

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



BONNIE KAHAKUI
ADMINISTRATOR
DAYNA OMIYA
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE
P.O. Box 119
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119
Tel: (808) 586-0554
email: state_procurement_office@hawaii.gov
<http://spo.hawaii.gov>

TESTIMONY
OF
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
MARCH 19, 2026, 2:00 PM

SENATE BILL 2530, SD2
RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 2530, SD2. The State Procurement Office (SPO) appreciates that the Senate Draft 2 of this bill incorporates our recommendation to replace the contract thresholds for goods, services, and construction to the small purchase threshold pursuant to Chapter 103D-305, HRS, thereby eliminating the need for future statutory amendments solely to update the dollar amounts.

SPO recommends revising **Section 2, Page 7, lines 4-6**, so (g) will read as follows:

"(g) ~~[At the time of execution of a]~~ Within 30 days of a fully executed contract or grant subject to this section that meets the applicable thresholds described in subsections (b) or (c), a state or county contractor or grantee shall disclose to the commission a list of the names of any compensated officers and the officer's immediate family. The commission shall make the disclosed information available to candidate and noncandidate committees in a database that is on a password-protected section of the commission's website; provided that the name of the contractor or grantee and any officers may also be made available to the public."

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

KRISTIN E. IZUMI-NITAO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



PHONE: (808) 586-0285
FAX: (808) 586-0288
WWW.HAWAII.GOV/CAMPAIGN

**STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION**

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 18, 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 *kei*
Campaign Spending Commission

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 2530, S.D.2, Relating to Campaign Contributions.**
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Thursday, March 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 (with one amendment) which we believe will prevent the corruption, or at least the appearance of corruption, of elected officials as well as represents a crucial step towards transparency and accountability in government spending. In this respect, this bill will help improve public confidence in government and the electoral process.

This bill amends Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) §11-355 by extending the ban on contributions from state and county contractors to the officers of the contractor and their immediate family for the duration of a contract not to exceed the small purchase threshold under section 103D-305, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Commission believes that it is common for contractors to get around the ban by having those persons connected to the contractor make political contributions. A few of these situations also involved false name contributions where the contributors were reimbursed for their contributions. The bill also extends the ban to HRS Chapter 42F grantees of the state and grantees of the counties via county charter or code, and the officers of the grantee and their immediate family for the duration of a grant of more than \$100,000. Grantees, like contractors, receive state and local funds and thus should be treated similarly in the context of political contributions.

The Commission notes that this bill limits the scope of individuals prohibited from making contributions for the duration of the contract or grant to “compensated” officers. While the Commission supports narrowing the scope of individuals prohibited from making contributions, it is concerned that uncompensated officers can influence legislation to benefit the company and/or organization and recommends removing “compensated” from the bill.

The bill provides that a state or county contractor or grantee shall disclose to the Commission the names of any compensated officer and the officer’s immediate family at the time of execution of the contract or grant. The bill further provides that the Commission shall make the information available to candidate and noncandidate committees on a password-protected section on the Commission’s website. The Commission requests an appropriation to build a password-protected section in its electronic filing system as well as to account for training, and administrative support for the Commission to implement this part.

With respect to any constitutional concerns regarding the scope of this bill, the Commission defers to the Department of the Attorney General but believes that there are other jurisdictions including Connecticut that have extended the campaign contributions ban to state contractors’ principals and family members and withstood challenge on First Amendment grounds.

The Commission respectfully request that this Committee pass this bill.



**Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports SB 2530 SD2
Monday, March 2nd, 10:31 AM in Conference Room 211 & Videoconference**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action supports SB 2530, SD2, relating to campaign contributions by state and county contractors and grantees.

Existing law prohibits contractors from making political contributions while holding state contracts. But the prohibition has not gone far enough. The compensated officers and immediate family members of those contractors remain free to make substantial contributions during the same period, creating exactly the appearance of pay-to-play politics the law was designed to prevent. Grantees, who similarly receive public funds and have a direct financial interest in government decisions, face no contribution restrictions at all.

SB 2530 closes those gaps. It extends the prohibition to cover compensated officers and their immediate family members of contractors and grantees above certain thresholds, and requires disclosure of their names to the Campaign Spending Commission. That information will be made available to candidates and committees through a secure database so they can ensure compliance.

The fiscal implications of this bill are minimal. The disclosure and database requirements can be implemented within the Campaign Spending Commission's existing administrative framework. The cost of not acting, however, is continued erosion of public confidence in whether state contracts and grants are awarded on merit or on the basis of political relationships.

