

LARRY FENTON - LOCAL RESIDENT TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT
OF HB 1533

- 1) HI IS ONE OF TWO STATES THAT DISALLOW ANY FORM OF GAMBLING
HE IS MISSING OUT ON THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF LEGALIZED GAMBLING
- 2) LAYMAN'S EXPERIENCE WITH GAMBLING IS THAT I USUALLY BRISTLE EVEN
OVER TIME. THERE ARE OCCASIONAL BIG WINS AND LOSSES.

I'M ORIGINALLY FROM CALIFORNIA. I'VE LIVED IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA. I
NEVER COMMITTED ANY CRIMES WHILE THERE OR RELIED ON GOVT./
SOCIAL SERVICES TO SUPPORT MYSELF IN ORDER TO GAMBLE. CRIME IS
CAUSED BY CRIMINALS, NOT GAMBLERS.

HI NEEDS TO EXPLORE AND FIND NEW WAYS TO INCREASE REVENUE
AND FUND THE BUDGET SHORTFALL

TO ME GAMBLING IS AN ENJOYABLE SOCIAL AND LEISURE ACTIVITY. MY
PERSONAL FAVORITE GAME IS POKER. I THINK WE NEED A POKER ROOM
FOR CARA PLAYERS TO SAFELY AND LEGALLY ENJOY THE GAME. MOST OF
US KNOW ABOUT UNDERGROUND OR HOME POKER GAMES. WHY SHOULD WE
TRY TO HAVE SOMETHING WE LIKE TO DO WHEN OUR LEGISLATURE CAN
APPROVE WHAT THE PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO DO FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL?

PLEASE APPROVE HB 1533 AND HELP MOVE HI INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 6:06 AM
To: ERBtestimony
Cc: sgd8@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for HB1533 on 2/8/2011 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 2/8/2011 8:00:00 AM HB1533

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Susan Dursin
Organization: Hawaii 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:

The Hawai`i County League of Women Voters strongly opposes HB1533. We see two main problems with legalized gambling in the state of Hawai`i: one is that the hidden costs of infrastructure, social problems, policing, and displacement of existing businesses may well offset the revenue generated by gambling enterprises.

The second is that the decision to legalize gambling here is largely industry-driven. Because it is so difficult to get truly scientific assessment of gambling's benefits and negative impacts, you hear mostly the industry side, which focuses on the revenue and not the costs. Please understand that there is another side - a story that is not good for Hawai`i. It places the most vulnerable of our people at further risk.

When you put this question on the ballot, the industry will be heard. They have the money to conduct a large-scale advertising campaign. Once the blanket approval inherent in the wording of the question is in place, every form of gambling will eventually become established in Hawai`i. That pattern has prevailed across the United States.

Please do not approve HB1533.

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

on both the general church and local church level in the following ways:

(1) We resolve to direct the appropriate agencies of the general church to lobby both our national government and multinational corporations, to do all they can to bring justice to the local producers, by lobbying for fair and equitable prices for goods and services produced.

(2) We resolve that the General, jurisdictional, annual conferences, and local churches encourage every pastor whose congregation is touched by these issues to invite caring laypersons to join her or him in making a personal visit to the home of every farm family in our parishes.

ADOPTED 2000

See Social Principles, ¶ 163H.

GAMBLING

203. Gambling

The Social Principles state that, "Gambling is a menace to society, deadly to the best interests of moral, social, economic, and spiritual life, and destructive of good government. As an act of faith and concern, Christians should abstain from gambling and should strive to minister to those victimized by the practice. Where gambling has become addictive, the church will encourage such individuals to receive therapeutic assistance so that the individual's energies may be redirected into positive and constructive ends. The church should promote standards and personal lifestyles that would make unnecessary and undesirable the resort to commercial gambling—including public lotteries—as a recreation, as an escape, or as a means of producing public revenue or funds for support of charities or government" (¶ 163G).

When asked which commandment is first of all, Jesus answered, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:29-30). Gambling feeds on human greed and invites persons to place their trust in pos-

sessions rather than in God. It represents a form of idolatry that contradicts the first commandment. Jesus continued: "The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (Mark 12:31). In relating with compassion to our sisters and brothers, we are called to resist those practices and systems that exploit them and leave them impoverished and demeaned. The apostle Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 6:9-10a: "People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil."

