

COMMON CAUSE HAWAII 2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION MAJOR ISSUES

**Article V Constitutional Convention and/or Convention of States**

Common Cause Hawaii (CCHI) remains resolved to **defeat** a call for an Article V Constitutional Convention (Art. V ConCon) and/or Convention of States (CoS). There are two (2) basic processes to amend the U.S. Constitution, as set forth in Article V of the U.S. Constitution. One, two-thirds of both the U.S. House and Senate agree on the proposed amendments to the Federal Constitution, and the amendments are then ratified by three-fourths of the state legislatures (38 state legislatures). Two, two-thirds of the legislatures of the states call for a constitutional convention (34 states), and the amendments proposed at the constitutional convention must then be ratified by three-fourths of the state legislatures (38 states legislatures). Any call for an Article V convention is dangerous during these times of hyper-partisanship and dark money influencing our politics. An Article V convention would put all of our hard fought and won rights at risk, including but not limited to union, LGBTQIA+, environmental, First Nations, women's, and voting rights.

**Campaign Finance Reform**

CCHI believes that without meaningful campaign finance reforms our democracy is at risk. People running for office are often dependent upon wealthy special interests to get elected and stay in power. The oversized influence of monied, special interests in our politics drowns out the voices of everyday citizens and has a corrosive, negative effect on our democracy. To restore balance to our political system, reasonable, sensible campaign finance reforms need to be adopted to ensure a democracy responsive to the people.

--SB840 Relating to Elections, Allows the elections commission to refer a complaint to the attorney general or county prosecutor in addition to any administrative determination and without the requirement that the commission believes the respondent has recklessly, knowingly, or intentionally committed a violation. **10 am Wed., Jan. 29, 2020 in Conf. Room 211 before WAM Comm.**

--SB2148 Relating to Violations of Campaign Finance law, increases fines

--SB2147 Relating to Campaign Contributions, excess contributions by nonresident contributors shall escheat to the Hawaii election campaign fund if not returned to the contributor within 30 days.

--SB3070 Relating to Campaign Finance, Increases the maximum amount of public funds available to certain state candidates in each election. Increases the amount of voluntary state income tax check-off contributions that may be designated for the Hawaii election campaign fund beginning on 1/1/2021.

--SB3074 Relating to Campaign Finance, Part I: Increases the maximum amount of public funds available in each election to certain state candidates by ten percent annually. Part II: Increases the amount of voluntary state income tax check-off contributions that may be designated for the Hawaii election campaign fund beginning on January 1, 2021.

--HB2735 Relating to Elections Requires nomination paper filing fees to be deposited into the Hawaii election campaign fund.

**Ethics / Money in Politics**

CCHI is focused on ethics reform and reducing the influence of money in politics. The people of Hawaii deserve a system of government where each of us is equally represented and not just the wealthy few and the special

interests. The peoples' interests must take precedence. When people feel as if their voices are heard and their will actually count, they will be more likely to participate in the democratic process, strengthening and protecting democracy for all.

⇒ We support legislation authorizing forfeiture of certain ERS benefits, pursuant to court order, for state or county employees who are convicted of an employment-related felony.

--HB2748, Relating to Government, Authorizes forfeiture of certain employees' retirement system benefits, pursuant to court order, for state or county employees and designated beneficiaries who are convicted of an employment-related felony. Makes ethics code violations a class A felony if the salary of the employee who commits the offense is subject to the recommendation of the Commission on Salaries.

--SB2402, SB2675, HB1998, HB2381

--HB2747 (ConAm)

⇒ We support legislation authorizing prohibiting outside emoluments.

--HB391, HD1, SD1 (GVO, JDC) **10:15 am, Tues., Jan. 28, 2020 before Senate Judiciary Comm in Conf. Room 016**

--HB1927

⇒ We support legislation revising the conflicts of interest provision – HRS §§ 84-14(a), (b), and (e) – to include legislators and delegates to the constitutional convention.

--HB2120 Relating to the State Ethics Code

--SB2100 / HB1673, Ethics, Legislators, Fair Treatment, Disclosures: Restores statutory protection for legislators when carrying out a legislative function. Clarifies that each house of the legislature shall adopt rules regarding disclosure of the nature and extent of any interest or transaction that the legislator believes may be affected by the legislator's official action.

⇒ We support legislation improving our ethics laws.

--SB2114, Relating to State Ethics, Prohibits certain former State employees from representing any person or business in a legislative or administrative action before the State for twelve months after the termination of their employment. **2:45 am, Tues., Jan. 28, 2020 before Senate Government Operations Comm in Conf. Room 225**

--SB2115, Relating to State Ethics, Amends the state ethics code to require candidates for state elective offices to disclose the name of clients assisted before state agencies. Gives the State Ethics Commission discretion in determining how financial disclosure statements should be filed. Removes the exemption of Hawaii Correctional System Oversight Commission members from financial disclosure requirements. **2:45 am, Tues., Jan. 28, 2020 before Senate Government Operations Comm in Conf. Room 225**

--HB1937, Relating to Ethics, Prohibits legislators from assisting or representing, with or without compensation, private persons or businesses before all state agencies, excluding the courts.



Vote Modernization

CCHI supports Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) legislation. SB2005 will be heard on **Wed., Jan. 29, 2020 at 1 pm, Conf. Room 225 before the Transp. Comm.** HB2119 is the bill on the House side.

