



LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR
JAMES R. AIONA, JR.
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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LAWRENCE M. REIFURTH
DIRECTOR
RONALD BOYER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

TWENTY-FIFTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2010

Tuesday, February 9, 2010
2:30 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2759, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO GAMING.**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TO THE HONORABLE JON RIKI KARAMATSU, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 2759, House Draft 1, Relating to Gaming. My name is Lawrence M. Reifurth, and I am the Department's Director.

Among other things, H.B. 2759, H.D. 1 proposes to:

- (1) Establish a Hawaii Gaming Commission (HGC) within the Department;
and
- (2) Require the HGC to: (a) establish the qualifications for licensure to conduct casino gaming operations, (b) award licenses to qualified applicants who submit a bid that is expected to best fit the needs of the community located in an area designated by the Hawaiian Homes

Commission, (c) collect taxes and fees, and (d) regulate casino gaming operations.

The Governor has publicly stated her opposition to gaming, and on behalf of the Administration, the Department reiterates that opposition.

Additionally, as the bill proposes to regulate the casino gaming operations profession, which is currently unregulated, an Auditor's analysis is required to be performed on the proposal pursuant to section 26H-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). A concurrent resolution requesting the Auditor to analyze the probable effects of the bill and whether the bill's enactment is consistent with the policies set forth in section 26H-2, HRS, needs to be adopted by the Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on the bill.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

P.O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF KAULANA H. R. PARK, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON **HB 2759 HD1 RELATING TO GAMING**

February 9, 2010

Chair Karamatsu, Vice-Chair Ito and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaiian Homes Commission and Department of Hawaiian Home Lands oppose this legislation that adds a section to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA) to allow our commission to authorize casino gaming operations on our lands and establishes a gaming commission in the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

While we appreciate the author's intent to provide financial support to DHHL, this type of activity is a departure from our current activities to generate revenue from our non-homestead lands. DHHL is concerned about the potential disadvantages associated with gaming like negative impacts to local businesses, difficulties with and cost of regulation, and social costs which may unintentionally cause a negative impact to our beneficiaries and the state. Additionally, pursuing gaming on Hawaiian home lands would require prior consultation with our beneficiaries.

We cannot support an initiative like this that would work against the rehabilitation of native Hawaiians as envisioned by our founder Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole.

Further, we find HB 2759 HD1 to be in conflict with the Administration's budgetary goals and objectives for fiscal year 2010-2011.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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PETER B. CARLISLE
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



DOUGLAS S. CHIN
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

THE HONORABLE JON RIKI KARAMATSU, CHAIR
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
Twenty-fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2010
State of Hawai'i

February 9, 2010

RE: H.B. 2759, H.D. 1; RELATING TO GAMING.

Chair Karamatsu and members of the House Judiciary Committee, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony in opposition to H.B. 2759, H.D. 1.

The purpose of this bill is to establish a gaming commission within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs which has the authority to regulate casino gaming operations on Hawaiian home lands designated by the Hawaiian home commission. The bill also provides for a wagering tax and provides that 20% of the revenues go to the state's general fund and 80% goes to the Hawaiian home lands trust fund.

We understand the allure of gambling as an attractive solution to Hawaii's economic problems. However, we oppose the introduction of casino gambling to Hawaii because we believe any economic benefits provided by gambling are far outweighed by increased crime rates and social costs to families whose incomes may be substantially reduced by chronic gambling.

It has been shown that gambling acts as a regressive tax which falls most heavily on those who can least afford it. In addition, it has been estimated that the rate of problem or pathological gamblers in Hawaii's population will range from 1.4% to over 6% of the residents. These problem and pathological gamblers will first borrow from friends and family and when that is no longer possible, they will often turn to stealing from friends, family and employers. Even without the gambling opportunities in the state, we have seen cases involving a county treasurer and a county relocation officer who committed thefts in order to pay off large gambling debts. We believe that instances like these will become more frequent and severe if legalized casino gambling is permitted and more easily accessible in Hawaii.

In addition, there is the problem of gambling and organized crime. In Hawaii, organized crime has already had its hand in the till of illegal gambling for several decades. With the promise of the economic windfall legalized gambling will bring, why would we suppose that organized crime will not find legalized gambling to be as tempting or lucrative? Given the attraction of organized crime to enterprises involving large amounts of money and profit, we question whether the crime problem in Hawaii will be exacerbated by the introduction of legalized gambling.

We hope that after serious consideration of these issues, you will hold this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



Email to: JUDTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: February 9, 2010 @ 2:30 p.m.
Conference Room 325

DATE: January 25, 2010

TO: House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair

FROM: Dennis Arakaki, Executive Director

RE: Opposition to HB 2759 HD1: Relating to Gaming
Opposition to HB 146: Proposing an Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to
Permit Gambling in the State

Honorable Chairs and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, I am Dennis Arakaki, **representing both the Hawaii Family Forum and the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii.**

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii, representing a network of over 250 Christian churches. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in Hawaii, which under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents over 220,000 Catholics in Hawaii. **We STRONGLY oppose both these bills that would allow gambling in Hawaii.**

Hawaii is among only three (3) states in the nation where all forms of gambling remain illegal. (Utah and Tennessee are the others). Proponents of legalized gambling in Hawaii boast of its promise of economic revitalization and prosperity. While there is an element of truth to their claims, greater scrutiny reveals a far different story.

The widespread proliferation of gambling on the mainland has produced very troubling consequences for the people and communities most closely associated with it. Those consequences include: increased violent crime, property crime, and drug-related crime; an increased influence of organized crime; increased addiction and family deterioration; a disproportionately adverse impact on youth and the poor; and, a net negative economic impact.

Crime

An historical review of the experiences of several cities is illustrative.

- Casino operations began in the late 1970s in Atlantic City. Within three years, Atlantic City went from 50th to 1st in per-capita crime nationwide. (Goodman, Robert. (1995). *The Luck Business* (New York: Free Press).
- Five years after Deadwood, South Dakota, legalized limited-stakes casino gambling in 1989, its serious crimes had increased by 93 percent, causing its police force to double in size. (1995 Report of Maryland Attorney General, Joseph Curran)
- In 1990, voters in three Colorado mining towns approved a referendum allowing casinos. In just two years in Central City, assaults and thefts increased 400 percent while there were 8 times the number of arrests for drunken driving. The other towns' experiences were similar and all three were forced to increase their police forces.
- Voters in Florida rejected a November 1994 ballot initiative that would have introduced casinos statewide. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement had reported "Casinos will result in more Floridians and visitors being robbed, raped, assaulted, and otherwise injured. Casinos are not worth the gamble."
- In February 2009 the new HPD Chief, Louis Kealoha was quoted in the Advertiser, "Because of the lure of easy money . . . it [gambling] will attract organized crime and encourage public corruption. . . . We cannot support something that would strengthen the criminal element."
- The definitive academic study on new crime caused by increased gambling found that crime increased 8 to 10 percent after a gambling facility opened in a new county and continually increased thereafter. (Grinols and David B. Mustard, *Casinos, Crime, and Community Costs. Review of Economics and Statistics*, Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2006.)

Net Negative Economic Impact

While it may be true that legalized casino gambling would bring new jobs for some, the potentially even greater negative economic impact must also be considered.

- Jobs within the gambling industry are often low-paying. In 1991, the New Jersey Casino Control Commission found that nearly two-thirds of casino employees made \$25,000 or less annually.
- Other, established local businesses, such as restaurants may suffer once gambling is legalized and business is pulled away. Within 10 years after the introduction of casinos in Atlantic City, 40 percent of the city's restaurants went out of business. (Hinds, Michael deCourcy. (1994). "Riverboat Casinos Seek a Home in Pennsylvania," *New York Times*, April 7.
- Finally, other gambling-related costs such as infrastructure expenditures, regulatory costs, criminal justice system expenses, and social-welfare costs, may result in more taxpayer dollars spent than are received from gambling revenue. Florida's Office of Planning and

Budgeting concluded "Additional projected state tax revenues related to casinos are sufficient to address only 8 to 13 percent of annual projected costs related to casinos."

High Social Costs

- Not unlike the social costs associated with other addictive behaviors, compulsive gambling wreaks havoc on individuals, families, and communities.
- Child and spousal abuse rates have risen dramatically in Deadwood, South Dakota, Biloxi, Mississippi, Central City Colorado after the introduction of legalized gambling.
- Drug and alcohol abuse, along with reported rates of suicide attempts are all alarmingly higher among those with severe gambling problems.
- A Harvard Medical School Professor has warned of gambling's impact on youth: "We're going to have major issues with youth gambling that will equal or eclipse the problems that we have with (youth) substance abuse . . ." The American Psychological Association recently indicated that 5% to 8% of young Americans and Canadians reported a "serious" gambling problem. (Philadelphia Inquirer 8/16/98)
- Repeated studies have shown that those most likely to gamble are those who are least able to afford it. A study of the 17 Native American casinos in Wisconsin concluded Wisconsin gamblers "are not the affluent people of Wisconsin. Their numbers are skewed toward the poorer-income categories and the elderly."

(Information excerpted from Focus on the Family 's You Bet Your Life, The Dangerous Repercussions of America's Gambling Addiction, 1996)

Should Hawaii Be Like Las Vegas: Casino Gambling's Devastating Community Effects

OK. Let's begin with the obvious. Lots of people in Hawaii travel to Las Vegas for fun and recreation. Those visits are 100% irrelevant to the simple issue at hand - should Hawaii become more like Las Vegas by legalizing gambling? To answer the question, we really should examine the data about what it is like to live in a place like Vegas.

