents. The high level of business donations in electoral politics erodes public trust in electeds, such as the members of this committee, and creates the impression that electeds serve the interests of business donors and not of their constituents. Legislation such as this will help restore trust and the reputation of public servants dedicated to the public good such as yourselves.

There may be concern that legislation such as this may contravene *Citizens United*. I remind you that the existence of corporations and business entities is a legal fiction that finds its roots in state law. So while the *Citizens United* decision does take precedence, it was decided on the facts of that case. There is a growing national movement to empower states to limit the impact of *Citizens United* upon our electoral politics through state legislation. I request that you **vote in support HB 2125** and help Hawaii join the ranks of states that are working to empower voters rather than corporate interests. This is a measure that has broad public support.

Mahalo nui,

Christine L. Andrews, J.D.

Wailuku, Maui

HB-2125

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 4:48:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimdonghyeon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Personalized testimony is the most impactful way to influence lawmakers, please use this as a guide to draft your own words

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

I am in strong support of HB2125, which clarifies that corporations operating under Hawai'i law do not possess a statutory power to engage in election activity. This bill affirms the State's authority to define corporate powers and helps ensure that elections reflect the will of people rather than entities created by law. HB2125 does not restrict individual political participation, but instead reinforces basic democratic principles and accountability.

Mahalo,

kimdonghyeon

HB-2125

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:09:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel R Freund	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill to make elections open, fair, and more accessible. You know, the opposite of what they're trying to do in Washington.

- Dan Freund, Kapaa

HB-2125

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:24:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Balangitao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi chair and committee members I writing to you in strong support of this bill, corporations should not engage in any of our elections. Our elections should reflect the will of the people not decided by corporations that is beholden to there bottom line and investors. We need to make sure to keep our elections fair. Thank you , Jasmine Balangitao

HB-2125

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:48:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this good governance bill to keep corporate influence out of elections!

Mahalo!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

HB-2125

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:05:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of HB2125, which clarifies that corporations operating under Hawai'i law do not possess a statutory power to engage in election activity. This bill affirms the State's authority to define corporate powers and helps ensure that elections reflect the will of people rather than entities created by law. HB2125 does not restrict individual political participation, but instead reinforces basic democratic principles and accountability. Thank you Pahnelopi McKenize

HB-2125

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:18:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 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 of HB2125, which clarifies that corporations operating under Hawai'i law do not possess a statutory power to engage in election activity. This bill affirms the State's authority to define corporate powers and helps ensure that elections reflect the will of people rather than entities created by law. HB2125 does not restrict individual political participation, but instead reinforces basic democratic principles and accountability.

Thank you

HB-2125

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:09:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB2125, which clarifies that corporations operating under Hawai'i law do not possess a statutory power to engage in election activity. This bill affirms the State's authority to define corporate powers and helps ensure that elections reflect the will of people rather than entities created by law. HB2125 does not restrict individual political participation, but instead reinforces basic democratic principles and accountability. Mahalo.

HB-2125

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:43:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Fitzpatrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in **strong support of HB2125**. Our elections should be a marketplace of ideas among citizens, not a lopsided spending war funded by corporate balance sheets. When corporations and special interest groups are allowed to pour "obscene" amounts of money into our local ballot measures, the voice of the Hawaii resident is effectively silenced.

We have seen two egregious examples of this in recent history that prove why HB2125 is a necessity for a fair democracy:

- **The 2018 Education Surcharge (ConAm):** When Hawaii sought to create a surcharge on investment properties to finally fund our struggling public schools, the real estate industry and the Chamber of Commerce unleashed a massive spending campaign. The opposition, led by groups like the **National Association of Realtors** and the **Hawaii Chamber of Commerce**, poured over **\$1.23 million** into defeating the measure. This massive influx of "darker" money—much of it from national organizations—was used to confuse voters and protect corporate profit at the expense of our keiki's education.
- **The 2014 Maui GMO Moratorium:** Perhaps the most "obscene" example of corporate interference occurred on Maui. Agrochemical giants **Monsanto** and **Dow AgroSciences** spent nearly **\$8 million** to defeat a local grassroots initiative—a record for any local election in Hawaii. Monsanto alone contributed over **\$5.1 million**. When corporations spend **\$175 per vote** to protect their bottom line, it isn't "free speech"—it's a hostile takeover of the democratic process.

HB2125 is a common-sense clarification of our state law. It ensures that the "powers" granted to a corporation to do business in Hawaii do not include the power to drown out the voices of the people who actually live, work, and vote here.

I urge you to **pass HB2125** and return the power of our elections to the people.

Mahalo,

John "Fitz" Fitzpatrick

Makawao

HB-2125

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:23:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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 writing **in strong support of HB2125**, which clarifies that corporations operating under Hawai'i law do not possess a statutory power to engage in election activity. This bill affirms the State's authority to define corporate powers and helps ensure that elections reflect the will of people rather than entities created by law. HB2125 does not restrict individual political participation, but instead reinforces basic democratic principles and accountability.

Regardless of what an activist court may have said, *corporations are not people* and their unbridled ability to participate in our elections has been detrimental to the future of Hawai'i. Please pass this bill to strengthen our democracy. We deserve better.

Mahalo,

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

HB-2125

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:33:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Bolger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 2125. This bill clarifies that while corporations retain their lawful corporate powers, they are not permitted to use those powers to engage in election activity, such as promoting or opposing political candidates or ballot questions.

Strengthening this prohibition helps protect the integrity of our elections, ensures corporate influence remains appropriate, and reinforces public confidence in the fairness of Hawaii's democratic process. I urge the Committee to pass this measure.

