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LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony
To the Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business
E-mail: Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: HB1533

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

We, long-time residents and voters, oppose a non-binding referendum to permit gambling in the state.

Why? Presumably the gambling industry would have unlimited resources to help educate the public on the merits of voting "yes" to the referendum. Those of us opposed would need to spend funds educating the public on the reasons why gambling is so unnecessary in our beautiful state, funds that we—and presumably others—currently donate to health and human service agencies to help meet needs in our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Don and Helen Hemmes

CHRISTIAN VOICE of HAWAII

LATE TESTIMONY

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

PUBLIC HEARING:

FEBRUARY 08, 2011 – 8:00 AM ROOM 312

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO BOTH HB1533 and HB1651

CHAIR McKelvey, Chair; Choy, V. Chair and MEMBERS
OF HOUSE COMMITTEE ON Economic Revitalization & Business:

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 un-wed mothers, problem pregnancies, child services, education and so forth.

The members of the Christian Voice of Hawaii network register our **OPPOSITION** to both **House Bill 1533** and **House Bill 1651** as we are opposed to any bill that would seek to legalize any form of gambling in Hawaii. We do so because gambling is inherently destructive to people and to society.

HB 1533 proposes a non-binding referendum to permit gambling in the State of Hawaii. What is this about? What is the sense of having a referendum that is non-binding? Whether approved or not, at the end of this exercise nothing will actually be decided and this will end up as nothing more than an expensive state-funded survey. It will be a complete waste of time and money.

As for HB 1651 authorizing shipboard "gaming," again we oppose it as we oppose any form of gambling in Hawaii whether on land or sea or in the air.

The members of the Christian Voice of Hawaii network implore you not to pass **HB1533** and **HB 1651**.

Respectfully submitted,



Leon Siu
Director,
Christian Voice of Hawaii