This data should serve as a clarion call for all of us - a reminder of the compelling reasons the people of Hawaii and our elected representatives have consistently and steadfastly resisted the siren song of the big money gambling interests. It reminds us why "the Las Vegas effect" upon our islands would wreak havoc on our ohana based community and our aloha spirit.

There are probably a few things you have never heard about Nevada. The point of the information is not to moralize against the perennial Vegas visit, but to remind people why we should resist any semblance of the Vegas scene here in our communities.

For the big money casino cartels, Vegas is #1. Number one alright - but did you know the following? According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census and other reputable sources, Nevada boasts the following -- #1 in suicides; -- #1 in divorce; -- #1 in high school dropouts; -- and #1 in the number of women killed by men. Grim. But there is more.

Nevada is also number three in bankruptcies and abortions. Number four in rape, out of wedlock births and alcohol related death. Number five in crime, number six in prisoners locked up and number 50 in voter participation. This and other well-documented information is available through the Hawaii Coalition Against Legalized Gambling. In response to these data, the Coalition's response seems appropriate: "Not in my Backyard." Shouldn't that be our collective community response?

But what else do the data show generally about the corrosive effects of legalized gambling? In March of 1998, a St. Louis newspaper reported nearly 1 in 5 homeless people admit that gambling contributed to their poverty and 37% of those admit they continue to gamble. Did you know five to eight percent of adolescents are already addicted to gambling? How about that 75% of pathological gamblers in one study admitted to perpetrating a felony to support their addiction? That even casino owner Donald Trump admits when casinos come in "local business will suffer because they'll lose customer dollars to the casinos?" Do we really need any more suffering among our small business owners?

And that's just the beginning. According to Dr. John Kindt of the University of Illinois, legalized gambling in Hawaii would also surely bring the ABCs of gambling - increased addiction, increased bankruptcies, and increased crime and corruption. Would we really want to invite more of these things to our island paradise?

It's these and other concerns that convinced Congress in 1996 to form the National Gambling Impact Study Commission. And even though the commission is stacked with many gambling industry pals, it will nevertheless be recommending the following in its June 18 final report: a moratorium on new casinos and lotteries; an increase in the minimum betting age to 21; a ban on collegiate sports betting; stricter limits on the political influence of the gambling industry; and more resources to address the growing problem of gambling addiction.

It seems to me Hawaii is rather akamai for its continued rejection of legalized gambling. As we all know, Hawaii is special. This issue is no different - we are one of only three states in the nation that can boast of no legalized gambling. Let's work hard to keep it that way!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hawai'i Coalition Against Legalized Gambling

1124 Fort Street Mall, Suite 209
Honolulu, Hi 96813
HCALG.org

Member Organizations

Advocates for Consumer Rights
Animal Rights Hawaii
Buddhist Peace Fellowship
Christian Voice of Hawaii
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Church of Perfect Liberty
Common Cause Hawaii
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
First Unitarian Church of Honolulu
Hale Kipa
Hawaii Assemblies of God
Hawaii Association of International Buddhists
Hawaii Christian Coalition
Hawaii Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC)
Hawaii District United Methodist Church
Hawaii Family Forum
Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention
Hawaii Rainbow Coalition
Hawaii Religions for Peace
Hawaii Youth Services Network
Honolulu Friends Meeting (Quakers)
Honolulu Police Department
Institute for Religion and Social Change
Interfaith Alliance Hawaii
Kokua Council
League of Women Voters of Hawaii
Life of the Land (Hawaii)
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition Hawaii
Mestizo Association
Muslim Association & Islamic Center of Hawaii
Pacific Gateway Center
Presbytery of the Pacific
Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church
Small Business Hawaii
Soto Zen Mission of Hawaii
Temple Emanu-El
Windward Coalition of Churches
The Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands (UCC)

Cooperating Organizations

Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii
Catholic Diocese of Honolulu
Hawaii Bankers Association
Hawaii Business Roundtable
Hawaii State PTSA
Hawaiian Humane Society

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

2:30 p.m. Conference Room 325

To: Chair Karamatsu
Vice Chair Ito
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

Re: OPPOSED TO HB 2759, HD1 RELATING TO GAMING

My name is Dianne Kay and I am President of the Hawaii Coalition Against Legalized Gambling. Our coalition represents diverse groups in the community but we are united on one purpose which is to keep legalized gambling out of the state of Hawaii. We believe the detrimental effects of introducing gambling would include social and economic costs such as abuse, divorce, suicide, work absences, welfare, homelessness, incarceration, and bankruptcy, that would far exceed any monetary benefits. Crime would increase and local businesses and entertainment venues would shut down as the mainland gambling industry encroached on these islands.

To amend the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act by allowing gambling on Hawaiian home lands would seem to violate the Purpose of the Act as found in Section 101 (b) (5) which states that financial support will be provided "to native Hawaiian beneficiaries of this Act so that by pursuing strategies to enhance economic self-sufficiency . . . the traditions, culture and quality of life of native Hawaiians shall be forever self-sustaining." Further, in Section 101 (c) the Kingdom of Hawaii, the United States, and the State of Hawaii "affirm their fiduciary duty to administer the provisions of this Act on behalf of the native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Act."

We believe the state would be abrogating its fiduciary responsibility by allowing gambling to be introduced on Hawaiian home lands. This action would exploit native Hawaiians for the benefit of mainland gambling interests, and the culture and quality of life of native Hawaiians would diminish.

The Hawaii Coalition Against Legalized Gambling has a motto—"Don't Gamble with Aloha." We respectfully ask the members of the House Judiciary Committee to vote against HB 2759, SD 1.

To: Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Members of Committee on Judiciary

Subject: House Bill 2759, HD1, Relating to Gambling

As the Director of Public Affairs in Hawaii, I, John A. Hoag,, speak on behalf of the 75,000 members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in opposition to HB 2759 and any other measure that would introduce legalized gambling to Hawaii for the following reasons:

HAWAII'S IMAGE “. . . Gambling would be disastrous for Hawaii's image, and for its people. . . . Tourism's claim to a significant market niche, rests on the unique Hawaiian culture . . . carefully nurtured for well over half a century. . . . Hawaii is too small to ignore the adverse consequences of gambling.” (Dr. Leroy O. Laney, First Hawaiian Bank Economist and David McClain, Professor of Business Administration and former University of Hawaii President, *The Price of Paradise*, vol. II. Mutual Publishing, 1993.)

MYTHICAL PROMISES Gambling proponents will always talk in terms of mythical new revenues to a state and conveniently ignore the costs. The *negative* return to communities ranges from 3:1 to 6:1 when all the cost factors are factored, e.g. the developer's take, the cost of government oversight, additional need for police, cannibalization of existing retail businesses, and the high social welfare costs that communities experience. (Economics Professor Earl L. Grinols, *Gambling in America: Cost and Benefits*. Cambridge University Press, 2004.)

NEVADA'S RECORD It should be noted that the state of Nevada leads the nation in divorces, bankruptcies, and crime. The American Bankruptcy Institute reported in August 2009 that “Nevada was the state with the highest per capita filing rate in the country with 9.33 residents per thousand filing in all chapters.” An annual publication that compares the states in 500 crime related categories found that Nevada had maintained its first place standing in 2009 as having the highest crime rate in the nation. (*Crime State Rankings 2009*, CQ Press.) Nevada is second in the U.S. for unemployment and suicides.

Las Vegas Casinos were hit hard by the economic downturn and barely survived. In early 2009 MGM Mirage and Las Vegas Sands came close to insolvency. There were double digit declines in gambling revenue on the Las Vegas Strip for a year from late 2008 until

September 2009. Occupancy and room rates continued to decline in November 2009. (William Spain, *MarketWatch*, Nov. 16, 2009.)

TAX REVENUES “States which have little or no gambling have better consumer economies and tax revenues than states with multiple gambling mechanisms.” (Professor John W. Kindt, *Diminishing or Negating The Multiplier Effect: The Transfer of Consumer Dollars to Legalized Gambling. Michigan State DCL Law Review*, 2003.)

EMPLOYMENT “By diverting consumer dollars into gambling, it has been responsible for the decline of jobs and revenues in other businesses.” (Robert Goodman, *U.S. Gambling Study: Legalized Gambling as a strategy for Economic Development*, 1994.) “For every one job created by state sponsored gambling, one job is lost from the pre-existing economy.” (National Gambling Impact Study Commission (NGISC), May 1998 Congressional hearings.) Aware of these consequences, all major business organizations in Hawaii— the Hawaii Business Roundtable, the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, Hawaii Banker’s Association, Small Business Hawaii, have standing positions opposed to legalized gambling.

ILLUSORY PROFITS “Gambling’s profits come disproportionately from the pockets of the poor. It is in effect a highly regressive form of taxation. Multimillion dollar gambling corporations reap the profit.” (NGISC Final Report, June 1999.)

CRIME In February 2009 the new HPD Chief, Louis Kealoha was quoted in the *Advertiser*, “Because of the lure of easy money . . . it [gambling] will attract organized crime and encourage public corruption. . . . We cannot support something that would strengthen the criminal element.”

The definitive academic study on new crime caused by increased gambling found that crime increased 8 to 10 percent after a gambling facility opened in a new county and continually increased thereafter. (Grinols and David B. Mustard, *Casinos, Crime, and Community Costs. Review of Economics and Statistics*, Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2006.)