HB-2125

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:39:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Joell Edwards, and I am a resident of Wainiha, Kaua‘i, a small business owner, and a longtime community advocate. I am writing in strong support of HB2125.

As someone who lives and works in a rural community, I see firsthand how deeply public decisions affect real people—working families, small businesses, and local communities. Our democracy functions best when political power is rooted in people, not entities created by law for economic purposes.

HB2125 clearly affirms that corporations operating under Hawai‘i law do not possess a statutory power to engage in election activity. This clarification reinforces the State’s authority to define corporate powers and helps ensure that elections reflect the will of voters, not the influence of artificial entities with disproportionate resources.

Importantly, this bill does not restrict individual political participation. People retain their full constitutional rights to engage in civic life. HB2125 simply draws a necessary and reasonable boundary that strengthens democratic accountability and protects the integrity of our elections.

For communities like mine, where trust in government matters deeply, this bill is an important step toward fairness, transparency, and people-centered democracy. I respectfully urge your support of HB2125.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2125

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:58:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha All,

No corporate power in elections.

Mahalo,

Ann V Saffery

Honolulu, HI

HB-2125

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:16:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 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 HB2125 which will help bring the power of elections to the public citizenry and not corporations. Mahalo for your consideration.



JOSH FROST

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Tuesday, February 10, 2026
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

House Bill 2125 Relating to Elections
Testimony in Support

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and committee members:

I testify today as an individual. I am not here representing the ACLU of Hawai'i or any other organization.

I appreciate the committee's willingness to take up this important issue hearing multiple bills on the topic.

HB2125 seeks to take advantage of long-standing legal precedent that states are solely authorized to define the scope with which corporations, including non-profits, can operate in their jurisdictions.

Since the early 1900s, states have granted broad authority to corporations to essentially have all the powers as individual persons. This was largely done as a matter of expediency, rather than explicit intent. However, we've now seen, as it relates to elections and our political system, that corporate entities are not the same as people and cannot be granted all the same powers as an individual. Any reasonable person understands they are not the same.

Corporations have abused with impunity the granted power to spend in elections. The consequence has been stark and terrible. Since the Supreme Court handed down its ruling in *Citizens United v. FEC*, corporate spending has exploded. Since 2008, spending by outside groups, corporations, has grown 28-fold (from \$144 million in 2008 to \$4.21 billion in 2024).¹

The practical consequence of this spending has been outsized influence on elected officials to support the position of moneyed interests versus those of ordinary people.

The shrinking middle class and rising cost of living can, by some measure, be directly attributed to this outsized influence. In turn, dissatisfaction in our political institutions by

¹ Open Secrets, "Outside Spending," available at <https://www.opensecrets.org/outside-spending/summary> (last accessed September 2025).

those same ordinary people who now feel ignored by their government has skyrocketed. To our peril.

The result has been anger and hostility toward our government institutions, which in turn has led to the rise in authoritarianism in America.

Luckily, HB2125 substantially reduces this terrible imbalance of influence in Hawai'i and restores a semblance of power to the individual persons of the electorate.

Prior court rulings imply that because powers given to corporations by states include essentially all those enjoyed by actual people, those rights cannot be separately prohibited. However, a long history of jurisprudence and federal law has repeatedly provided states sole authority to define the breadth and depth of corporate power.

This state authority has never been revoked. As such, HB2521 takes a judicially narrow approach to addressing the consequence of Citizens United by making explicit in Hawai'i state law that corporations would no longer have this power, and as such, would have no right to it.

The Hawai'i Legislature has an opportunity to respond to the anger and dissatisfaction of their constituents by supporting this bill and making it law.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2125

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:02:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Press	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

Speaking as an individual, I strongly support HB 2125, which clarifies that corporations operating under Hawai‘i law do not possess corporate powers to engage in election activity. Elections are a core democratic function meant to reflect the will of the people, and this bill appropriately affirms that political participation belongs to individual citizens, not to corporations. By clearly stating that state law neither grants nor recognizes corporate authority to promote or oppose candidates or ballot questions, HB 2125 strengthens voter equality and helps restore public trust in our electoral system.

Importantly, Hawai‘i would be the first state in the nation to take this principled step. As legal scholars and policy experts have argued, including at the [Center for American Progress](#), corporations do not have inherent powers; they may exercise only those explicitly granted by the state.

HB 2125 positions Hawai‘i as a national leader in protecting the integrity of elections. Political outcomes should be shaped by the people of this state and not corporate entities. I respectfully urge the committee to pass HB 2125.

Mahalo.

Michael Press

HB-2125

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:19:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please SUPPORT HB2125 and clarify that corporations created or operating in Hawaii do not have inherent power to engage in elections. This is an important step toward restoring balance in our elections. Corporate influence has taken away the power of one person's voice in our elections and handed that over to the corporations that seek to profit off of our systems.

HB-2125

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:48:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 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 writing in strong support of HB2125, which clarifies that corporations operating under Hawai‘i law do not possess a statutory power to engage in election activity. This bill affirms the State’s authority to define corporate powers and helps ensure that elections reflect the will of people rather than entities created by law. HB2125 does not restrict individual political participation, but instead reinforces basic democratic principles and accountability.

This bill takes an important step toward restoring balance in our elections by reaffirming that elections are meant to reflect the voices of people, not entities created by statute and granted special privileges like limited liability.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

HB-2125

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:15:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madison Masek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Elections should be voted on by the people, not by corporate interests.