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STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 6, 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 **KEI**

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 2530, Relating to Campaign Contributions.**
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 9:15 a.m.
Conference Room 016 & 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 of \$100,000 or more for goods and services and \$250,00 or more for a construction contract. 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, similar to contractors, receive state and local funds and thus should be treated similarly in the context of political contributions. After additional review, the

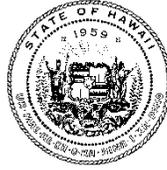
Testimony of the Campaign Spending Commission
Thirty-Third Legislature, 2026
S.B. No. 2530, Relating to Campaign Contributions
February 6, 2026
Page 2

Commission recommends changing the threshold for grants from “more than \$100,000” to “\$100,000 or more” to be consistent with Chapter 103D, HRS (Hawaii Procurement Code).

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.

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



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
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TESTIMONY
OF
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
JUDICIARY
FEBRUARY 10, 2026, 9:15 AM

SENATE BILL 2530
RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 2530. The State Procurement Office (SPO) appreciates the intent of this measure to enhance transparency and public trust by expanding campaign contribution prohibitions and disclosure requirements for state and county contractors and grantees. Preventing both the appearance and reality of "pay-to-play" practices is a critical policy objective, particularly where public funds are involved.

To promote consistency, the SPO respectfully recommends revised language to **Section 2, Page 3, lines 19-21, and Page 4, lines 1-4:**

"(b) It shall be unlawful for any officer, or the officer's immediate family, of any state or county contractor under subsection (a) that is awarded a state or county contract ~~of \$100,000 or more for goods or services, or \$250,000 or more for construction exceeding the small purchase threshold pursuant to chapter 103D-305~~, at any time between the execution of the contract through the completion of the contract pursuant to subsection (g), to..."

This approach would align campaign contributions restrictions with procurement and eliminate the need for future statutory amendments solely to update the dollar amounts.

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



Protect Democracy

Move Forward

www.indivisiblehawaii.org

info@indivisiblehawaii.org

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

Hearing Date/Time: 02-10-26 9:15AM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Re: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT/SUPPORT of SB2530

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

On behalf of Indivisible Hawai'i, I thank you for this opportunity to testify 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 and not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

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.

Again, we thank you for supporting SB2530.

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.



Committee on Judiciary Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard
Tuesday, February 10, 9:15 am]
Room 016 and videoconference
SB2530 – RELATING TO CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports the intent of, and need for, SB2530 but suggests amendments.

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.

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 would restore 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 offset CSC expenses of monitoring contributions by contractor officers and their immediate families.

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.

We suggest that the Committee consider some of the amendments to HB1519 contained in HB1519 HD1, i.e.

-Requiring state contractors and grantees to provide a list of the names of compensated officers and immediate family members within thirty calendar days of fully executing a state contract or state grant.

-Requiring the Campaign Spending Commission to prescribe a standard disclosure form and require the contractor or grantee to certify the accuracy of the form.

-Requiring contractors and grantees to update disclosures within thirty calendar days of any change in the officers or immediate family members.

-Requiring the contracting or expending state agency to provide the disclosures to the Campaign Spending Commission within thirty calendar days of fully executing the contract, while clarifying that the agency's role is limited to receiving and transmitting the information and that the agency has no obligation to verify the accuracy, completeness, or correctness of the information provided.

-Establishing penalties for failure of a contractor or grantee to submit the information required.

And we suggest - Narrowing the scope of the prohibitions established under this measure to state grantees and the compensated officers of state contractors and state grantees, and their immediate family members

Amendments like these would greatly strengthen SB2530.

*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>

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



**Senate Committee on Judiciary
February 10, 2026 at 9:15 AM
Room 016**

Testimony with COMMENTS for SB2530

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations (HANO) respectfully submits **comments on SB2530**, which would prohibit campaign contributions from state or county contractors, grantees, and their officers. HANO supports efforts to strengthen transparency and fairness in campaign financing and recognizes the Legislature's intent to address "pay-to-play" practices—particularly where large, for-profit contractors may have direct financial incentives tied to government awards. Our comments are offered to help ensure this goal is achieved without unintended consequences for nonprofit organizations and their volunteer leadership.

HANO is a statewide, sector-wide association representing nonprofits across Hawai'i. Since 2006, HANO has worked to strengthen and unite the nonprofit sector as a collective force to improve quality of life statewide by advancing policies and practices that promote nonprofit professionalism, sustainability, and effectiveness.

HANO provides the following comments as it relates to this measure:

Nonprofits operate under a distinct public-service model.

