

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



LATE TESTIMONY

ALBERT ALAPAKI NAHALEA
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

ROBERT J. HALL
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
P.O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96808

COMMENTS OF ALAPAKI NAHALEA-A, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS ON

HB 1227, RELATING TO GAMING

February 9, 2011

Chair Hanohano, Vice-Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

Similar to HB 1225, HB 1227 amends the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act to allow for gaming as an authorized commercial activity on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands non-homestead lands.

DHHL is eager to establish a consistent and sustainable cash flow to financially support our programs, and we are open to all possibilities. However, we are 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, the concept of gaming on Hawaiian home lands elicits mixed, yet strong reactions from our beneficiaries. And finally, this proposed amendment to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act requires Congressional consent. These factors will delay implementation of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

clee2 - Matt

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 11:09 PM
To: HAWtestimony
Cc: info@schha.org
Subject: Testimony for HB1227 on 2/9/2011 8:30:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for HAW 2/9/2011 8:30:00 AM HB1227

Conference room: 329

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Michael Kahikina

Organization: Sovereign Councils of the Hawaiian Homelands Assembly

Address: 1050 Queent Street, Suite 200 Honolulu, Hawaii

Phone: 529-1627

E-mail: info@schha.org

Submitted on: 2/8/2011

Comments:

CHRISTIAN VOICE of HAWAII ^{LATE TESTIMONY}

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

HOUSE HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING:

FEBRUARY 09, 2011 – 8:30 AM ROOM 329

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO BOTH HB 1225 and HB 1227

CHAIR HANOHANO, VICE CHAIR CHRIS LEE and MEMBERS
OF HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS:

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 1225** and **House Bill 1227**. 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.

House Bill 1225 and **House Bill 1227** propose to permit gambling, an inherently destructive activity, in Hawaiian Homelands communities; many of which are already extremely challenged with alcoholism, addiction, domestic violence, poverty and other ills. It does not need legalized gambling to add more problems.

Hawaiian Homelands communities should not be used as the State's guinea pig for legalized gambling. The members of the Christian Voice of Hawaii network ask that this committee not pass **House Bill 1225** and **House Bill 1227**.

Respectfully submitted,



Leon Siu
Director,
Christian Voice of Hawaii

WB 1225-1227

To: Legislative Committees addressing Gambling Bills, 2011 session

From: Rev. Bob Nakota, Chair 285-13C 2/9/11

Division of Church and Society

California-Pacific Annual Conference

The United Methodist Church

Re: The opposition of the worldwide United Methodist

Church to all forms of gambling.

Attached is a resolution repeatedly passed by the General Conference of the United Methodist. This body meets every 4 years, with well over 1,000 delegates from all over the world. It is the only body that can speak for the entire United Methodist church.

The resolution expresses very strong opposition to all forms of gambling, or games of chance. Fundamental to its opposition is that gambling relies on chance, not the steady disciplined work ethic, to move ahead in life. It is especially detrimental to additive personalities. We ask that the legislature reject all bills that promote 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, floor 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 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

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.

LATE TESTIMONY

TO" COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

CHAIR; REPRESENTATIVE FAYE P. HANOHANO
VICE CHAIR REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS LEE

FROM: GRACE FURUKAWA, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AND
HAWAII COALITION AGAINST LEGALIZED GAMBLING

RE: HB 1225 AND HB 1227, BOTH RELATING TO GAMBLING

THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME TO SPEAK. MY NAME IS GRACE FURUKAWA WITH THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AS A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE HAWAII COALITION AGAINST LEGALIZED GAMBLING. I SPEAK IN OPPOSITION TO BOTH BILLS.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS DID THEIR OWN STUDY ON GAMBLING IN HAWAII WHICH OPPOSED ANY FORM OF GAMBLING IN HAWAII.

BOTH OF THESE BILLS WOULD ALLOW LEGALIZED GAMBLING IN THE STATE OF HAWAII AND PERMANENTLY CHANGE THE AMBIANCE OF THE STATE, KNOWN FOR ITS FAMILY FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AND BEAUTY.