We respectfully urge support for SB 2530, SD2.

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



MARCH 19, 2026

SENATE BILL 2530 SD2

CURRENT REFERRAL: JHA

808-679-7454
kris@imuaalliance.org
www.imuaalliance.org
@imuaalliance

Kris Coffield,
President

David Negaard,
Director

Mireille Ellsworth,
Director

Justin Salisbury,
Director

Eileen Roco,
Director

Beatrice DeRego,
Director

Corey Rosenlee,
Director

Amy Zhao,
*Policy and Partnerships
Strategist*

POSITION: SUPPORT

Imua Alliance supports SB 2530 SD2, relating to campaign contributions, which prohibits state or county contractor's compensated officers and any officer's immediate family, with contracts exceeding the small purchase threshold pursuant to section 103D-305, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, from contributing to candidate or noncandidate committees, candidates, or any person for any political purpose for the duration of the contract; prohibits grantees, grantees' compensated officers and grantees' officer's immediate family, with grants of more than \$100,000, from contributing to candidate or noncandidate committees, candidates, or any person for any political purpose for the duration of the grant; requires any unlawful contribution to be returned to the contributor or it will escheat to the Hawai'i election campaign fund; requires the disclosure of names of any compensated officers and immediate family members of a state or county contractor or grantee for contracts or grants exceeding a certain amount; and requires the Campaign Spending Commission to make available to candidate and noncandidate committees the disclosed names in a database.

Imua Alliance is a Hawai'i-based organization dedicated to ending all forms of exploitation, including corporate interference in our democracy. **Note: we prefer this measure to HB 1519, since this proposal sets lower contract thresholds and applies to all officers and their immediate family.**

Our democracy belongs to we, the people.

At a time when our nation is experiencing extreme political turmoil and basic civil liberties are under assault, we must take steps in Hawai'i to safeguard democratic participation. In the 2024 primary election, for example, our state experienced its lowest turnout in 65 years, with only 32.1 percent of registered voters filling out a ballot. This is, in part, a reflection of the public's deep cynicism with our electoral processes.

Hawai'i continues to be embroiled in public corruption scandals, following the bribery allegations that were levied against former Senate Majority Leader Kalani English and former State Representative Ty Cullen. Legal clouds surrounding a \$35,000 alleged bribery scandal are swirling around the legislature, to the detriment of public confidence, with the Hawai'i Attorney General opening an investigation into the potential offenses and the State House adopting a measure to begin this session calling for a thorough and hasty enquiry into the matter.

Other public officials, such as employees at local permitting offices, have also recently been ensnared in bribery scandals, in some cases with connections to Milton Choy, the lobbyist who was responsible for coordinating the bribery scheme that Sen. English and Rep. Cullen became a part of. These cases show that we have a moral crisis in our public institutions and must do all we can to restore integrity to government.

In 2024, a Civil Beat/New York Times investigation unveiled just how deeply pay-to-play culture is ingrained in local politics. After reviewing hundreds of thousands of campaign contributions and more than 70,000 government contracts, reporters found that nearly \$1 out of every \$5 donated to politicians came from people tied to companies doing business with state and local governments.

As Civil Beat reported at the time, when some companies were on the cusp of winning major government contracts, people connected to them donated large amounts of campaign funds to influential public officials who were in positions to sway the awards.

Perhaps the most telling part of the report is encapsulated in the following excerpt from the special investigation: Even though those contributors generally didn't acknowledge their connections to the companies, they were not violating Hawai'i law, which only prohibits donations directly from the firms. "Everyone gets very upset with pay-to-play, but it's legal," said Kristin Izumi-Nitao, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Campaign Spending Commission."

It might be legal today, but it shouldn't be any longer if we care about our future. Government should work for the public interest, not special interests. It is in that spirit that we support this and other reforms to restore integrity to our state's electoral and governmental processes.

With aloha,

Kris Coffield

President, Imua Alliance



Protect Democracy

Move Forward

www.indivisiblehawaii.org

info@indivisiblehawaii.org

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

Hearing Date/Time: 03-19-26 2:00 PM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2530 SD2

Dear 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 support of SB2530 SD2.

Currently, even though a company that holds a state contract cannot make political contributions to the officials who oversee that contract, its officers and their family members can do so. And organizations that receive state grants face no contribution restrictions at all. That creates a glaring appearance of pay-to-play politics even when no wrongdoing occurs.

