LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

HAWAI'I PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE

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Community-Based Research & Evaluation

Community Health Worker Initiatives

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Climate Change and Health Working Group

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Immunization Coalition

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging & Community Living

Public Health Workforce Development

Date: March 17, 2026

To: Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
Representative Tina Nakada Grandinatti, Vice Chair

Re: Support for SB 2471 SD2, Relating to the Powers of Artificial Persons

Hrg: March 18, 2026, at 2:00PM, Conference Room 329

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI)[1] is in support of SB 2471 SD2, which clarifies that corporations in Hawai'i do not have the power to spend money or contribute anything of value to influence elections or ballot measures.

Winning Elections Takes Money
The impact of money on elections is clear. Candidates with the most campaign spending consistently outperform their rivals. This requires candidates to fundraise significant sums if they want a chance at getting elected.

Only a Few Donors Dominate Election Spending
The campaign donation system in Hawai'i is the opposite of democratic. In the 2024 election campaign, half of the $10 million in candidate donations came from just 800 donors.[2]

For non-candidate committees, only 3 committees spent a total $13 million.[3] This bill would eliminate corporations from dominating campaign spending via non-candidate committees.

Wealthy Individuals Preferences Take Precedent
This massive amount of expenditures by a small group of wealthy individuals and corporations has an outsized impact on an election system that impacts all of us.

The impact of campaign funding is clear. When the preferences of wealthy individuals diverges with the rest of the population, enacted policies

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[1] Hawai'i Public Health Institute's mission is to advance health and wellness for the people and islands of Hawai'i. We do this through expanding our understanding of what creates health of people and place, fostering partnerships , and cultivating programs to improve policies, systems, and the environments where people live, learn, work, age, and play.
[2] Candidate Committees. Hawai'i Campaign Spending Commission.
[3] Non-Candidate Committees. Hawai'i Campaign Spending Commission.

closely reflect the wants of the wealthy, while the preferences of the majority have no impact on what gets passed.[4][5] (See chart 1).

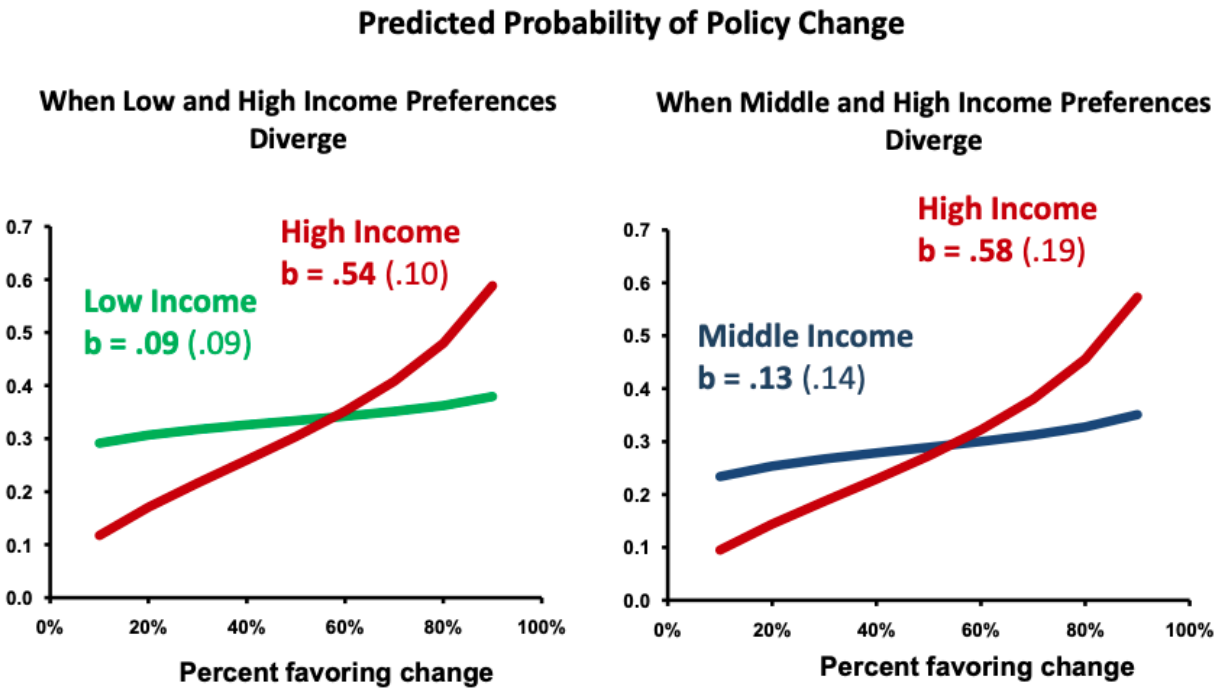
Hawai'i has an opportunity to remove a large portion of the private donor system, paving the way for a more democratic and representative system.

Please take this crucial step to remove corporate spending on our elections and pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Nate Hix
Director of Policy and Advocacy

Chart 1:



[4] Princeton scholar: Poor and middle class have no say in government policy. NBC News. Aug. 16, 2012.
[5] Affluence & Influence Economic Inequality and Political Power in America. Martin Gilens. Princeton University.