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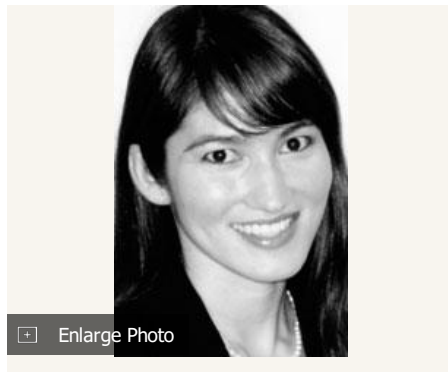
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Forty under 40 Class of 2010

## New leader rebuilds Common Cause as advocate for better government



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Not one to shy away from a challenge, Nikki Love single-handedly rebuilt the formerly dormant Hawaii chapter of Common Cause in 2008 by raising funds, recruiting new board members, volunteers and partners, and generating publicity for the organization's key directives.

She has lobbied for clean elections and transparency and built partnerships with the League of Women Voters, Voter Owned Hawaii and Kanu Hawaii.

She previously was director of operations at Community Links Hawaii, a nonprofit fiscal manager and incubator, managing millions of dollars and dozens of projects, and has worked as a consultant on the City & County of Honolulu's Bus Rapid Transit Project and as executive director of the Hawaii Elections Project.

A Punahou School graduate, Love has a bachelor's degree in political science from Stanford University and a master's degree in public policy from Georgetown University.

How the events of the past two years influenced my career plans: We've seen the financial crisis, bailouts, special-interest influence in major policy debates, and court decisions that allow unlimited corporate money in politics. These events have convinced me that our work at Common Cause — making citizen voices heard and holding government accountable — is more critical than ever before. It's time to build a movement for a more open, representative, and accountable government.

Looking 10 years into the future, my greatest concern: Hawaii's lackluster political participation. Why are we last in the country for voter turnout? It's an indicator of something gone wrong. The voting process is cumbersome, most electoral races are not competitive, and our youth

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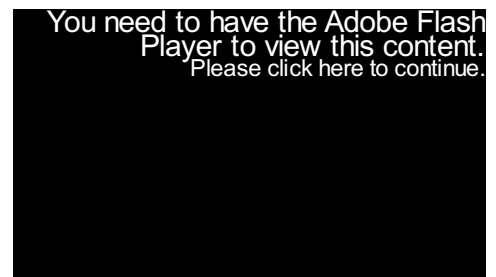
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The voting process is cumbersome, most electoral races are not competitive, and our youth aren't getting in the habit of civic engagement. If we don't fix these problems, we'll end up with a government that doesn't truly represent our diverse community.

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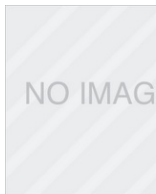
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