

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

RELATING TO SHIPBOARD GAMING

Rep. Angus L.K. McKilvey, Chair

Rep. Issac W. Choy, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Time: 8:00 am

Place: Conference Room 312

Testifier: Grace Furukawa, League of Women Voters

IN OPPOSITION

Hawai'i Coalition Against Legalized Gambling

1124 Fort Street Mall, Suite 209
Honolulu, HI 96813
524-7766

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

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
Disciples of Christ
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 Emaru-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

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair
Tuesday, February 8, 2011
8:30 AM, Conference Room 312

Opposition to HB1651

My name is H. Thomas Kay, Jr. I am attorney for the Hawaii Coalition Against Legalized Gambling. Two reasons HCALG opposes HB1651 related to shipboard gambling follow:

1. The Hawaii tourist industry is in a recovery mode from the substantial losses that occurred in 2008 and 2009 due to the US recession. Discretionary funds from tourists are needed to increase hotel revenue through higher room rates and more days spent in Hawaii. These funds are also necessary to help local businesses and enterprises be profitable as they provide tourists with merchandise, transportation, events, activities, and other services so that their stay in Hawaii is enjoyable and memorable. These discretionary funds from tourists should not be dissipated by losses from shipboard gambling when the tourist industry is dependant upon these funds to provide visitors with quality vacations and still make a profit.
2. It would appear that under the Johnson Act, 15USC1176, use of gambling devices on ships leaving or returning to Hawaii is prohibited. Therefore, new Hawaii legislation allowing shipboard gambling would be invalid and illegal under Federal statutes.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 6:35 AM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: sgd8@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for HB1651 on 2/8/2011 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 2/8/2011 8:00:00 AM HB1651

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Susan Dursin
Organization: Hawai`i County League of Women Voters
Address: 83-5593 Middle Keel Road Captain Cook, HI 96704
Phone: 808-328-8514
E-mail: sgd8@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/8/2011

Comments:

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai`i County League of Women Voters strongly opposes HB1651. We question the assumption that shipboard gambling is an enticement that will bring more tourists to Hawai`i. The vast majority of tourists visit to enjoy the weather, the beauty, the outdoor activities, the history. This proposal is no more than a way of squeezing a few more dollars out of a small number of tourists.

Unfortunately, the legalization of shipboard gambling will open the door to the establishment of all forms of gambling.

That pattern of expansion has prevailed across the United States. The downside of other forms of gambling in both social and human terms is not worth the dollars shipboard gambling can provide.

Please vote against HB1651.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Dursin
Co-president
Hawai`i County LWV