VALUES “Commercial gambling’s advertising of instant and effortless wealth erodes the value of work, savings and personal responsibility.” (NGISC.)

PUBLIC OFFICIALS Corruption invariably creeps into parts of the government apparatus with the introduction of gambling. See attached 2002 *Advertiser* article, *Island Voices*, “If you think gambling would be good for Hawaii, check Louisiana’s promise.”

If you think gambling would be good for Hawai'i, check Louisiana's promise

by Jack Hoag

The casino promoters' fairy-tale promises to save Hawai'i's economy would be most tempting if we had not already had a preview of reality played out in Louisiana a few years ago. The parallel between the New Orleans debacle and Hawai'i is frightening.

The main character in this tragedy is none other than flamboyant Chris Hemmeter, the former Hawai'i real estate developer. The New Orleans disaster is chronicled in Tyler Bridges' Pulitzer-prizewinning book, "Bad Bet on the Bayou."

Departing the Islands for greener pastures, in 1992 Hemmeter unveiled a grandiose \$1 billion, land-based casino and riverboat gambling operation to New Orleans officials.

That dollar figure is coincidentally identical to the number posed by Sun International Hotels, so it must be considered the "opening ante" to impress decision-makers.

Reminiscent of the current sales pitches in the Hawai'i Legislature, Hemmeter promised 7,800 new jobs, well over \$100 million

ISLAND VOICES

JACK HOAG

Jack Hoag is a member of the Coalition Against Gambling in Hawai'i

to the city and state and a unique cultural experience for the visitor. The opulent plans for Ko Olina sound much like Hemmeter's \$400-million Grand Palais crown jewel envisioned for New Orleans. At one of his many meetings with city officials, Hemmeter ran into at least one council member, Peggy Wilson, who wasn't buying his sales pitch.

To his promise "to do something unique for New Orleans," she replied, "Mr. Hemmeter, New Orleans is already unique."

And yes, Hawai'i with its special culture, climate and ambience is already unique as well. We don't need the costs that come with the incursion of gambling to despoil our state.

So how did the gambling indus-

try's promises to the people of Louisiana work out?

Gambling's corrupt influence-peddling spread throughout the political system. Gov. Edwin Edwards was sentenced by a federal judge to 10 years in prison, and three other elected officials have been jailed.

And the casino? It went into bankruptcy, as did some of the riverboat operations.

Creditors lost heavily, bondholders were defaulted and the promised jobs were lost. Instead of reaping a tax windfall and a big up-front largesse, the government lost millions. Of the shattered expectations, there remains only a tarnished and wounded gambling infrastructure. Hemmeter declared bankruptcy in 1997.

Can the Hawai'i Legislature sort through the generous assurances that we hear from gambling proponents?

They should listen to the reassuring words of long-time Gov. Edwards in 1995. He said, "Some will look at it (gambling) as an abomination; I view it as economic development. I supported it because of the jobs it will create and the tourists it will bring."

WAIMEA HAWAIIAN HOMESTEADERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

P. O. Box 6753

Kamuela, Hawaii 96743

February 8, 2010

M KANANI KAPUNIAI

Pu'ukapu-Pastoral '90+

Director- **President**

BETTY LAU

Kuhio Village

Director – **Vice-President**

MAXINE KAHAULELIO

Pu'u Pulehu

Director – **Secretary**

A HOPPY BROWN

Pu'ukapu Pastoral '90+

Director – **Treasurer**

Kamoku/WaikoloaNienie

Director

Pauahi

Director

ROBERT TERUKINA

Kuhio Village

Director

BERNARD ALANI, JR

Pu'ukapu-Farm >'85

Director

JOSEPH KEALOHA

Pu'ukapu-Farm '85+

Director

HENRY "SOLI" NIHEU

Pu'ukapu-Farm '85+

Director

TIARE FLORES

Pu'ukapu-Pastoral <90

Director

TO: Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu Chair
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary

FROM: M Kapuniai, President

RE: **HB2759, HD1**
RELATING TO GAMING

Authorize the Hawaiian homes commission to allow gaming on Hawaiian home lands and to designate specific Hawaiian home lands for the purposes of establishing casino gaming operations. Creates the Hawaii Gaming Commission to regulate casino gaming operations. Imposes a wagering tax on gross receipts of casino gaming operations and provides for distribution to the general fund and Hawaiian homelands trust fund. (HB2759HD1)

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 9, 2010 2:30 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

We **WILL NOT EVEN CONSIDER SUPPORT** unless:

- 1) **HB2759,HD1 is amended as follows:**
PART I, SECTION 3, Page 4 & Page 5;
S 213.6. Hawaiian home lands trust fund. (a) There is established a trust fund to be known as the Hawaiian home lands trust fund, into which shall be deposited **100% of all lease rents from all Casino Gaming Operations, 20% of gross receipts from all Casino Gaming Operations (as defined in PART II, SECTION 4, (Page 6 and Page 7)** and all appropriations by the state legislature (and moneys) pursuant to **section -4 (c), Hawaii Revised Statutes,** specified
- 2) We have completely reviewed and discussed this activity with our community, the Sovereign Councils of the Hawaiian Homelands Assembly, DHHL, and the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this process.

Phone: (808) 890-2311 (Res) 936-0157(Cell)
Email: duke@sandwichisles.net

A member of the Sovereign Councils of Hawaiian Homelands Assembly



CAPITOL CONSULTANTS OF HAWAII, LLP
222 South Vineyard Street Suite 401, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Office: 808/531-4551 Fax: 808/533-4601
Website: www.capitolconsultantsofhawaii.com

February 8, 2010

Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813-2453

RE: HB2759 HD1, Relating to Gaming

Dear Chair Karamatsu, Vice Chair Ito and Members of the Committee:

My name is John Radcliffe and I am an advocate of having legalized, regulated, gaming entertainment in Hawaii. Hawaii has a huge, illegal, unregulated, untaxed, gambling enterprise that easily runs into the hundreds of millions of dollars. And of course, we export somewhere between a billion dollars and half a billion after tax gaming dollars to legal gaming venues in other states. Making gaming legal in Hawaii is the most intelligent thing that this Legislature could do this year.

Don't get me wrong, I want legalized gaming here for one reason only: it will enhance the quality of our lives by creating jobs and wealth. If the Hawaiians Homes Commission does it, or some other commission is charged with doing it, is not of the absolute first priority with me.

But somebody should do it.

Let me tell you why I favor permitting Hawaiians to own the means of production of gaming in Hawaii. I grew up in Northern Wisconsin in the 1940's and 50's. To give you some context, there was no social safety net then—particularly for Native Americans. All poor people were on their own, and Native Americans, nearly by definition were poor people. Most all poor people in the rural areas were without indoor plumbing, including yours truly. None of the extensive array of benefits the you and other government leaders in other states and at the federal level, are having to cut back today, were even known in my growing up years. We Democrats began Social Security, seventy years ago in 1940. The first person in the country to get social security benefits was Ida May Fuller, a Vermont legal secretary, who retired on January 1, 1940, with a monthly benefit of \$22.54. Ida May fooled everybody by living to be a hundred years old. She died in 1975, and her lifelong benefit over thirty five years, was a little over a total of \$22,000. Medicare, which is in big trouble today, was not introduced in the United State until 1966. Cost of living adjustments for Social Security were begun in 1975.

Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary
February 8, 2010
Page 2

The social safety net was never as much as has been needed, although it has grown to a point where you policy makers are constantly cutting it back. For Native Americans, the safety net has been more of a snare than a net. And this also true for native Hawaiians.

My closest, dearest friend, and next door neighbor in the Northern Wisconsin rural ghetto, near a reservation, was Porky Tecumseh, a member of the Pottawatami Tribe. If the Radcliffe family was poor, the Tecumseh family was destitute. My dad had a good union job at the paper mill. He had been in the Depression era Civilian Conservation Corps and had been drafted into the Army after Pearl Harbor. He had rights and benefits, which his family enjoyed. Mr. Tecumseh, an Indian, wasn't allowed in the CCC, and he hadn't served in the military, and he certainly didn't enjoy a union job. His family had nothing. My sister and brother and I rode the school bus to school in town, but I can't remember that the Tecumseh kids ever went. Their home had no electricity at all, as I remember it. I say all of this because the parallels between how society has neglected and treated Native Americans and Native Hawaiians are striking. Both groups are low in education, high in poverty related crime. Low in quality of health, high in disease and premature death. And in both groups, women, and especially children, suffer most.

There are about 553 Reservations on the mainland US. In the late 1970's Native American began to assert themselves as to establishing casino type gaming entertainment on their own property, only to be opposed by various municipalities and states. In 1988, Congress finally passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, allowing Native Americans to permit gaming on their own lands. Today, about 225 of those Reservations have casinos, including twenty-eight in Wisconsin. Of the remaining 328 reservations in the US, many are moving toward casino creation. In 2005, there were 405 tribal casinos in the 30 states in the US and they contributed \$6.2 billion in taxes, two thirds of which went to the federal government. Tribal casinos are a growth industry—and states are taking advantage of that.

Until recently, the Reservation near my home town was just beautiful. Filled with towering trees, pristine rivers and lakes, it is gorgeous. But it was also, as it had always been, a sinkhole of poverty and despair, a breeding ground for drug abuse and crimes of all kinds. The homes were hovels. It was a physically gorgeous ghetto.