SB2530 SD2 closes these loopholes by extending contribution prohibitions to officers and family members of contractors and grantees above certain thresholds and requiring disclosure of their names. Government contracts and grants should be awarded on merit, not on the basis of political relationships.

This bill will make our elections more honest and transparent. It will also build trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without creating any perception of political strings attached.

We urge the committee to advance SB2530 SD2.

Sincerely,

Marlene Thom

Indivisible Hawai'i 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.

LATE



Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe

Thursday, March 19 2 pm
Room 325 and Videoconference
SB2530 SD2 RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

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 SB2530 SD2, which prohibits state or county contractor's compensated officers and any officer's immediate family, with contracts of \$100,000 or more for goods or services or \$250,000 or more for construction from contributing to candidate or noncandidate committees, candidates, or any person for any political purpose for the duration of the contract; prohibits grantees, grantees' compensated officers and grantees' officer's immediate family, with grants of more than \$100,000, from contributing to candidate or noncandidate committees, candidates, or any person for any political purpose for the duration of the grant; requires any unlawful contribution to be returned to the contributor or it will escheat to the Hawaii election campaign fund (HECF).

We appreciate the recognition in SD2 of the extra work required by the CSC and provision to fund the efforts exerted by CSC.

To save time for readers already familiar with the analysis of Hawaii Campaign Spending Commission (CSC) data published in the New York Times (NYT) in 2024*, we refer readers to the NYT article (link on p.2 below) for more detailed data. The article's sobering conclusion cries out for the changes described in SB2530 SD2.

Our support is based on the following:

- 1)The same considerations of pay-to-play apply to grantees as to contractors.
- 2) Between 2006 - the year the pay-to-play law (HRS 11-355) was implemented – and 2024, people tied to government contractors gave state and local Hawaii politicians more than \$24 million: **about one-fifth of all donations** made. Most often, these

donations were given to politicians with the most power to determine contract awards. HRS 11-355 is undermined by contributions from officers, employees, and their families. SB2530 SD2 restores the intent of HRS 11-355.

3) Returning illegal contributions to the contributor within 30 days, or, failing that, escheating the money to the appropriate state agency, is standard practice across campaign finance regulations. The money added to HECF funds will help sustain the Partial Public Financing Program.

One weakness in implementation of HRS 11-355 is that CSC staff often don't know the identities of a contractor's officers and their immediate families. SB2530 SD2 corrects this problem by requiring compensated officers of contractors & grantees to provide the names of their immediate families to the CSC. Reasonably, it also requires the Campaign Spending Commission to make available to candidate and noncandidate committees the disclosed names in a password-protected database.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

*Blaze Lovell, Eric Sagara & Irene Casado Sanchez. *Inside the Late-Night Parties Where Hawaii Politicians Raked In Money*. New York Times; January 17, 2024.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/17/us/hawaii-contractors-campaign-donations.html?searchResultPosition=7>

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 1:29:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judge Daniel Foley (ret.)	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

As former chair of the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct (CISC), I submit this testimony in support of SB 2530, SD2, RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.

The CISC proposed a similar bill that would close the loophole in our campaign spending laws that have allowed persons who benefit from lucrative government contracts to make campaign contribution to candidates for elected government offices, otherwise known as "pay to play." CISC December 1, 2022 Report at 33.

This practice has eroded the public's trust in our government. Bills like this have been bouncing back and forth between the two houses of the legislature only to die at the end of each session for the last three years.

There is no good reason for further delay.

Respectfully submitted,

Judge Daniel Foley (ret.)

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 2:26:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this an all ohter bills that will close loopholes in campaign financing. The \$35,000 in a paper bag, given to an unnamed influential legislator is reason enough to support all the bills.

lynne matusow

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 2:33:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of SB2530, which aims to close the “pay-to-play” loophole by prohibiting state and county contractors from making political contributions. This legislation is a critical step toward ensuring fairness and transparency in Hawai‘i’s electoral and procurement systems. Allowing contractors to contribute to political campaigns creates a perception of favoritism and undermines public trust in government processes. By closing this loophole, SB2530 reinforces the principle that contracts should be awarded based on merit and public benefit, not on political connections or financial contributions. This bill also aligns with broader efforts to promote ethical governance. It helps to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensures that elected officials remain accountable to their constituents, rather than to donors with vested interests.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Marcia Kemble

Makiki

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 3:01:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please advance this good government legislation,

- Dan Freund, Kapaa

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

HEARING: Thursday March 19, 2026 at 2:00 pm, Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT** OF SB 2530, SD2 - RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.

