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**STATE OF HAWAII
CAMPAIGN SPENDING COMMISSION**

235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, ROOM 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 11, 2013

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

The Honorable Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

Members of the House Committee on Judiciary.

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

SUBJECT: **Testimony on S.B. No. 31, Relating to Campaign Spending**

Tuesday, March 12, 2013
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill. The Campaign Spending Commission ("Commission") supports this bill and urges the Committee to pass the bill.

Section 1 of the bill amends HRS §11-335 (noncandidate committee reports) by separating the reporting of contributions into contributions received and contributions made by noncandidate committees, and requiring noncandidate committees to identify the candidate supported or opposed by the committees' independent expenditures. This will align the statute with the reality that noncandidate committees both make and receive contributions and report them, and to promote transparency of spending on independent expenditures.

Section 2 of the bill also amends HRS §11-336 (time for noncandidate committees to file reports) to more clearly align the law with present practice. Presently, every noncandidate committee files the Supplemental Report that is due on January 31st every year and not just on January 31st after an election year. This bill does not require an additional or new report. That is, under the Commission's electronic filing system, every noncandidate committee (as well as every candidate) files the Supplemental Report on January 31st of every year. This bill would simply align the law with present practice by deleting "after an election year" from the statutory provision and provide that the Supplemental Report is due on "January 31 of each year." If this amendment is not passed, the Commission may not be able to require the filing of the January Supplemental Report in an election year, leaving a one-year gap (July 1st of a nonelection year to June 30th of an election year) in reporting by noncandidate committees.

Section 1 of this bill is also section 6 of H.B. No. 201, H.D. 1 and section 2 of this bill is also section 7 of H.B. No. 201, H.D. 1, which has been passed by the House and has crossed over to the Senate.



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COMMITTEE on JUDICIARY

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair; Rep. Sharon Har, Vice-Chair

Tuesday, March 12, 2013; 2:00 PM, Conf. Rm. 325

TESTIMONY in SUPPORT of
SB 31 (SSCR490) RELATING TO CAMPAIGN SPENDING

Wynn Hee, Legislative Committee Member, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 31 (SSCR490) which:
“Separates noncandidate committee contributions that are required to be disclosed and filed in preliminary, final, and supplemental noncandidate committee reports into **contributions received** and **contributions made**. Amends the January deadline for filing supplemental noncandidate committee reports.”

Today, “money talks” is no longer a metaphor, and free speech means even corporate persons have the right to spend “whatever it takes” -- however many millions or billions -- to influence outcomes of elections and the laws of our land.

Until the Citizens United Supreme Court decision is overturned, we humans need whatever laws it takes to increase transparency of campaign contributions and expenditures. We ask that you allow us to see the faces behind the voices which, during election time, will saturate the media and specifically target the undecided “low-information voters” (as they are called by campaign strategists).

We urge you to PASS this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.