



HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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

Committee: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Bill Number: SB 2247
Hearing Date/Time: February 18, 2026, 9:04 a.m.
Regarding: Testimony in Support

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of S.B. 2247. This measure would prohibit certain executive branch nominees to 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 absent 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 to 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.

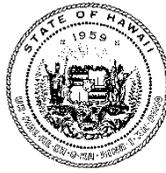
For these reasons, the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission respectfully supports S.B. 2247 as a targeted measure to reduce pay-to-play risk and strengthen public confidence in the State's public government.

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

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 17, 2026

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 2247, Relating to Political Fundraising by Executive Branch Employees.**
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 9:04 a.m.
Conference Room 016 & 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.



**Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports SB2247
Wednesday, February 18th, 9:00 AM in Conference Room 016 & Videoconference**

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

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action supports SB2247, relating to political fundraising by executive branch employees.

Public confidence in government depends on the assurance that procurement decisions and contract management are made free from political influence. When high-level executive branch employees with procurement authority participate in campaign fundraising activities, it creates a risk of the appearance of undue influence.

Even in the absence of actual misconduct, the presence of officials with authority over contracts at political fundraising events can reasonably raise concerns about preferential treatment or indirect pressure on contractors to contribute. Public trust is weakened when pay-to-play dynamics are perceived to exist.

SB 2247 is narrowly tailored to apply only to a clearly defined group of executive branch employees who are nominated or appointed by the Governor to compensated positions subject to Senate confirmation. It prohibits this specific group from organizing, hosting, attending, or soliciting funds for political fundraisers, which is a measured and practical reform.

We respectfully urge support for SB2247.

Thank you for your 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



Committee on Judiciary
Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard
Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 9:04am
Room 016
SB2247 – RELATING TO POLITICAL FUNDRAISING BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH
EMPLOYEES

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 SB2247

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 SB2247.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-2247

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 10:39:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/18/2026 9:04:00 AM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, STRONGLY OPPOSE

CAMPAIGN DONATION - ANNUAL TAX INCOME AUDIT

CORRUPTION, PUBLIC MISTRUST, PADDING WALLETS

2247 SB RELATING TO POLITICAL FUNDRAISING BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH
EMPLOYEES.

SB-2247

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 10:58:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/18/2026 9:04:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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.

lynne matusow

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: February 17, 2026

RE: Senate Bill 2247
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 Senate Bill 2247. Thank you for introducing this bill.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore

SB-2247

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 5:49:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/18/2026 9:04:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lila Mower	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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SB-2247

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 12:06:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/18/2026 9:04:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gregory Misakian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2247.

Gregory Misakian