

POLITICS

Schatz's Hawaii PAC Has Brought In \$220K In Two Years

While funding his second campaign in two years to keep his own seat, the Hawaii senator is contributing to other Democratic candidates.

MAY 12, 2016 · By Chad Blair   

Share  0

Brian Schatz entered the U.S. Senate just days before Mazie Hirono, but his political action committee has raised and spent less than half the money of Hirono's PAC.

But then, Schatz was appointed to his seat in late 2012 rather than elected like Hirono. He also had a close race in 2014 to keep the job for the final two years of the late Dan Inouye's six-year term, and is running this year for a full term of his own.

In other words, he's been [busy raising a lot of money](#) for his own political survival. Hirono's term is not up until 2018.



Sen. Brian Schatz in Civil Beat's office in May.

Still, Schatz's Hawaii PAC, which was formed in 2014 — two years after [Hirono's Pineapple PAC](#) was launched — did manage to pull in a total of \$220,350 in contributions as of March 2016. That's according to the Center for Responsive Politics' [Open Secrets](#) and [Federal Election Commission](#) records.

As with Pineapple PAC, Hawaii PAC gave tens of thousands of dollars to U.S. Senate incumbents and candidates over the past several years, all of them Democrats. They include many of the same recipients as Hirono's PAC, including incumbents like Mark Pryor of Arkansas and Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, who lost in 2014.

Schatz's PAC has also contributed to Sens. Ron Wyden of Oregon and Charles Schumer of New York; to Rep. Tammy Duckworth of Illinois, who is running for the Senate this year; and to Rep. Mark Takai of Hawaii.

Other recipients include Kamala Harris, the California attorney general running for the Senate; Wisconsin's Russ Feingold, who is seeking to return to the Senate; and Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii.



Control of the U.S. Senate is up for grabs this election year.

Open Secrets says the top industries contributing to Hawaii PAC include telecom services, insurance interests, railroads, transportation unions and accountants.

Nationally, top donors to the PAC include the National Cable and Telecommunications Association, the Air Line Pilots Association, PricewaterhouseCoopers and NorthStar Realty Finance.

DE 2016

FEC records show that other national donors were General Dynamics, Comcast and NBC Universal, the Seafarers International Union Political Action Committee and NextEra Energy.

ns and
ison with
s Guide
ation on
tions.

Top local donors include Victoria Lani Dawson-Arena of Dawson Companies and Christopher M. Dawson of Dawson Technical; Jay Shidler, founder and managing partner of The Shidler Group; and Martin Y. Kao, executive of Navatek.

Just like Hirono's Pineapple PAC, Schatz's Hawaii PAC paid the same Washington, D.C., companies for software (NGP VAN) and fundraising compliance services (Capitol Compliance Associates).

Hawaii PAC also paid Joshua L. Handelman of D.C. and Lori B. LaFave of Virginia for fundraising help.

A spokesperson for Schatz declined to comment for this report.

Get engaged! Join in the discussion of candidates and issues in the 2016 elections in our new Facebook Group, [Civil Beat Politics](#). Connect with others and learn how to get involved in community issues that are central to this year's elections.

Follow Civil Beat on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). You can also sign up for Civil Beat's free [daily newsletter](#).

About the Author



CIVIL BEAT STAFF

Chad Blair [Twitter](#) [Email](#) [RSS](#)

Chad Blair is a reporter for Civil Beat. You can reach him by email at cblair@civilbeat.com or follow him on Twitter at [@chadblairCB](https://twitter.com/chadblairCB).

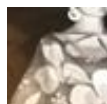
Use the [RSS feed](#) to subscribe to Chad Blair's posts today

2 Comments

Sort by **Oldest**



Add a comment...



Patricia Blair · University of Nebraska-Lincoln

So BRian doesn't think that he need be accountable now that he is elected? These PAC's are not reassuring to constituents.

Like · Reply · [1](#) · May 12, 2016 9:48am



Karen Chun · Game Developer at Redwood Games

Heck, I'm glad he's trying to help people like Ron Wyden and Mark Takai.

Like · Reply · May 24, 2016 1:37pm



Roy Kamisato · University of Hawaii at Manoa

Money is politics is a reality with the Citizens United ruling. While the link is to a conservative publication it is reassuring to know Senator Schatz has not strayed from his progressive values. <http://freebeacon.com/.../meet-the-ten-most-liberal.../>

Like · Reply · [1](#) · May 12, 2016 12:30pm

[Facebook](#) Comments Plugin



Enter your email to receive Civil Beat's free daily newsletter.

SUBMIT
