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Senate Judiciary Shelves Bill to Publicly Finance House Races

civilbeat:

Clayton Hee, chairman of **Senate Judiciary and Labor**, today effectively killed a bill that would create a **public funding program** for elections to the state **House of Representatives**.

House Bill 2533, introduced by Rep. **Della Au Belatti**, had the support of the **Sierra Club of Hawaii**, Common Cause Hawaii and **Progressive Democrats of Hawaii**. Similar legislation has been considered by the Legislature in recent years.

But Hee elected to defer HB 2533 after consultation with staff attorneys and others.

He said the measure has "a lot of loose ends," including "but not limited to" the amount of money to be used for what office, the fact that it may eliminate the number of candidates per district statewide and concerns by the state **Campaign Spending Commission** that the bill, if made law, would require more staffing.

Hee said the bill "may be a step in the right direction," but it will require more work from advocates.



Photo: Sen. Clayton Hee, November 2013. (PF Bentley/Civil Beat)

—Chad Blair

Posted on [03/19/2014](#) at 2:47PM HST (1 month ago)

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