Gambling, as a means of acquiring material gain by chance and at the neighbor's expense, is a menace to personal character and social morality. Gambling fosters greed and stimulates the fatalistic faith in chance. Organized and commercial gambling is a threat to business, breeds crime and poverty, and is destructive to the interests of good government. It encourages the belief that work is unimportant, that money can solve all our problems, and that greed is the norm for achievement. It serves as a "regressive tax" on those with lower income. In summary, gambling is bad economics; gambling is bad public policy; and gambling does not improve the quality of life.

We oppose the growing legalization and state promotion of gambling.

Dependence on gambling revenue has led many states to exploit the weakness of their own citizens, neglect the development of more equitable forms of taxation, and thereby further erode the citizens' confidence in government.

We oppose the legalization of pari-mutuel betting, for it has been the opening wedge in the legalization of other forms of gambling within the states and has stimulated illegal bookmaking. We deplore the establishment of state lotteries and their use as a means of raising public revenues. The constant promotion and the wide advertising of lotteries have encouraged large numbers of persons to gamble for the first time.

We express an even more serious concern for the increasing development of the casino enterprise in the United States, for it has taken captive entire communities and has infiltrated many levels of government with its fiscal and political power.

Public apathy and a lack of awareness that petty gambling feeds organized crime have opened the door to the spread of numerous forms of legal and illegal gambling.

We support the strong enforcement of antigambling laws, the repeal of all laws that give gambling an acceptable and even advantageous place in our society, and the rehabilitation of compulsive gamblers.

The church has a key role in fostering responsible government and in developing health and moral maturity that free persons from dependence on damaging social customs. We urge national, tribal, state and local governments to read, analyze and implement the recommendations of the National Gambling Impact Study report released by the United States in 1999. It is expected that United Methodist churches abstain from the use of raffles, lotteries, bingo, door prizes, other drawing schemes, and games of chance for the purpose of gambling or fundraising. United Methodists should refrain from all forms of gambling practices carried on in our communities and should work to influence community organizations to develop forms of funding that do not depend upon gambling.

The General Board of Church and Society shall provide materials to local churches and annual conferences for study and action to combat gambling and to aid persons addicted to gambling. The General Board of Church and Society, annual conferences, and local churches shall work with the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling and grassroots organizations opposing gambling to stop and reverse legalized gambling. The General Board of Church and Society shall report to the 2008 General Conference which stock market and securities practices might be considered forms of gambling. The Board shall consult with the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits and other agencies with investment portfolios in developing this report.

ADOPTED 1980
AMENDED AND READOPTED 1996
AMENDED AND READOPTED 2004

Social Principles, ¶ 163G.

204. Gambling Impact Report

WHEREAS, Congress charged nine persons to serve in the task of a very broad and difficult-to-conduct comprehensive legal and factual

study of the social and economic implications of gambling in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, these commissioners, in dedicated service to the truest demonstration of democracy, did present for our good use an executive summary of their conclusions and recommendations, strongly suggested that the public follow as guidelines in evaluating the impact on which this phenomena—gambling—is sweeping the nation; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations are in place for all to see on the Web site www.ngisc.gov and in the hands of every congressperson,

Therefore, be it resolved, that every delegate of the 2000 General Conference be persuaded to obtain a copy from each one's respective representative, read it completely, and make the contents known to those they, in turn, represent at this conference so as to make their states more knowledgeable of the dangers of addiction, the precludes, and consequences and pledge leadership in using their knowledge, duly received as soon as possible.

ADOPTED 2000

See Social Principles, ¶ 163G.

GLOBAL ECONOMIC JUSTICE

205. The United Methodist Church, Justice, and World Hunger

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard (Isaiah 58:6-8, NRSV).

I. Introduction

In 1996, the World Food Summit held in Rome, Italy, reaffirmed "the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of

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AFTER 8AM LATE TESTIMONY

February 8, 2011

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 312

RE: HB1533 Relating to a Non-Binding Referendum on Gambling

Dear Chairman McKelvey, Vice Chairman Choy and Members of the Committee:

HB1533, if enacted, would give Hawaii voters an opportunity to express an opinion on whether or not to permit gambling in Hawaii, in accordance with law. That is all it does. The opponents of gaming went so far as to hire a mainland advocate and fly him halfway across the country, and all the way across the Pacific Ocean, to convince legislators that the idea of even letting Hawaii voters express an opinion on the subject will lead directly to perdition. To not even be willing to allow a non-binding vote so that Legislators could gauge opinion, is a very strong indicator that those who oppose gaming know that the people want it.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

Respectfully Submitted,

John H. Radcliffe
President, Radcliffe & Associates, LLC