Nonprofit organizations that receive government grants do so to carry out public purposes and community services, rather than to generate private profit. Many nonprofit officers, particularly board officers, serve in a voluntary and uncompensated capacity and do not have a personal financial stake in government awards. Given these differences, applying campaign contribution restrictions designed for commercial contractors may not fully align with the nonprofit governance model or the bill's intent to address financial influence tied to personal economic gain.

Existing safeguards already address pay-to-play risks in the nonprofit sector.

Current law provides meaningful protections against conflicts of interest. HRS §42F-103(c) requires nonprofits receiving state grants to maintain uncompensated governing boards free from material conflicts, and the Internal Revenue Code strictly prohibits 501(c)(3) organizations from engaging in political contributions. These existing guardrails already significantly limit the risk of pay-to-play behavior among nonprofits.

The bill’s broad application to volunteer officers and their families raises concerns.

As drafted, SB2530 defines “officer” broadly enough to include nonprofit board chairs, vice chairs, treasurers, and secretaries, regardless of compensation. This would restrict volunteer board members from making campaign contributions solely due to their governance role, and would also extend restrictions to their immediate family members—many of whom have no relationship to the nonprofit or the public funding involved. When applied to uncompensated volunteers with no financial stake in government awards, these restrictions raise practical, policy, and constitutional concerns.

Additional restrictions risk discouraging civic engagement and weakening nonprofit governance.

Nonprofit leaders already operate under constraints on political activity while navigating complex compliance requirements to secure and administer state funding. Expanding contribution bans to volunteer board officers and their families may deter individuals from serving in nonprofit leadership roles, narrowing civic participation at a time when nonprofit voices and community-based expertise are critical. These concerns are especially acute as nonprofits are being asked to meet growing community needs amid federal funding disruptions, rising costs, and workforce challenges. At a time when the State relies on nonprofits to deliver essential services, policy choices should aim to reduce—not increase—barriers to participation.

Recommended amendments if the measure moves forward.

If the Legislature chooses to advance SB2530, HANO recommends amending the bill to provide a more tailored and balanced approach. Specifically, HANO prefers the framework proposed by HB1519, which: **(1) establishes a higher applicability threshold of \$250,000, and (2) limits restrictions to *compensated officers of organizations*** receiving government grants or contracts. These amendments would better preserve the bill’s intent to prevent pay-to-play practices while avoiding unintended harm to nonprofit funding, board governance, and civic engagement.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 6:27:50 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 and on behalf of our members we offer VERY STRONG Support of SB2530 ! This is a dream come true for all constituents , no more " pay to play" Wow. It just has to get through the gates of the legislature.

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. The way we see it a No vote is basically an admission of corruption. May the odds always be in our favor.

Be bold, Support SB2530!

Mahalo!

Susan RobertsEmery,

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo



FEBRUARY 10, 2026

SENATE BILL 2530

CURRENT REFERRAL: JDC

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, relating to campaign contributions, which prohibits state or county contractor's 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' 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; and requires any unlawful contribution to be returned to the contributor or it will escheat to the Hawai'i election campaign fund.

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

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 11:09:16 AM

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

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

Comments:

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Judiciary Committee,

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

CISC proposed a similar bill that "would amend the prohibition against contributions to a candidate committee or noncandidate committee by state and county contractors, to include state and county grantees and owners, officers, and immediate family members of a state or county contractor or state or county grantee. CISC December 1, 2022 Report at 33.

Judge Daniel Foley (ret.)

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 10:55:42 AM

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

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

Comments:

Please accept this testimony as strong support of this measure. It is good, clean government. Pure and simple. Those benefitting from a contract should not be able to make campaign contributions. It appears dirty, just like the \$35,000 a legislator purportedly made in a brown paper bag several years ago.

Please move this bill forward.

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 7:18:57 PM

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

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

Comments:

I ask you to pass SB2530, and go further by removing dollar amounts so that the prohibition of contributions applies when there are contracts or grants of any and all size.

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 4:47:42 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 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.

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,

kimdonghyeon

SB-2530

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

Strongly support

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:03:43 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 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.

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,
Priscilla Stuckey, Kihei

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:04:08 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:

Let's make campaigns fair again.

Judith White, Kapaa

Member, Kauai Indivisible

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:09:07 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-2530

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:12:38 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 writing to you in strong support of this bill. We gotta get money out of politics. We need a level playing field for all these contracts not just give to whom ever gave the most money to campaigns. No more pay to play culture.

Thank you Jasmine Balangitao

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:40:48 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:

Stop Pay-To-Play Contributions!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:04:12 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 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.

