



# HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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

Committee: Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Bill Number: SB 2246  
Hearing Date/Time: February 13, 2026, 9:00 a.m.  
Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2246

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2246, which strengthens public trust in government by expanding public financial disclosure requirements to members of boards and commissions that exercise substantial financial authority, as well as to certain executive directors and executive officers whose roles involve significant responsibility over the expenditure, investment, or management of public funds.

Public financial disclosure is a cornerstone of transparent and accountable government. Existing law appropriately requires disclosure for officials who exercise significant regulatory authority, fiduciary responsibility, or oversight of substantial public resources. SB 2246 builds on this framework by ensuring that similarly situated decision-makers -- particularly those serving on boards and commissions with substantial financial authority or in senior executive roles -- are subject to consistent disclosure requirements.

By expanding the scope of individuals covered by disclosure laws, this measure promotes uniform ethical standards, enhances public confidence in governmental decision-making, and helps safeguard against real or perceived conflicts of interest.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission respectfully urges the Committee to pass SB 2246.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

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



# HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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

**LATE**

Proposed Amendment for SB 2246

Page 8, lines 1-3

(8) The executive directors or executive officers, if applicable, and board or commission members of the following state boards, commissions, and agencies:

**SB-2246**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 2:20:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Gabbard, and honorable members of committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i, we stand in Full Support of SB2246. SB2246 strengthens public trust in government by expanding financial disclosure requirements to include boards and commissions that oversee large sums of public money or exercise significant financial authority, as well as the executive directors and executive officers who manage day-to-day operations and financial decisions. Full disclosure, also known as transparency is often times missing in our government. This is a win win for the constituents of our state.

Green Party is in Full support and we thank you for your support on SB2246.

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo



Committee on Judiciary  
Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard  
Friday, February 13, 2026, 9:00 am  
Room 016  
SB2246 – RELATING TO FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB2246**

Public trust in government decision making is enhanced when public officials with oversight of substantial public resources are subject to public financial disclosure requirements. We believe this expansion of categories of boards and commissions that are subject of public financial disclosure filings will increase public trust and transparency and is very appropriate.

The League of Women Voters supports SB2246.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

**RE: Testimony with Comments on S.B. 2246, Relating to Financial Disclosures**  
Hearing: February 13, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ben Creps. I am a staff attorney at the Public First Law Center, a nonprofit organization that promotes open government in Hawai`i.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony with comments **supporting the intent** of S.B. 2246 and **recommending a clarifying amendment**.

As written, the inclusion of “commissions, and agencies” at page 8, line 3 may cause confusion about the subject of the disclosure requirement – the Agribusiness Development Corporation, for example, is an agency. We thus recommend removing that language.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify with comments on S.B. 2246.

**SB-2246**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 10:20:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tanya Aynessazian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure.

Tanya Yamanaka Aynessazian

Hawaii Island

**SB-2246**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 10:29:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 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 testifying in strong support of SB2246, a critical government transparency bill that closes longstanding gaps in our financial disclosure laws. This legislation ensures that the individuals with the greatest influence over public resources—members of powerful boards and commissions, and the executive directors and officers who manage day-to-day financial operations—are held to the same accountability standards as elected officials.

Public trust is the currency of effective governance. Yet currently, too many decision-makers who control large sums of public money, approve major contracts, and shape policy with significant financial implications operate without any public disclosure of potential conflicts of interest. This is a transparency gap that erodes confidence and invites skepticism about whose interests are truly being served.

SB2246 fixes this by expanding financial disclosure requirements to cover:

- **Boards and commissions** that oversee substantial public funds or exercise significant financial authority; and
- **Executive directors and executive officers** responsible for day-to-day financial management and operational decisions.

This is not a burdensome expansion; it is a commonsense alignment of transparency with responsibility. If you hold significant power over public dollars, the public has a right to know about your outside financial interests, potential conflicts, and sources of income. This is how we prevent even the appearance of impropriety and ensure that decisions are made for the public good, not private gain.

Robust financial disclosure is a proven, nonpartisan tool for clean government. It helps identify conflicts before they become scandals, promotes ethical decision-making, and reassures the people of Hawai‘i that their government is working on their behalf.

I urge you to pass SB2246 and strengthen the trust between our government and the communities it serves.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



**SB-2246**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 10:37:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am submitting testimony today in support of SB 2246. Boards, commissions and executive leaders who oversee significant public funds should be subject to clear and consistent financial disclosure requirements. Transparency helps prevent conflicts of interest and strengthens public trust in government.

At a time when public trust in government keeps decreasing, we must do all we can to strengthen the trust.

SB 2246 closes existing gaps in disclosure requirements and promotes accountability for those with the greatest influence over public resources.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony,

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

**SB-2246**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 1:28:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB2246 because I believe it will promote accountability. Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-2246**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 3:30:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Committee Members,

I support SB 2246. Boards, commissions and executive leaders who oversee significant public funds should be subject to clear and consistent financial disclosure requirements. Transparency helps prevent conflicts of interest and strengthens public trust in government, which we desperately need now!

Mahalo for your attention.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

**SB-2246**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 10:41:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I support SB 2246. Boards, commissions and executive leaders who oversee significant public funds should be subject to clear and consistent financial disclosure requirements. Transparency helps prevent conflicts of interest and strengthens public trust in government.

SB 2246 closes existing gaps in disclosure requirements and promotes accountability for those with the greatest influence over public resources.

Mahalo,

kimdonghyeon

**SB-2246**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 10:53:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Petricci	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Robert Petricci

In support of SB2246

Aloha, thank you for the this important legislation to increase transparency and accountability. With the pay to play history in Hawaii and the ongoing investigation of money in paper bags changing hands I support more ethics disclousure from our elected representitves

Mahalo

Robert Petricci

**SB-2246**

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:11:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Roberta Hickey-Gómez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I support SB 2246. Boards, commissions and executive leaders who oversee significant public funds should be subject to clear and consistent financial disclosure requirements. Transparency helps prevent conflicts of interest and strengthens public trust in government.

More than anything the rise of mistrust in government has brought about all manner of ills that currently plague US democracy. This would be a step toward creating better trust and accountability to strengthen this state's institutions.

SB 2246 closes existing gaps in disclosure requirements and promotes accountability for those with the greatest influence over public resources. And I fully support all manner of legislation that promotes trust and accountability in governance.

Mahalo,

Roberta Hickey-Gómez

**SB-2246**

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:13:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/13/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation.

David Ball

Waiialae-Kahala