



2011 Year in Review

Happy New Year! Mahalo for your support in 2011 as we worked to hold government accountable to the public interest and engage citizens in the political process. Here are our favorite highlights of 2011:

- **LEGISLATURE ENGAGEMENT:** Co-sponsored “Find Your Voice” and “Use Your Voice” workshops to teach citizens about the legislature and provide tools and resources for tracking and advocating for issues. These workshops drew 60-100 participants each and were broadcast on ‘Olelo and online.
- **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:** Launched the new “Rotunda Roundups,” weekly meet-ups at the State Capitol to hear updates from experienced advocates. The Roundups met 14 times throughout the session, with crowds of 15-40 each week.
- **YOUTH EVENT AT THE CAPITOL:** Co-sponsored “Pizza and Policy,” which brought over 100 young participants from 17 public and private high schools to learn about the legislature.
- **DONOR TRANSPARENCY:** Spoke out in the media to advocate for disclosure of donors to the Governor’s inaugural events. The list was finally disclosed and revealed donations as high as \$30,000.
- **CITIZEN ADVOCACY:** Testified at the legislature and mobilized citizen testimony on numerous bills addressing campaign finance, voting, open government, and ethics.
- **ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION:** Advocated for a bill for online voter registration, which was successfully passed by the legislature but vetoed by the Governor.
- **MEDIA ATTENTION ON GOVERNMENT ETHICS:** Generated critical public and media attention which helped kill a proposed bill that would have allowed legislators and state employees to accept expensive gifts, food, and travel from special interests.
- **40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:** Hosted a special luncheon to celebrate forty years of citizen action, featuring Common Cause President Bob Edgar’s keynote speech on ethics in the U.S. Supreme Court.
- **REAPPORTIONMENT & REDISTRICTING:** Organized a workshop to teach citizens about the redistricting process; advocated for the Reapportionment Commission to ensure six days notice for meetings in accordance with the Sunshine Law; and successfully obtained an opinion from the Office of Information Practices clarifying that the Commission is indeed subject to the Sunshine Law.
- **PUBLICLY-FUNDED ELECTIONS:** Co-sponsored a special event on money in politics featuring John Loreda, a former Arizona legislator and clean elections advocate.
- **DEMOCRACY UNDER THE INFLUENCE:** Launched a new discussion series with Kanu Hawaii and League of Women Voters of Hawaii to talk about money, politics, and influence in Hawaii. The meetups will continue every second Wednesday of the month through 2012.

Please help us continue this work in 2012 to promote a more open, honest, and accountable government in Hawaii! Support the cause at www.commoncause.org/HI/donate. Mahalo!