Mahalo, Pahnelopi McKenzie

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:15:48 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 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.

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.

Thank you.

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:05:55 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 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.

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.

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:27:35 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, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is John Fitzpatrick, and I am a teacher at Kūlanihāko‘i and resident of Makawao. I am writing to express my **strong support for SB2530**, which seeks to prohibit government contractors and their officers from making political contributions to the very officials who oversee their contracts.

The "pay-to-play" environment in Hawaii has eroded public trust and led to staggering fiscal mismanagement. When contractors are allowed to donate to the campaigns of decision-makers, the priority shifts from **quality and efficiency to political reciprocity**. We have seen the devastating results of this conflict of interest in two major areas:

- **The O'ahu Rail (Skyline) Project:** This project has become a national symbol of "boondoggle" spending. Originally projected to cost roughly \$5 billion, the price tag has ballooned to over **\$12.4 billion**, with delays stretching over a decade. While taxpayers shoulder the burden of excise tax increases, the contractors involved in these massive over-bids have historically been major players in local political fundraising. SB2530 would ensure that contract extensions and budget increases are scrutinized on their merits, not influenced by campaign checks.
- **The DOE "Cool Classrooms" Failure:** Our keiki and teachers were promised relief from sweltering classrooms, yet the results of the \$120 million initiative have been unacceptable. Audit reports show that many AC units—some costing upwards of \$125,000 per classroom—broke within just two years. Contractors installed experimental solar systems in the shade of trees or on leaky roofs, and when these systems failed, the accountability was non-existent. We cannot continue to award contracts to firms that provide sub-standard work simply because they are well-connected donors.

By passing SB2530, this body has the opportunity to prove that Hawaii’s government is for the people, not for the highest bidder. It is time to close the loop on "pay-to-play" and ensure that every tax dollar spent on infrastructure and education is used effectively.

I urge the committee to **pass SB2530**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,
Fitz

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:03:10 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:

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

I strongly support SB2530

Public trust is waning. This loophole must be eliminated to ensure public funds are applied fairly, not due to political contributions from county contractors, grantees or their families at least while those contracts or grants are active. This bill is way overdue to prevent favoritism in government decisions and in the awarding of contracts and grants. I just wonder if there is any opposition to this bill except by those who do take advantage of political favors.

Please support SB2530.

Mahalo, L. Osterer, registered voter

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:55:40 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 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.

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,

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

LATE

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:25:50 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 SB2530.

Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, and their immediate family members from making political contributions while contracts or grants are active closes a serious loophole in our campaign finance system. This safeguard helps ensure that public funds are used solely for their intended public purpose—not to influence political campaigns or government decision-making.

SB2530 protects both the integrity of our elections and the integrity of the contracting process. It removes any perception of “pay-to-play” politics and helps ensure that contracts and grants are awarded and managed based on merit, performance, and public need—not political influence.

This bill makes our elections more honest and transparent, and it builds public trust by clearly separating public business from political fundraising. I respectfully urge you to support SB2530.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:28:40 AM

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

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

Comments:

I support **SB 2530**. This bill prohibits officers of state or county contractors and grantees with substantial contracts or grants from making campaign contributions for the duration of those agreements.

It strengthens transparency and reduces the risk of undue influence in our political process by ensuring that public funds and elections remain free of conflicts of interest. I urge the Committee to pass this measure.

LATE

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:38:17 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 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.

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.

LATE

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:56:02 AM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha All,

Please support!!

Mahalos,

Ann V Saffery

Honolulu, HI

LATE

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:32:02 AM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and committee members,

I SUPPORT This bill SB 2530 and ask that accountability and enforcement capabilities are built into this bill.

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

LATE

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:48:28 AM

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

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

Comments:

support

LATE

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:04:32 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 SB2530 because I believe it increases fairness and transparency in our elections. Mahalo for your consideration.

LATE

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:55:24 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 SB2530.

LATE

SB-2530

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:19:45 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camron Hurt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you members of the committee, my name is Camron Hurt. I am the program Director of Common Cause Hawaii. I am writing today on behalf of my organization in strong support of this measure. It shouldn't be lost on any of us that public trust in public institutions is at an all-time low while dollar contributions are also at an all-time high.

This bill seeks to rebuild that trust while curbing money in politics. We have seen examples of the system being abused time and again. This bill puts in place a new safeguard. It won't be a fix all, but it will be an amazing step in the right direction. This bill also comes with no significant appropriations, thus making it a way to pay in to the trust of the electorate without having to put a dollar amount to this. We urge this body to pass this measure.