Today it is still gorgeous, but now the homes are new and clean. The vehicles are too. There is a hospital. Everybody has medical insurance and people have all their teeth. The children all ride the bus to school and all children must attend at least 1,137 hours of instruction and go to school for 180 days. If there is a strike or such event, the time must be made up—by law. (Given our current controversy, I just thought that I'd throw that in.) Crime is way down as is alcoholism and drug abuse. Why? You know why. Is it all of a sudden perfect? No it is not, but the physical conditions are better, the health and welfare of the Native people are vastly improved, because of jobs and wealth creation. And this is also true: the rising tide of wealth and health for the Native Americans in Wisconsin has brought the rest of the population up as well. The Native tribes own the casinos and profit from that ownership, but many thousands of non-Native Americans are employed in them, or service them in some way. The general population enjoys the entertainment afforded them by the casinos, and the casinos give tourists something else to do after looking at Wisconsin's beauty and bounty, and visiting various historical and other sites. Once one has visited one cheese factory—as wonderful as that may sound, one pretty much gets the idea of how cheese is made.

Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary
February 8, 2010
Page 3

I began by talking about how we Democrats built the American safety net for our people during the last thirty percent of our time as a nation, and how Native people among us tended to benefit the least from that safety net, and at the same time have been punished the most by the attendant handmaidens of poverty, crime and disease. The national safety net has become too large and it must be cut back. The states are doing the same thing. You talk a lot about sustainability and jobs in these halls. But surely you realize that raising state taxes more, and depending on the federal government more, is just not sustainable, and does nothing to increase jobs in any long term meaningful way.

The point is that we here in Hawaii can no longer depend on the kindness of strangers. Nor can we depend on our tiny, but wildly successful, Congressional delegation to keep bringing in more and more federal dollars.

We are on our own. We have to build our own destiny. The Hawaiian Homeland Commission can lead the way—or not. Destiny's path is not always upward.

FACTS YOU MAY NOT KNOW:

- Nevada, the first state to legalize casino gaming, did so in 1931.
- Regular commercial, non-Native American casinos employ more than 350,000 nation-wide
- Roughly 25% of all Americans visit a casino at least once a year.
- In 2008, regular, non-Native American casinos contributed more than \$5.6 billion in tax revenues to state and local governments.

http://www.americangaming.org/assets/files/AGA_Facts_Web.pdf

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written comments.

Respectfully Submitted,

John H. Radcliffe
Vice President

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: olinda aiwohi [olindaaiwohi@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 12:53 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: Rep. Mele Carroll; Rep. Joe Bertram III
Subject: Oppose HB 2759

Email to: JUDTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Hearing on: February 9, 2010

Conference Room: 325

February 8, 2010

To: House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair

From Olinda Aiwohi, President Paukukalo Hawaiian Homes Community Assoc.
781 Kawanakoa St.
Wailuku, HI 96793
Ph. (808) 244-3288/ cell# 205-8113

RE: OPPOSITION to HB 2759, Relating to Gaming on Hawaiian HomeLands

Aloha Chair Karamatsu, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mrs. Olinda Aiwohi and I am a Native Hawaiian living on Hawaiian home lands on Maui. I strongly oppose House Bill 2759 which would allow gaming on Department of Hawaiian Homelands. How disrespectful can people be. This should have come to the beneficiaries for Beneficial Consultation before even being passed through committee.

As the president of Paukukalo Hawaiian Homes Community Association I would like to inform you that our community would not benefit from such a thing. We already have lessees who face eviction because of poor handling of money, and being involved with gaming. Thinking that they can win by gambling has caused more hardship in our community, and devastated families. Whether they gamble illegally in state or go to Las Vegas they still come out losers. They use their mortgage money, utility money just to see if they can make their financial woes disappear only to be disappointed when they return from Las Vegas and face having their families live in homes without electricity. Then they turn to selling drugs to compensate for their losses. Then they use the drugs, get arrested and their families are left in devastation only for the welfare system to support. What of their children, the pattern continues. There is no good to any kind of gaming anywhere. I personally have lived this through my parent. I was fortunate to have a grandmother to raise me and help me have a better life. No cards, no gambling of any kind is how I live and my life has been good. I cannot say the same for my siblings, some have been in prison and till today cannot even afford to live on Hawaiian homes or anywhere. Thanks to gaming and the devastation it caused to my family. My concerns are for the community in which I live, help is needed but not through gaming. Self reliance and self sufficiency need to be learned and not through gaming.

I hope and pray you will all see the devastating effects gaming would have not just to the Hawaiian people but to everyone. Please say "NO" to this bill.

I strongly oppose HB 2759.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Olinda Aiwohi, President PHHCA

CHRISTIAN VOICE of HAWAII

Standing for Righteousness in the Public Square
Post Office Box 23055 • Honolulu, Hawai'i • 96823

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING:

FEBRUARY 9, 2010, 2:30 PM,
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 and HB 146 – RELATING TO GAMBLING

CHAIR JON RIKI KARAMATSU and MEMBERS of the
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:

Aloha. I offer this testimony today on behalf of Christian Voice of Hawaii, a network of more than 800 ministers from many denominations throughout Hawaii. The network involves pastors and leaders of numerous faith-based ministries that are active in providing support services in communities throughout the islands — from homeless shelters, to food distribution, family counseling, medical care, elderly and hospice care, social and spiritual counseling, assisting unwed mothers, problem pregnancies, child services, education and so forth.

The members of the Christian Voice of Hawaii network hereby register our **OPPOSITION to HB 2759 and HB 146 – RELATING TO GAMBLING.**

In the twenty-four years that Christian Voice has been active in Hawaii, we have maintained that legalizing gambling in any form would be extremely detrimental to the State of Hawaii and the people of Hawaii. Whatever financial income that might be derived from gambling would be far outweighed by the human costs it would cause in terms of the deleterious effects (including a financial drain) on the community and society.

It would be highly irresponsible for this legislature to justify gambling strictly as a means to generate cash flow and not take into account the broader picture of the human misery it will cause. Gambling is an addictive behavior. Think of it in terms of legalizing another form of addictive behavior like 'ice' or 'crack.' Addicts maintaining addictions take desperate risks leading to the impoverishment and breakdown of families; increase in crime and violence; that lead to further costly burdens upon the state's welfare and criminal/justice systems. It would be a disastrous trade-off.

Worse yet, in order to make money, the state would be in the business of pushing gambling, much like a drug dealer or pimp would push their wares. This is far different than pushing sunshine, sandy beaches and aloha.

To allow gambling on Hawaiian Homelands as **HB 2759** proposes, not only denigrates Hawaiians to 'American-Indian-tribe' status, it will generate a whole array of legal entanglements, including running afoul of the anti-gambling stipulations in the ubiquitous 'Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act' (a.k.a. the Akaka Bill) still pending before Congress.

The constitutional amendment as called for in **HB 146**, would likewise be in direct contradiction to Federal law should the Akaka Bill pass. In its current form, the Akaka Bill implies that State of Hawaii law might not be applicable to the territories of the 'Native Hawaiian Governing Entity.'

Again, because of the detrimental and dangerous effects it would have on Hawaii's families, our community, our economy and our society, the members of Christian Voice of Hawaii strongly oppose **HB 2759 and HB 146** and any other measure that seeks to legalize gambling of any form in Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leon Siu".

Leon Siu
Director,
Christian Voice of Hawaii

Ua mau ke Eā i ka 'Āina i ka Pono.
The Sovereignty of the Land is perpetuated in Righteousness.

From: HIAHAWAII@aol.com
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 12:52 AM
To: Rep. Jon Karamatsu; Rep. Ken Ito
Subject: HPACH Testimony On HB 2759, HD1

February 9, 2010

Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair
And Committee Members On Judiciary
House of Representative, State of Hawaii

Subject: HB 2759, HD1, Relating To Gaming, "SUPPORT"

ALOHA Kakou,

My name is Richard Pomaikaiokalani Kinney. As Sovereign of the Hawaiian Political Action Council of Hawaii, I "SUPPORT" the intent and passage of HB 2759, HD 1.

Since the very beginning of the passage of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act "Revenues" has always been a problem with the implementing of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act.

Gaming has the possibility of providing not only needed revenues but also job employment for the native Hawaiian Community.

Once more, HPACH "SUPPORTS" the intent and passage of HB 2759, HD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to present my testimony on this Bill.

ALOHA KUU AINA HAWAII

Richard Pomaikaiokalani Kinney, SOVEREIGN
Hawaiian Political Action Council of Hawaii
Email: Hiahawaii@aol.com

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 4:39 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: mpeary1947@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2759 on 2/9/2010 2:30:00 PM

Testimony for JUD 2/9/2010 2:30:00 PM HB2759

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: comments only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Margaret Peary
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mpeary1947@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2010

Comments:
Dear Committee:

I am absolutely opposed to any form of gambling in HI. It would be unthinkable to turn Hawaiian Homelands into gaming casino's! The land was NEVER intended for that purpose. It is absurd to think you would compromise the original trust by introducing such an addictive activity to the citizens of HI let alone to those living on Hawaiian Homestead lands ... NO!!!

Mahalo,

Margaret Peary

Testimony Regarding HB 2759, HD1(HSCR 135-10) by John P. Karbens

Respectfully Submitted to the sixteen members of the Committee on Judiciary of the Hawaii House of Representatives for hearing on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 2:30pm.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am John P. Karbens. I testify as an individual citizen of the State of Hawaii. I came to Hawaii at age 21 to work for a major CPA firm, hold three graduate degrees from the University of Hawaii-Manoa and have taught business courses in Hawaii for 37 years plus five years at the University of Nevada-Reno.

