



HAWAI'I STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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

Committee: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Bill Number: SB 2248
Hearing Date/Time: February 10, 2026, 9:15 a.m.
Re: Testimony in Support of SB 2248

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2248, which promotes governmental transparency and strengthens public confidence in the State's appointments process by requiring nominees subject to Senate confirmation to file financial disclosure statements **before** their confirmation hearings.

Under current law, many appointed officials are not required to file financial disclosures until **after** their appointment, which can delay disclosure until after confirmation proceedings have concluded. This timing limits the public's ability to review and provide input on perceived conflicts of interest. SB 2248 corrects this gap by requiring nominees to submit disclosures within a short timeframe after nomination or before the first confirmation hearing, thereby enabling meaningful public review and informed legislative consideration.

The measure also advances consistency, clarity, and enforceability in Hawai'i's financial disclosure framework. By extending disclosure requirements to nominees for Senate-confirmed positions and ensuring more uniform reporting standards, SB 2248 helps establish clearer expectations and more effective oversight of reported financial interests. The bill further provides nominees with clear standards for compliance, along with guidance and support in completing required financial disclosures, helping reduce confusion and promote accurate reporting. At the same time, the measure strengthens enforcement mechanisms in cases of omission or noncompliance, ensuring that disclosure requirements are meaningful and consistently applied. By aligning disclosure timing and content across related processes, SB 2248 may also reduce unnecessary duplication and streamline administration for both filers and oversight agencies.

In addition, the bill makes important technical amendments to Hawai'i's disclosure laws and helps ensure transparency about legislative income from lobbyists and lobbying organizations, thereby supporting the integrity of the legislative process and public confidence in governmental decision-making.

February 8, 2026

Page 2

Financial disclosure requirements are a cornerstone of ethical governance. They help identify potential conflicts of interest, promote accountability, and reinforce public trust in government. Requiring disclosures prior to confirmation ensures that transparency meaningfully informs the confirmation process rather than occurring only after the fact.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission respectfully urges the Committee to **pass SB 2248**.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

/S/ Robert D. Harris

Robert D. Harris

Executive Director and General Counsel

SB-2248

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 6:53:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i we are in strong support of SB2248. Seems like a no brainer that we need financial disclosures up front before confirmation hearings. This is a straightforward fix for transparency. It makes sure financial disclosures are available before confirmation hearings, when they matter most. This strengthens public trust, improves legislative oversight, and aligns disclosure rules with information already reported elsewhere. Win win.

Please support SB2248

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo

SB-2248

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 10:43:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

.

SB-2248

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 4:48:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

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

I am in strong support of SB2248

This is a straightforward fix for transparency. It makes sure financial disclosures are available before confirmation hearings, when they matter most. This strengthens public trust, improves legislative oversight, and aligns disclosure rules with information already reported elsewhere.

Mahalo,

kimdonghyeon

SB-2248

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:04:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-2248

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:07:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support!

Judith White, Kapaa

Member, Kauai Indivisible

SB-2248

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:08:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Priscilla Stuckey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I strongly support SB2248.

Nominees should make their financial disclosures public before confirmation hearings so everyone knows the truth prior to making a decision. This is a straightforward fix for transparency.

This bill will strengthen public trust, improve legislative oversight, and align disclosure rules with information already reported elsewhere.

Mahalo,

Priscilla Stuckey, Kihei

SB-2248

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:09:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

SB-2248

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:17:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hi chair and committee members I'm writing in support of this bill. We need to have transparency in the people that we elect to represent us. There needs to be accountability now more than ever.

Thank you , Jasmine Balangitao

SB-2248

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:44:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support transparency in financial disclosures!

Mahalo!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

SB-2248

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

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of SB2248

This is a straightforward fix for transparency. It makes sure financial disclosures are available before confirmation hearings, when they matter most. This strengthens public trust, improves legislative oversight, and aligns disclosure rules with information already reported elsewhere

Pahnelopi McKenzie

SB-2248

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:17:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I urge you to support of SB2248.

This is a straightforward fix for transparency. It makes sure financial disclosures are available before confirmation hearings, when they matter most. This strengthens public trust, improves legislative oversight, and aligns disclosure rules with information already reported elsewhere.

Thank you

SB-2248

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:07:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB2248

This is a straightforward fix for transparency. It makes sure financial disclosures are available before confirmation hearings, when they matter most. This strengthens public trust, improves legislative oversight, and aligns disclosure rules with information already reported elsewhere. Mahalo.

SB-2248

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:36:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of SB2248

This is a straightforward fix for transparency. It makes sure financial disclosures are available before confirmation hearings, when they matter most. This strengthens public trust, improves legislative oversight, and aligns disclosure rules with information already reported elsewhere.

These disclosures make sure both the person being confirmed and the public know when these public servants should recuse themselves from voting.

Mahalo,

Fitz,

Makawao

SB-2248

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:07:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L. Osterer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2248.

This bill is needed for transparency to insure financial disclosures are made before confirmation hearings. Public trust is waning; legislative oversight needs improvement. There should be no opposition since this information is already required.

Mahalo, L. Osterer

SB-2248

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:01:28 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Jackie Keefe and I am in **strong support of SB2248**, which requires gubernatorial nominees who need Senate confirmation (except judges) to file financial disclosure statements before their confirmation hearings. This closes a loophole where disclosures currently become public after hearings have already happened.

It also aligns legislators' disclosure requirements with information already reported in lobbyist expenditure reports, improving consistency and clarity.

Transparency needs to come before power is granted, not after. The public deserves confidence that nominees do not have undisclosed financial conflicts.

This is a straightforward fix for transparency. It makes sure financial disclosures are available before confirmation hearings, when they matter most. This strengthens public trust, improves legislative oversight, and aligns disclosure rules with information already reported elsewhere.

Mahalo,

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

LATE

SB-2248

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:29:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Joell Edwards, and I am a resident of Wainiha, Kaua‘i. I am writing in strong support of SB2248.

SB2248 is a straightforward fix that improves transparency and accountability. It ensures that required financial disclosures are available *before* confirmation hearings, when this information matters most to lawmakers and the public.

By aligning disclosure timelines with information that is already required and reported elsewhere, this bill strengthens legislative oversight without adding unnecessary burden. Most importantly, it helps build public trust in the confirmation process by ensuring decisions are made with full and timely information.

I respectfully urge your support of SB2248.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

SB-2248

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:39:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of SB2248

This is a straightforward fix for transparency. It makes sure financial disclosures are available before confirmation hearings, when they matter most. This strengthens public trust, improves legislative oversight, and aligns disclosure rules with information already reported elsewhere.

SB-2248

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:56:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2026 9:15:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

Aloha All,

Please support!!

Mahalo,

Ann V Saffery

Honolulu, HI

LATE

SB-2248

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:34:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and committee members,

My comments on SB 2248 is that this is a positive step. Requirements for financial disclosure should be upheld but also there should be understanding of what the appointees will be doing and whether their jobs will be influenced by their business etc.?

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

LATE

SB-2248

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:11:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB2248 because I believe that transparency before confirmation is common sense and a vital part of a representational democracy. Mahalo for your consideration.

LATE

SB-2248

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:17:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Please SUPPORT SB 2248 and close the loophole where disclosures only become public AFTER the hearing. Transparency must come first.

LATE

SB-2248

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:57:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/10/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB2248.