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

My name is Christine Andrews. I am a long-time resident of Wailuku, Maui and an attorney licensed in Hawai'i for over 25 years. I write to you today in **support of SB 2530, SD2**, Relating to Campaign Contributions, prohibits state or county contractor's compensated officers and any officer's immediate family, with contracts exceeding the small purchase threshold pursuant to section 103D-305, Hawaii Revised Statutes, from contributing to candidate or noncandidate committees, candidates, or any person for any political purpose for the duration of the contract. Prohibits grantees, grantees' compensated officers and grantees' officer's immediate family, with grants of more than \$100,000, from contributing to candidate or noncandidate committees, candidates, or any person for any political purpose for the duration of the grant; requires any unlawful contribution to be returned to the contributor or it will escheat to the Hawaii election campaign fund; requires the disclosure of names of any compensated officers and immediate family members of a state or county contractor or grantee for contracts or grants exceeding a certain amount; and requires the Campaign Spending Commission to make available to candidate and noncandidate committees the disclosed names in a password-protected database.

Between 2006 - the year the pay-to-play law (HRS 11-355) was implemented – and 2024, **people tied to government contractors gave state and local Hawaii politicians more than \$24 million: about one-fifth of all donations made.** Most often, these donations were given to politicians with the most power to determine contract awards. HRS 11-355 is undermined by contributions from contractor's officers, employees, and their families. Preventing contractors and grantees from donating to political campaigns reduces the risk of undue influence or favoritism in government decisions and in the awarding of contracts and grants.

I am sure the members of the Committee are aware of the New York Times article, "Inside the Late-Night Parties Where Hawaii Politicians Raked In Money," published in January, 2024, with the tagline, "[a]fter the state passed a law barring government contractors from donating to politicians, fund-raising parties showed just how completely the reform effort failed"¹. As a resident of Maui, at a time when my Lahaina neighbors were depending on the kindness of donations pouring in from around the world to help with recovery from the wildfire, an article highlighting apparent corruption in Hawaii to a national audience is something that needs remedy.

Senate Bill 2530, SD2 is a necessary and timely mechanism to address concern about corruption and to rebuild trust in our elected officials. When the public sees that government contracts and grants are free from political influence, their trust in elected officials and government increases. This bill builds on feedback from similar legislation that made it all the way to Conference Committee last year by focusing on paid officers of organizations and implementing disclosure requirements. Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active closes a loophole and will help ensure that public funds are used for their intended purposes, rather than to sway political campaigns or decisions. Based upon the foregoing, **I request your vote in strong support of SB 2530, SD2.**

Mahalo nui for all you are doing to restore faith in government,

Christine L. Andrews, J.D.

¹ Blaze Lovell, Eric Sagara & Irene Casado Sanchez. Inside the Late-Night Parties Where Hawaii Politicians Raked In Money. New York Times; January 17, 2024.

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 3:36:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pamela Elders	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing to express my support for SB 2530, SD2.

Right now, while a company holds a state contract, its officers and their family members can still make political contributions to the officials who oversee that contract. And organizations that receive state grants face no contribution restrictions at all. That creates an obvious appearance of pay-to-play politics even when no wrongdoing occurs.

SB 2530 closes these gaps by extending contribution prohibitions to officers and family members of contractors and grantees above certain thresholds and requiring disclosure of their names. Government contracts and grants should be awarded on merit, not on the basis of political relationships.

Please support SB 2530, SD2.

Pamela Elders

Laupahoehoe, HI 96764

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 4:16:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha

I am in strong support of this bill.

Mahalo

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 5:55:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Contractor political donations foster a perception of favoritism that damages trust in public processes. By closing this loophole, this measure upholds the principle that government contracts should be won on merit and public value, not on political connections or campaign contributions.

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 6:40:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 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 yuo to support SB 2530, SD2.

Right now, while a company holds a state contract, its officers and their family members can still make political contributions to the officials who oversee that contract. And organizations that receive state grants face no contribution restrictions at all. That creates an obvious appearance of pay-to-play politics even when no wrongdoing occurs.

SB 2530 closes these gaps by extending contribution prohibitions to officers and family members of contractors and grantees above certain thresholds and requiring disclosure of their names. Government contracts and grants should be awarded on merit, not on the basis of political relationships.

Help end corruption, support SB 2530, SD2.

Thank you

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 7:27:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of SB 2530, SD2.