I wish to testify strongly in opposition to legalization of any form of gambling in Hawaii.

It is difficult to support HB 2759 or other bills to legalize gambling without having information on:

- 1) The percentage of tax on gross revenues which will be assessed on a casino. If this tax is higher than is taken in other locations, the payout to gamblers will be less than is found in other gambling centers. This percentage appears to be left blank to date in HB2759 and related bills.
- 2) The portion of the tax on gross revenues which will be allocated to a management contract and for funds to care for addicted gamblers, effected families and others.
- 3) The location of any proposed casino(s).
- 4) The hours when any casino(s) will be allowed to operate.
- 5) Whether free food or liquor will be provided to gamblers.
- 6) The costs for construction and financing of casino facilities. A facility which is designed for gambling and constructed for this purpose will have a much longer useful life than a five year management contract.
- 7) The funds needed by city and county government to police the current illegal gambling, prostitution, drug activity, money laundering, theft and other crimes related to gambling as well as the increases in such crimes related to any form of legal gambling.

President Obama has encouraged people not to gamble during a period of recession. This is not the time to expect great revenues at new casinos.

Leaders of the Hawaii Legislature have rejected legalized gambling for many decades for very good reasons.

I moved back to Hawaii for many reasons after living in Nevada. I hoped to escape the dysfunctional life style which gambling imposed on average citizens. We have enough illegal gambling at the present time with insufficient resources to enforce existing laws.

Legalized and illegal gambling benefit a few citizens while increasing social costs and risk on all others.

Mahalo

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: Jim/Alda St. James [stjames@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 6:05 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii. It is well documented that people who cannot afford to gamble get addicted to it. Once it's here, there will be many more poor and desperate people. Please vote to oppose HB 2759 and continue to ban gambling in the state of Hawaii. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Alda St. James
(808) 572-8575

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: Daryl Smith-Oswald [darylso@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 6:17 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Please stop gambling in Hawaii!

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii.

Daryl Smith-Oswald, RD

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: Debbe Lau [debbe@hawaiitravelwholesalers.com]
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 6:40 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Debbe Lau

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: Todd Hairgrove [toddhairgrove@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 6:49 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee: I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii.

3920 Hunakai St.
Lihue, HI 96766
February 5, 2010

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to you concerning HB 2755 Relating to Gambling and HB 146 Proposing an Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in Hawaii.

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii. I was born and raised on Kauai. I also lived in Michigan for five years and saw the promise of economic revitalization and prosperity go down the drain with lotteries and casinos. People there warned me about Hawaii getting into the same condition. Parents locked their kids in the cars in the heat of summer and the freezing cold of winter. Children were taken away. Folks bought their groceries with food stamps then went over to the lottery counter to pay cash for a chance to make it big. Gambling income was to help education but rich districts got money and poor districts were still poor. Mackinaw City didn't want a casino because there was one over the bridge but the Indian tribe bought land in Mackinaw anyway with hopes to build another one. Traverse City had a casino that opened before the Legislature approved the opening.

When I returned to Kauai in 1997, I attended a panel discussion with Rev. Tom Grey at that time from Illinois, the Kauai Police Department, and two private citizens on Kauai who wanted gambling. I sat next to Roy Nishida, then Governor's Liaison for Kauai and told him if gambling is approved, the Indians have the right to purchase our land. He said they already had purchased the Federal Coast Guard Loran Station in Poipu. The Indians have the right to open casinos. Rev. Grey used the analogy of the frog being put into a pot of boiling water, it would jump out, but if it was put in cold water and the heat put up, the frog would boil to death without knowing. He likened the people of Hawaii full of Aloha, welcoming the Indian tribes with their bread frys, their smoke tents, their inroads into our schools with education classes and Pow Wows with their likeness to dance and culture like the Hawaiians. I have seen his predictions happen as he said.

Do not give in to the hopes of prosperity by gambling. You will ruin families and provide the way for more social ills as I saw in Michigan and even here with people I know who gamble. Michigan casinos plied seniors with bus trips, ready coins, and fun themes. They even had an Aloha theme which I learned about when called to provide some elders with leis or anything Hawaiian so they could dress up to go.

Please look up Rev. Tom Grey because he knew what was going to happen to Hawaii and the direction the lobbyists were taking our state. Think about our families and don't pass HB 2755 and HB 146.

Sincerely,

Janice S. Bond

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: suzanne [suzannealoha@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 11:02 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii.

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: soulsurfers@soulsurferskauai.com
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 12:36 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee: I am a voting member of the public and I do NOT want gambling of any kind in Hawaii. Please do NOT allow this to be part of our home!

Thank you,

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Pattillo

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: Sandra Ishikawa [sishikawa6@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 4:25 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:I am a voting member of the public and I DO NOT want gambling of any kind in Hawaii. We have enough issues to deal with especially with the current economy. Please do not welcome or invite more issues...

Thank you,
Sandra Ishikawa-Long

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: Elaine Brown [elainebrown@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 6:33 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii. Gambling will result in social ills to Hawaii's people and change the nature of our tourism profile. Recent survey shows 63% of the people poled are against legalizing gambling in Hawaii.

Thank you.

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: JDCENTER@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 6:33 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to t

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii.

June Chu

5070 Likini St. #1207

Honolulu, HI 9818

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: JDCENTER@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 6:41 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to t

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii.

Donald Chu
5070 Likini St. #1207
Honolulu, HI

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: Bill Lawson [WHL@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 6:49 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii. Please do not go down this slippery slope that leads to crime and family destruction which we DON'T need in Hawaii.

Aloha,

Bill Lawson

William H. Lawson, Attorney at Law
Century Square
1188 Bishop Street, Suite 2902
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 808-528-2525

Email: lawson@aloha.com

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: Kristine Wong [kriscmwong@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 9:15 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee: I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii.

Kristine Wong

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: Andrew Gerakas [deaconandy@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 11:58 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii.

Andrew J. Gerakas, D.Min.
4524 Waikui Street
Honolulu, HI 96821
(808) 373-4538

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: sylvialhashimoto@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 2:18 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee: I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Sylvia Hashimoto
Keaau, Hi 96749

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: RUTHPRINZ1@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 3:30 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to t

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii.

As a voting resident of this state for 40+ years, I believe that this will bring more organized crime to Hawaii, along with more violence and put more people on the dole due to increased gambling addictions. The benefit of more tax income does not outweigh the dire consequences that gambling would bring to our island state.

Please do not put our state in jeopardy.

Aloha,
Ruth Prinzivalli
45-255 Haunani Pl.
Kaneohe, HI 96744

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: wesjanejessmich yamada [yamadas@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 3:57 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii.

Please vote against HB 2759 and HB 146. I oppose gambling, as it easily becomes addictive, especially to people of lower income.

Please do not allow gaming on Hawaiian homelands. And please do not amend the Hawaii Constitution to permit gambling in our island state.

Jane Yamada

Pearl City

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: Carol Wong [kalolaw@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 4:01 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii.

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: BOB WOODS [anpcsolutions@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 4:39 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii. I know first-hand the adverse effects this scourge can bring upon a family.

Bob Woods

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: TomMcCrea@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 5:26 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to t

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii.

People come to Hawaii for the Aloha spirit and the beauty of the islands. Gambling will only lead to other obvious criminal activities that will detract from the quality of life in Hawaii.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord shine His face upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance to you and give you His shalom.

My phone number is 808-295-1197.

Tom McCrea
PO Box 31288
Honolulu, Hi 96820

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: claudine thompson [jclamb2@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 5:42 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment
to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii.

Claudine Thompson
P.O. Box 1099
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: roalma@juno.com
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2010 5:38 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146

We are opposed to any type of gambling in Hawaii.
Bong & Alma Ro
Honolulu, HI

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: Lillian Chang [lchang@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2010 9:51 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii.

Let us keep Hawaii a niche tourist market free and clear of any addictions to those that frequent our state. Let us keep Hawaii a family oriented vacation destination. Let us focus our attention on improving our islands and keeping it beautiful and attractive to our communities and guests that visit. Let us not tarnish our state with additional public safety concerns nor overload our already fragile social welfare with the burdens that come with any gambling activities.

We urge you to stop any bills related to gambling.

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: Pattie Ceci [hawaiimama5@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2010 9:47 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to inform you of my position regarding HB 2759. Having lived in Reno, Nevada for six years, I can speak firsthand regarding this issue. My husband employed someone who became addicted to gambling, which in turn, resulted in him moving from the area, incurring large amounts of debt, and increased drinking of alcohol.

Although the amount of money involved is appealing to states that struggle with budget deficits, the negatives consequences of legalized gambling far outweigh the proposed "benefits".

Legalizing gambling is not in the best interests of the people of Hawaii. I urge you to reject HB 2759.

Sincerely,

Patricia Ceci

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2010 11:04 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: merway@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2759 on 2/9/2010 2:30:00 PM

Testimony for JUD 2/9/2010 2:30:00 PM HB2759

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marjorie Erway
Organization: Individual
Address: PO Box, 2807, Kailua Kona, HI
Phone: 808-324-4624
E-mail: merway@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2010

Comments:

Gambling of any form does NOT belong in Hawaii. Please oppose this concept and any bills that come along to allow it to happen. There are many religious groups, as well as police, from whom you have heard, who oppose gambling in this beautiful state. For good reason -- and you've heard all of them. Hawaii does not need to become Las Vegas. Gambling will end up costing the State more than the income it might provide. There is NOT ONE good thing about gambling in Hawaii.

I urge you to completely oppose it and vote NO, NO!

Mahalo for your consideration.

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: islandrap [islandrap@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2010 11:50 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Testimony on HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I respectfully submit the following testimony and challenge to all Hawaii legislators who are involved in this decision on whether to forward the bills proposing gambling in this state.

In regard to your consideration of House Bill 2759 & House Bill 146, do YOUR OWN research BEFORE you vote on these bills.

As part of your research, review the statistics for those states that have allowed gambling for more than the past 5 years, and consider that all the money in the world in the form of casino tax payments to the state cannot possibly outweigh the real dollars and human resources spent to deal with the social ills that DIRECTLY correlate to the gambling and casinos.

There is NO question of fact that it is the low and middle income families most affected by the social ills. In the mainland, in the course of 3 short years I had 2 young single moms working for me, and they were raising their children alone because their husbands had secretly gambled away all the family's savings and earnings. This is just my own personal experience, but there is study after study regarding the immediate increase in bankruptcy filings and crimes related to the gambling in those locations where it has been legalized, and casinos are operating.

According to Howard Shaffer, Director of the Harvard Medical School Center for Addiction Studies:

"We will face, in the next decade or so, more problems with youth gambling than we will face with drug use."

You can look to pretty much every other state from Massachusetts to Iowa and many others. Just have our Hawaii Attorney General contact those state's attorney generals; and have the head of our Department of Human Services contact the heads of those states Human Services offices; and ASK them what they have to say. This research costs nothing but a phone call and a little time. Yet, it will provide you a very real picture from those offices of the long term costs and impacts directly associated with casino gambling. Simply ask them about whether the good of casinos and gambling outweighs the bad for the state over the long term.

I cannot tell you what they will say, but I can guess. But JUST have our state agencies contact their counterparts so that at a minimum, you have done this research BEFORE you represent to anyone else in our Hawaii legislature what the good and bad of these bills are – find your REAL facts first. And do it in an HONEST manner.

As for the tourist dollars you think casinos might bring, do you not think that people intentionally choose to pay more money to come to the islands rather than Vegas because they put great value on the "get away" to serenity and beauty – it is the blare and emptiness of gambling from which they seek to escape.

As for the Hawaii local dollars that otherwise travel to Vegas, let them go give a bit of their money to Nevada. It is precisely because it is so far away, that they give “A BIT of their money” and not ALL of it. If they were not otherwise restricted by the distance, they then could spend it all in a casino, and in high probability would do so. Is that what you want to do to the locals? Or will you fall for the falsehood that we should let them decide whether they want to give into their gambling addiction or not. Let them decide if they are strong enough to beat their own addictions?

The Pandora box that a state opens in order to get some fast cash up front, in every single case straps the state to long term economic woes because the increased crime rate, drug use, alcoholism and homelessness ultimately costs more than they bring in. Such a situation will disfigure the serene natural beauty that now draws people to Hawaii from all over the world.

Also, see the following web sites - especially note those from the state health and human services agencies that identify the state funded centers / facilities that provide help to compulsive gambling addicts. Consider too the gambling affects on the student populations.

<http://www.stoppredatorygambling.org/>

<http://uss-mass.org/children.html>

<http://www.casinofreephila.org/gambling-fact-sheets>

<http://www.freedomplayers.org/whatisexploitativegambling.html>

<http://www.888betsoff.com>

<http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/beh/bhdirectory08.pdf> (Nebraska Dept. of Health and Human Services pdf. – treatment centers)

http://www.ok.gov/odmhsas/Consumer_Services/Substance_Abuse/Gambling_Addiction_Services/ (Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services)

http://www.idph.state.ia.us/bh/common/pdf/substance_abuse/legislative_report_on_gambling_and_substance_abuse_licensure_alignment.pdf (Iowa information regarding legislatures efforts to save costs in treatment options and licensing of treatment centers)

<http://maine.gov/dhhs/osa/about/gambling/index.htm>

http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2941_4871_43661---,00.html

There are literally thousands of websites – many state funded – just to deal with all the problems of gambling. Just do a quick and simple Google search for “gambling abuse” or “predatory gambling” – you do not even have to look hard.

Make sure you take the LONG term perspective from the back side of the issue before you promote it any further as any kind of a positive or value experience for Hawaii. As the representative for the people of this state, YOU ARE responsible for the consequences and fall out of the decisions you make. So you ought to be making your decisions with great care and good judgment for ALL

concerned constituents. And you should make certain that the research on which you base your decision is objective enough that you have covered all sides of an issue.

You **MUST** look beyond the interested parties who are pushing it for their own pockets. Whose money will they be taking to fill their pockets? The rest of your constituents. And not just money, but whole lives and livelihoods.

Do your research. And based on your research Do the **RIGHT** thing.

Bridget Rapoza
Post Box 30
Pepe`ekeo, HI 6783
islandrap@gmail.com

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 12:04 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: peemer@kula.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2759 on 2/9/2010 2:30:00 PM

Testimony for JUD 2/9/2010 2:30:00 PM HB2759

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pamela Polland
Organization: Individual
Address: 226 Kulalani Drive Kula, HI 96790
Phone: 808/878-3220
E-mail: peemer@kula.com
Submitted on: 2/8/2010

Comments:

I definitely oppose the legalization of gambling in Hawai'i. This is not what our forefathers had in mind for Hawai'i nei. Let the attraction of our island chain continue to be the beauty, the nature, the SPIRIT of Hawai'i. Please oppose HB2759. Mahalo

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: James Hochberg [jim@jameshochberglaw.com]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 6:58 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii. Please permanently kill HB 2759 which would allow gaming on Hawaiian homelands.

Note: The information contained in this message may be attorney-client privileged and confidential and protected from disclosure. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or an employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by replying to the message and deleting it from your computer. Thank you.

James Hochberg, Attorney at Law
Suite 1450, Fort Street Tower
745 Fort Street Mall
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

808-534-1514 / 808-538-3075

[Jim@JamesHochbergLaw.com](mailto:jim@JamesHochbergLaw.com)

A proud sponsor of Hawai'i Pacific University and its athletic program.

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: howardl@nikingcorp.com
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 7:22 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii.

Howard Leung
Mililani, HI

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: seekyee@gmail.com on behalf of PAUL YEE [seekyee@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 9:43 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment
to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii.

Occasionally, I ask some business people if they think we should allow gambling in Hawaii. When they say yes, they give me all the reasons that supporters of this bill do. However, when asked if they would still go to Las Vegas (usually regular visitors), they say that would do so to 'get away'. This one reason, says that those who can afford to gamble can leave and would continue to leave our state because they want to gamble AND get away. Those who can't afford to travel, will gamble here but at great expense - they will use grocery money and rent money to participate.

The fallout due to this cannot be overcome by increased tax revenue. This would ruin families and households on already tight budgets. The need to government assistance would be pushed to the limit for those families and communities. The State would plunge into greater deficits because of the repairs needed. This cannot be outweighed by the increased revenue from gambling. And I didn't even mention increased crime due to this type of industry.

If we don't start, we don't have to reverse it.

Please, I urge you to vote against HB 2759. No gambling in Hawaii.

Mahalo,
Paul D. Yee (Aina Haina)

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 10:59 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: erinann815@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2759 on 2/9/2010 2:30:00 PM

Testimony for JUD 2/9/2010 2:30:00 PM HB2759

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: erin rutherford
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: erinann815@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/8/2010

Comments:

we have already seen the detrimental effects from gaming on the native american population. do we really want to carry that over to native hawaiians? gambling is a financial burden, addicting, and all around a bad idea. please keep casinos and gambling out of hawaii. it will only impose more western views and traditions on the native population. do we really need any more?

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 11:05 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: jan.roberts@mac.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2759 on 2/9/2010 2:30:00 PM

Testimony for JUD 2/9/2010 2:30:00 PM HB2759

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jan H. Roberts
Organization: Individual
Address: PO Box 1561 Kapaau, HI 96755
Phone:
E-mail: jan.roberts@mac.com
Submitted on: 2/8/2010

Comments:

During hard economic times our moral fiber is challenged when easy money such as gambling is introduced. This lure of making fast money for the state, will bring long lasting health and money problems to people. Addictions to alcohol, gambling, and sex would undoubtedly be on the rise. It would crush people needing to make right decisions for themselves and their families. Please don't make it easy for people to gamble and fall prey to their addictions.

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 11:19 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: adeletkb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2759 on 2/9/2010 2:30:00 PM

Testimony for JUD 2/9/2010 2:30:00 PM HB2759

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Adele Bahl
Organization: Individual
Address: 68-1810 Auhili Loop Waikoloa HI 96743
Phone: 808-883-9192
E-mail: adeletkb@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/8/2010

Comments:

It is appalling, especially in this critical economic downturn, to once again consider introducing legalized gambling in Hawaii. Proponents need to compare the negatives with the monetary gain. We do not need to add another "Worst in the USA" to our current list of problems in Hawaii.

Email to: JUDTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: February 9, 2010 at 2:30pm
Conference Room 325

DATE: February 8, 2010
TO: House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Karamatsu, Chair
Representative Ito, Vice Chair
FROM: Kanoelani Medeiros
RE: Opposition to HB 2759, Relating to Gaming

Aloha Chair Karamatsu, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kanoelani Medeiros and I am Native Hawaiian and a beneficiary of Hawaiian home lands on Maui. I strongly oppose House Bill 2759 Relating to gaming.

Legalizing gambling in Hawaii, specifically on Hawaiian home lands, will have a detrimental impact on DHHL beneficiaries, Native Hawaiians and the entire State of Hawaii. Increased crime, unemployment, and drug and alcohol abuse are things we will have to look forward to if this bill is passed.

Additionally, this is not the answer to improving the economy of the State. Rather, legalized gambling will have the opposite effect on its residents resulting in higher social and welfare costs. Unfortunately, it will be Hawaiian home lands beneficiaries that will pay the ultimate cost and give Native Hawaiian communities a negative reputation.

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 2759.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Kanoelani Medeiros

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: Dale@mrihonolulu.com
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 11:29 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Citizen input TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Dear members,

My wife and I are voting citizens in this state. We are very concerned to even hear that you are once again considering permitting gambling in our state.

Too many people are living hand to mouth, without any discretionary income, and living on government subsistence to boot.

Yet we all know that there are among those officially living in "poverty" in our state who have cell phones, large tvs, cable or satellite tv connections, etc.. It's all about choice.

Please, let's choose to not burden the people with Hawaii with gambling. Do you really want people to "choose" gambling over feeding their family? Over educating their children? Over purchasing a doctor prescribed prescription? I'm going to go out on a limb and say, No you don't. Neither do I.

Please vote not to permit gambling as sought by (HB2579 and HB 146).

Mahalo,

Bonnie and Dale Dudas
Honolulu, HI

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: Jim & Jody White [whitehome@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 11:33 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii. There are too many inherent dangers that go along with legalized gambling. At a time when we're cutting school days, let us not look for the 'quick fix' to "boost the economy," and neglect the longterm ramifications & repercussions of gambling.

Peace,
James A. White
Aiea, HI

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: Leinaala Drummond [ltdrummond@live.com]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 12:38 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii.

I lost 2 family members because of illegal gambling - my uncle was murdered because he tried to stop being a "bookie" and a brother-in-law thru divorce because my sister couldn't deal with his gambling 'habit'. Making any kind of gambling legal opens it up even more to those most prone to 'take chances' with their family finances - money for rent, food, car payments.

Let's find more "winning" solutions to our financial needs that do not jeopardize the well-being of those most likely to fall prey to losing the money they work so hard for at their jobs.

Tough times require tough leaders - I have confidence you are leaders who will do what is best to maintain our cultural values of strong families and healthy lifestyles.

Counting on You,
Leinaala Drummond
Wailuku, Maui

Your E-mail and More On-the-Go. Get Windows Live Hotmail Free. [Sign up now.](#)

Email to: JUDTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: February 9, 2010 at 2:30pm
Conference Room 325

DATE: February 8, 2010

TO: House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair

FROM: Mrs. Olinda Aiwohi

RE: Opposition to HB 2759, Relating to Gaming

Aloha Chair Karamatsu, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Olinda Aiwohi and I am Native Hawaiian and a beneficiary of Hawaiian home lands on Maui. I strongly oppose House Bill 2759 relating to gaming.

Legalizing gambling in Hawaii, specifically on Hawaiian home lands, will have a detrimental impact on DHHL beneficiaries, Native Hawaiians and the entire State of Hawaii. Increased crime, unemployment, and drug and alcohol abuse are a few of the things we will have to look forward to if this bill is passed.

Additionally, this is not the answer to improving the states economy. Rather, legalized gambling will have the opposite effect on its residents resulting in higher social and welfare costs of our residents. Unfortunately, it will be Hawaiian home lands beneficiaries that will pay the ultimate cost and give Native Hawaiian communities a negative reputation.

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 2759.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Olinda Aiwohi

Email to: JUDTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: February 9, 2010 at 2:30pm
Conference Room 325

DATE: February 8, 2010

TO: House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair

FROM: Mrs. Jalin Finai
781 Kawananakoa St., Wailuku, HI 96793

RE: Opposition to HB 2759, Relating to Gaming

Aloha Chair Karamatsu, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Olinda Aiwohi and I am Native Hawaiian and a beneficiary of Hawaiian home lands on Maui. I strongly oppose House Bill 2759 relating to gaming.

Legalizing gambling in Hawaii, specifically on Hawaiian home lands, will have a detrimental impact on DHHL beneficiaries, Native Hawaiians and the entire State of Hawaii. Increased crime, unemployment, and drug and alcohol abuse are a few of the things we will have to look forward to if this bill is passed.

Additionally, this is not the answer to improving the states economy. Rather, legalized gambling will have the opposite effect on its residents resulting in higher social and welfare costs of our residents. Unfortunately, it will be Hawaiian home lands beneficiaries that will pay the ultimate cost and give Native Hawaiian communities a negative reputation.

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 2759.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Jalin Finai

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: Linell Mathre [linell@kaimukichristian.org]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 2:04 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii.

Thank you so much,

Linell Mathre

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: Betty Hino [bettyhino@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 2:18 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: RE: Gambling in Hawaii

I oppose HB146 and HB2759

Thank you

From: judtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: bettyhino@hotmail.com
Date: Mon, 8 Feb 2010 10:44:41 -1000
Subject: RE: Gambling in Hawaii

Dear Betty Hino

Thank you for submitting testimony against gambling.
However, the House Committee on Judiciary could not find the bill numbers in your testimony.
Please clearly state which bill(s) you oppose to and send testimony again to JUDtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov.
Presently, the House Committee on Judiciary has two bills relating to gambling: HB2759 Relating to Gaming and gambling bills HB146 Proposing an Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State of Hawaii.
Two bills will be heard on 02/09/2010 in Room325 from 2:30.

Respectfully, yours

Kenji Kimura

Kenji Kimura
Assistant Committee Clerk
House Committee on Judiciary, Hawaii State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 302
Honolulu, HI 96813
Tel: (808)586-8490
Fax: (808)586-8494
JUDtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Betty Hino [mailto:bettyhino@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2010 2:37 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: Gambling in Hawaii

Members of the House Judiciary Committee: I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii.

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 2:40 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: tad781@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2759 on 2/9/2010 2:30:00 PM

Testimony for JUD 2/9/2010 2:30:00 PM HB2759

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jared Aiwohi
Organization: Individual
Address: 781 Kawanānakoā St. Wailuku, HI
Phone: 808 244-3288
E-mail: tad781@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/8/2010

Comments:

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 2:43 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: tad781@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2759 on 2/9/2010 2:30:00 PM

Testimony for JUD 2/9/2010 2:30:00 PM HB2759

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Helaman Aiwohi
Organization: Individual
Address: 966 Lekeona St. Wailuku, HI
Phone: 808 2449054
E-mail: tad781@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/8/2010

Comments:

I definitely oppose this bill because it would not help the individual Native Hawaiian.

DATE: February 8, 2010

TO: House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair

FROM: Nalani Caulford
594 Pohala St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

RE: Opposition to HB 2759, Relating to Gaming

Aloha Chair Karamatsu, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nalani Caulford and I am Native Hawaiian and a beneficiary of Hawaiian home lands on Maui. I strongly oppose House Bill 2759 relating to gaming.

Legalizing gambling in Hawaii, specifically on Hawaiian home lands, will have a detrimental impact on DHHL beneficiaries, Native Hawaiians and the entire State of Hawaii. Increased crime, unemployment, and drug and alcohol abuse are a few of the things we will have to look forward to if this bill is passed.

Additionally, this is not the answer to improving the states economy. Rather, legalized gambling will have the opposite effect on its residents resulting in higher social and welfare costs of our residents. Unfortunately, it will be Hawaiian home lands beneficiaries that will pay the ultimate cost and give Native Hawaiian communities a negative reputation.

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 2759.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Nalani Caulford

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: min zhu [zhumin6@usa.net]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 3:11 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: The Economics of gambling - brings more problem than benefit

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am a voting member of the public and I do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii. I am strongly against both HB 2759 and HB 146 bills.

I am attached the Economics of gambling: summary points by a famous economist Professor Grinols for your reference.

The Economics of Gambling: Summary Points Professor Earl L. Grinols, Dept. of Economics, University of Illinois Senate Finance Committee (30 April 2003, 9:00 am, Room 8E-B, East Wing, Main Capitol)

House Finance Committee (30 April 2003, 1:30 p.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building)

- Studying economics of gambling since 1990.

- Independent research.

- Not funded by gambling or anti-gambling organizations.

- Gambling attracts clientele disproportionately

- 30% don't gamble at all; most gamble rarely, minority 10% account for 66-80% of wagers.

- 30-50 % of revenues derive from problem and pathological gamblers (e.g.

48.2% of gaming machine

revenue, Aus. Inst. for Gambling Research, 2001; 37 % Montana keno machines;

1/3 Australia National

Productivity Commission study, 1999.)

- Convenience casinos, racinos, draw from nearby (over 70% from less than 35 miles)

- Bulk of casino revenues are from slot machines.

- Gambling creates economic costs for society and taxpayers, including non-users.

- Crime: E.g. Aggravated assault, rape, robbery, larceny, burglary, auto theft, embezzlement, fraud.

- Business and Employment Costs: Lost productivity, lost work time, unemployment-related employer costs.