Right now, while a company holds a state contract, its officers and their family members can still make political contributions to the officials who oversee that contract. And organizations that receive state grants face no contribution restrictions at all. That creates an obvious appearance of pay-to-play politics even when no wrongdoing occurs.

SB 2530 closes these gaps by extending contribution prohibitions to officers and family members of contractors and grantees above certain thresholds and requiring disclosure of their names. Government contracts and grants should be awarded on merit, not on the basis of political relationships.

Please support SB 2530, SD2.

Mahalo,

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:10:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT!

Passing this bill is needed to help restore public confidence in our State government. Public trust has been shattered by convictions of two Legislators, allegations of a paper bag filled with \$35,000, and legal proceedings and jail time against well-connected contributors. This bill would help.

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:11:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to support SB2530 which limits state and county contractors' political contribution.

Younghee Overly, Indivisible Hawaii member

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:17:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse Hutchison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active will close a serious loophole and ensure that public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

This bill makes our elections more honest and more transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without causing any perception of political strings attached. Please support.

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:29:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing from Kauai in support of SB 2530, SD2.

Right now, while a company holds a state contract, its officers and their family members can still make political contributions to the officials who oversee that contract. And organizations that receive state grants face no contribution restrictions at all. That creates an obvious appearance of pay-to-play politics even when no wrongdoing occurs.

As I read it, SB 2530 closes these gaps by extending contribution prohibitions to officers and family members of contractors and grantees above certain thresholds and requiring disclosure of their names. G

I strongly believe that government contracts and grants should be awarded on merit, not on the basis of political relationships.

Do the right thing. Please support SB 2530, SD2.

Thank you,

Mary Lu Kelley, Koloa

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:33:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Right now, while a company holds a state contract, its officers and their family members can still make political contributions to the officials who oversee that contract. And organizations that receive state grants face no contribution restrictions at all. That creates an obvious appearance of pay-to-play politics even when no wrongdoing occurs.

SB 2530 closes these gaps by extending contribution prohibitions to officers and family members of contractors and grantees above certain thresholds and requiring disclosure of their names. Government contracts and grants should be awarded on merit, not on the basis of political relationships.

Please support SB 2530, SD2.

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:45:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2530.

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 9:58:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of SB 2530, SD2.

Right now, while a company holds a state contract, its officers and their family members can still make political contributions to the officials who oversee that contract. And organizations that receive state grants face no contribution restrictions at all. That creates an obvious appearance of pay-to-play politics even when no wrongdoing occurs.

SB 2530 closes these gaps by extending contribution prohibitions to officers and family members of contractors and grantees above certain thresholds and requiring disclosure of their names. Government contracts and grants should be awarded on merit, not on the basis of political relationships.

Please support SB 2530, SD2.

kimdonghyeon

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:26:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James E Raymond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you. I am a member of Indivisible Windward.

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:44:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Justice, M.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair; Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

I am a resident of Kapolei and a Member of the Indivisible Hawai`i Statewide Network. I am writing to provide testimony in strong support of SB2530 which aims to restrict campaign contributions from state or county contractors and grantees to reduce pay-to-play politics. The Bill sets thresholds of \$100,000 or more for goods or services contracts and \$250,000 or more for construction contracts. It prohibits all political contributions from all officers and their immediate family members.

Preventing contractors and grantees from donating to politicians reduces the risk of undue influence or favoritism in government decisions and in the awarding of contracts and grants. When the public sees that government contracts and grants are free from political influence, their trust in elected officials and government increases, leading to better democracy.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Robert L. Justice, M.D.

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:14:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please help restore some faith in government.

mahalo,]

Cory Harden, Hilo

Indivisible member

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 12:29:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Right now, while a company holds a state contract, its officers and their family members can still make political contributions to the officials who oversee that contract. And organizations that receive state grants face no contribution restrictions at all. That creates an obvious appearance of pay-to-play politics even when no wrongdoing occurs.

SB 2530 closes these gaps by extending contribution prohibitions to officers and family members of contractors and grantees above certain thresholds and requiring disclosure of their names. Government contracts and grants should be awarded on merit, not on the basis of political relationships.

Please support SB 2530, SD2.

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 12:30:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 4:03:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy D Moser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 4:11:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing to ask that you support of SB 2530, SD2 which expands existing prohibitions on political contributions from State and County contractors to cover grantees, as well as the compensated officers and immediate family members of both contractors and grantees, for contracts of \$100,000 or more for goods and services, \$250,000 or more for construction, and grants of \$100,000 or more. This bill would require disclosure of the names of covered officers and their immediate family members to the Campaign Spending Commission.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 4:29:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danelle Guion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of SB 2530, SD2.