- Bankruptcy

- Suicide

- Illness: E.g. Stress-related, cardiovascular, anxiety, depression, cognitive disorders.

- Social Service Costs: Treatment, unemployment & other social services.

- Direct Regulatory Costs

- Family Costs: E.g. Divorce, separation, child abuse, child neglect, domestic violence.

- Abused dollars

- (NB Electronic Gambling Devices typically represent 60-80 % of typical Class III (casino style) revenues.)

- Gambling fails a cost-benefit test.

- Even using conservative cost & benefit estimates, costs to benefits are greater than \$3:\$1.

- Social costs (mid-range) from gambling are approximately \$214 per adult annually (of which crime = \$63). Costs of introducing gambling depend on starting base, but typically exceed \$130 per adult.

- Social benefits (preferred number) are less than \$42 per adult.

☐ On a per pathological gambler basis, studies in different parts of the nation conducted since 1994 conservatively estimate costs to be \$10,100 per year.

- Economic Development; Failure of Impact Studies

☐ IMPACT STUDIES ARE NOT COST-BENEFIT STUDIES. More people working next door to you may have nothing to do with the well being of citizens in your area. Well being may actually decline.

☐ The value of an additional job has been estimated to be worth as little as zero to the community, or between \$0-\$1,500. In a typical county of 100,000 adults the introduction of casinos would create additional social costs of \$12.7 m annually and direct social benefits of

\$4.2

m. Using \$750 as the average value to the rest of the county of a job means that casinos would have to increase the total number of jobs in the county by more than 11,333 to improve well being of residents, an unlikely outcome.

☐ Gambling promoters argue gambling creates regional jobs. This is sometimes possible, as in the case of an Atlantic City or Las Vegas where the area has effectively converted itself into one large casino and entertainment center that serves primarily tourists. In general, however,

gambling:

- Loses area jobs when local gambler dollars are removed from the area (when they otherwise would not have been) in the form of taxes or are spent by the casino owners or employees outside the area.

- Creates area jobs when outside gambler dollars are spent locally by the casino and, - Loses net jobs when the first flow is larger than the second.

- A full accounting of dollar flows, therefore, is needed to determine if gambling will create more jobs than it loses.

- Crime: U. Illinois-U. Georgia, Grinols-Mustard Study

☐ 7.9% of total crime (FBI Index I) due to gambling in counties with Class III gambling.

☐ 7.7% of property crime

☐ 10.3% of violent crime

☐ E.g. For an average county with 100,000 population this implies 772 more larcenies, 357 more burglaries,

331 more auto thefts, 12 more rapes, 68 more robberies, and 112 more aggravated assaults.

- How can we conclude that casinos increase crime?

☐ Casinos have largely been built since 1991, a period when crime has decreased substantially. Because crime is caused by many factors other than casinos, we want to take those into consideration when we estimate the effect of casinos on crime.

☐ A better comparison is to look at the drop in crime rates for counties that have casinos and for those that don't. Crime rates drop much more in noncasino-counties than casino-counties.

The divergence between

the two sets of counties is greatest since 1992 after casino expansions.

☐ In many areas such as Florida, casino-county crime rates as a fraction of noncasino-county rates have increased from 2-25% less in 1977 to much higher in 1996. FBI Index I Crimes (-6% to 11%), Violent Crimes (-17% to -2%), Aggravated assault (-8% to 9%), Rape (-9% to 13%), Robbery (-25% to -14%), Murder (-23% to 0%), Property Crimes (-4% to 13%), Larceny (-4% to 13%), Larceny (-2% to 12%), Burglary (-5% to 2%), Auto Theft (-20% to 14%). All individual crimes switched from negative to positive, except robbery, which still moved in the direction consistent with the rest.

☐ Indian reservations: compact-counties had higher crime rates than noncompact-counties, but the difference was stable until the early 1990s, when the crime rates in compact-counties increased by even more. By 1996 compact-counties have significantly higher crime rates than non-compact counties.

- Gambling Taxes are Worse than a Conventional Tax Collecting Identical Revenue

☐ A conventional tax implies social costs per extra dollar collected of \$1.25-\$1.45.

☐ Taxes on gambling revenues cost \$2.53 per dollar of tax collected if the tax rate is 50 percent, a number that rises above \$4.82 per dollar if the gambling tax rate is 20 percent.

- Gambling is a Slippery Slope
 - ☒ What is easy for one state to do, others can do.
 - ☒ Generates a race to the bottom.
 - ☒ End result: States not gain at others' expense; all reap social costs.
 - National Gambling Impact Study Commission
 - ☒ ~3 m problem and pathological gamblers, 15 million more at risk (8.5 m potential according to other studies)
 - ☒ ~\$5 b costs now, (vs. \$20 b - \$85 b potential based on other studies: My research implies ~ \$30-\$53 b.)
 - ☒ Gambling is like losing the lost output of another 1990-91 recession very decade.
 - For many, gambling merely transfers dollars from one pocket to another without creating a tangible product.
 - ☒ Some gamble for recreation (such gamblers are presumably provided recreation value for their lost dollars), but many gamble to acquire money. Instead of creating a product or offering a service to earn money, this second group of gamblers doesn't accomplish anything and yet expects to acquire money.
 - ☒ The more people there are who gamble to acquire money, the poorer society is.
 - ☒ If everyone gambled to acquire his money, we would all starve.
- i Rappaport, Jordan and Chad Wilkerson, 2001, What are the Benefits of Hosting a Major League Sports Franchise?, Economic Review, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, 86, 1, 55-86.

Legalizing Gambling does not really resolve the economic crisis, it may even cause more social and health problems.

thank you for hearing our voice seriously!!!

min and many others who are strongly against Gambling bill!!!

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: Shaun Kawakami [shaunkawakami@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 3:10 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO GAMBLING LEGISLATION BILLS: HB2759 and HB146

Dear House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Shaun Kawakami and I am a registered voter in District 38, Mililani. I STRONGLY OPPOSE any legislation that proposes to legalize gambling in the State of Hawaii, specifically the following bills: [HB2759 Relating to Gaming and gambling bills and HB146 Proposing an Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State of Hawaii.](#)

Please consider the repercussions of legalizing gambling in Hawaii and the negative impact it will have on our state, on our worldwide image of being a place of rest and an island paradise, and the problem of addiction to gambling which destroys families, individuals and communities. Don't just think about the quick profit that can be made from gambling, but instead think of the negative impact it will have on our Hawaii and our families.

And so I strongly urge you to please vote in opposition to [HB2759 Relating to Gaming and gambling bills and HB146 Proposing an Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State of Hawaii](#) that proposes to legalize and/or foster gambling in the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Shaun Kawakami

To: Chair Karamatsu and Committee on Judiciary

Brandy Kellett
Kbrandy15@gmail.com

RE: hb2759 Relating to gaming

I reside in Honolulu, Hawaii, and I am currently a student at Honolulu Community College.

I am expressing comments on house bill 2759. There does not appear to be enough thought or planning when this bill had been created. It is speculated to draft a whole lot of money, however it had never been mentioned how much of hundreds of thousands will be used in creating this casino, and how much problems this gaming bill could create. It's interesting why this money couldn't go to our childrens education.

In addition, there are the possibility of more potential debt, increased criminal behavior, loan sharks and money laundering, addiction, and loss of culture. What will come next; billboards?

Finally, the understanding is the whole idea of this bill would be to help the economy, Hawaiian Home Lands, and generate state fund, but this doesn't seem right when Hawaii residents will still be spending their money in Las Vegas when banned from playing here.

Thank You for your time in reviewing my E-mail.

Sincerely,

Brandy Kellett

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: Harry Woodring [woodringh001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 3:52 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: testing

I am against Legalized Gambling In Hawaii. Please kill HB 2759 and HB 146.

Respectfully:
Harry L. Woodring

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 4:31 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: labford@turquoise.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2759 on 2/9/2010 2:30:00 PM

Testimony for JUD 2/9/2010 2:30:00 PM HB2759

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lawrence Ford
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: labford@turquoise.net
Submitted on: 2/8/2010

Comments:

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 4:38 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: feedora@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HB2759 on 2/9/2010 2:30:00 PM

Testimony for JUD 2/9/2010 2:30:00 PM HB2759

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Esta Marshall
Organization: Individual
Address: pobox 916 honaunau , Hawaii
Phone: 808 328 2400
E-mail: feedora@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/8/2010

Comments:

I strongly oppose any law that would allow gambling in the State of Hawaii. I OPPOSE all gambling in Hawaii

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: James & Lorrie Roller [jerlmr@flex.com]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 4:58 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My wife and I are a registered voters in the State of Hawaii and we do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii.

The gaming industry preys on the weak and the impoverished. Families are struggling to put food on the table for their families today without the lure of gambling. Legal gambling will ensure we have increased poverty, welfare, and broken families, not to mention the increase of crime due to the presence of legal gaming. For the sake of the families, our children and grandchildren, **DO NOT ALLOW GAMBLING TO GET A FOOTHOLD IN HAWAII.**

Thank you for your continued public service in the wake of these trying times.

Sincerely,
James and Lorrie Roller
95-920 Wikao St A201
Mililani, HI 96789
625-8689

karamatsu1-Kenji

From: Ezra Kung [ezra@clch.org]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 9:41 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2759 Relating to Gaming and HB 146 Proposing and Amendment
to the Hawaii Constitution to Permit Gambling in the State

Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

We are the voting members of the public and we do not want gambling of any kind in Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Ezra Kung & Raymond Lau