Right now, while a company holds a state contract, its officers and their family members can still make political contributions to the officials who oversee that contract. And organizations that receive state grants face no contribution restrictions at all. That creates an obvious appearance of pay-to-play politics even when no wrongdoing occurs.

SB 2530 closes these gaps by extending contribution prohibitions to officers and family members of contractors and grantees above certain thresholds and requiring disclosure of their names. Government contracts and grants should be awarded on merit, not on the basis of political relationships.

Please support SB 2530, SD2.

Thank you!

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 4:34:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Coleman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 5:49:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
maile nakano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will help build more trust in the political system. Show aloha.

Mahalo, Maile from Honolulu

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 6:45:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of SB2530

Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active will close a serious loophole and ensure that public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

{Insert additional comments here}

This bill makes our elections more honest and more transparent. It also builds trust by making sure contractors and grantees stay focused on their work without causing any perception of political strings attached. Please support.

Mahalo, Jane Aquino, Indivisible

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 7:16:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 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 SB2530 because I believe it increases fairness and transparency in our elections. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 8:19:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

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 writing in **strong support of SB2530**, which would restrict campaign contributions from state and county contractors and grantees. This bill is a straightforward, necessary step to reduce pay-to-play politics and restore public trust in how government does business.

SB2530 prevents contractors and grantees from donating to politicians. By prohibiting contributions from those seeking or holding large government contracts—\$100,000 or more for goods and services, \$250,000 or more for construction—this bill reduces the risk of undue influence or favoritism in government decisions. It ensures that contracts and grants are awarded based on merit, not access. It draws a clear line between doing business with the state and buying influence over it.

The bill extends this prohibition to officers and their immediate family members. This is not about punishing individuals; it is about closing a known loophole. Without this provision, the ban could be easily circumvented by routing contributions through family members or company principals. SB2530 closes that door and ensures the law cannot be gamed.

Stronger ethics laws build stronger democracy. When the public sees that government contracts and grants are free from political influence, their trust in elected officials and institutions grows. That trust is the foundation of a functioning democracy. SB2530 sends a clear message: in Hawai‘i, public dollars are for public good, not political favors.

I urge you to pass this bill. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 9:21:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB 2530, SD2.

Right now, while a company holds a state contract, its officers and their family members can still make political contributions to the officials who oversee that contract. And organizations that receive state grants face no contribution restrictions at all. That creates an obvious appearance of pay-to-play politics even when no wrongdoing occurs.

SB 2530 closes these gaps by extending contribution prohibitions to officers and family members of contractors and grantees above certain thresholds and requiring disclosure of their names. Government contracts and grants should be awarded on merit, not on the basis of political relationships.

Please support SB 2530, SD2.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Member

Hawai‘i Workers Center Board Member

Clean Elections Hawai‘i Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

350 Hawai‘i Member

Carbon Cashback Hawai‘i Member

Hawai‘i Tax Fairness Coalition Member

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 10:43:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roger Hamada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of SB2530 which is an important part of promoting clean government and, equally important, the PERCEPTION that government is clean.

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 12:57:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Cuthbert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support of SB2530 because the public is best served when there is nary a hint of any money passing between persons close to a contractor and a politician. To put it bluntly, people feel that such monies constitute a bribe and that the best contractor has not been chosen, that their tax money is being used not in their best interests but to further a politician's career. This taints both the contractor's and the poltical campaign's reputation.

Mahalo. David Cuthbert, Pahoa

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 5:18:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Klyman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree with this bill. It discourages and plugs another "pay to play" loop hole that has the potential for biasing our legislators.

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 6:52:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation.

David Ball

Waialae-Kahala

SB-2530-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 6:59:03 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/19/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am submitting testimony in support of SB 2530, SD2 today.

Right now, while a company holds a state contract, its officers and their family members can still make political contributions to the officials who oversee that contract. And organizations that receive state grants face no contribution restrictions at all. That creates an obvious appearance of pay-to-play politics even when no wrongdoing occurs.

SB 2530 closes these gaps by extending contribution prohibitions to officers and family members of contractors and grantees above certain thresholds and requiring disclosure of their names. Government contracts and grants should be awarded on merit, not on the basis of political relationships.

This should be transparent, so trust in government can be increased, not decreased.

Please support SB 2530, SD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona