



WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

20 South Vineyard Blvd, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **Hearing for HB2788**, Stand-Alone Casino Gaming; Waikiki,
Monday, February 13 at 9:15 am, Conf. Room 312 **Strongly Oppose**

Representative Tom Brower, Chair
Representative James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair
House Committee on Tourism
State Capitol, Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Brower, Vice Chair Tokioka and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sam Cox. I am a member of the Board of Directors of Kokua Council and the designated point person representing Kokua Council on Bills related to Gambling. The Kokua Council is probably the oldest advocacy group for senior citizens in Hawaii. Our mission, however, is not only to advocate for senior citizens, but also our grandchildren, our families, our neighbors and the welfare of our total community.

Kokua Council has long been opposed to legalized gambling in Hawaii as harmful to our senior citizens, our families and our community of Hawaii. Every credible study done on the mainland has shown its negative pernicious impact. One only has to visit Las Vegas to see its corrupting influence. There is a high correlation with crime, domestic violence, drug addiction, suicide, homelessness and other social ills. Many older citizens are very vulnerable and easily cheated of their livelihood. Any short term monetary gain is far outweighed by the social costs. It would give the wrong message to our youth. It would destroy our irreplaceable Aloha Spirit.

On behalf of our seniors, grandchildren and our beautiful State of Hawaii, please vote no on this bill and any other attempt to introduce gambling in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Sam Cox, Lead Spokesperson for Anti-Gambling in Hawaii for Kokua Council
Board of Directors, Kokua Council for Senior Citizens Cell (808) 779-3606

From: Calvin Chinen [mailto:calchinen@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 8:38 AM
To: Rep. Tom Brower
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2788 Relating to Gaming

Please vote NO on HB 2788.

Dear Representative Brower,

Thank you so much for your willingness to serve the people of Hawaii in the manner in which you do. I have had only a few times to personally interact with you but I've watched from afar and I've been greatly blessed by your open spirit and willingness to hear all sides with compassion and humility. Mahalo, Rep. Brower!

I am writing you regarding HB2788. On it's appearance, legalized gambling is a goose that will bear golden eggs bringing economic revitalization for Waikiki and huge rewards for our economy. History shows that casinos bring in tremendous profits. Nonetheless, Rep. Brower, may I suggest that this is not the way for us to go in Hawaii.

Casinos by design MUST make money but it is incumbent on the pretense that those who play its games can make a lot of money. Certainly, many do. Nonetheless, casinos MUST win in the long run for it to be profitable. Therefore, although a minority may win temporarily, the overwhelming majority MUST lose. Furthermore casinos make a LOT of money! Therefore, a LOT of people must lose. In other words, casinos must entice people to enter its doors, pretend that they have a chance to win, make it glitzy and fun, and give lots of examples thereof. But in the long run, they are there to take away your money. Is this ethical? Shall we as a state endorse a business that relies on trickery and pretense in order to "make ends meet"? If this were any other business, would we knowingly and willingly allow this to happen even it was allowed in many other states? I don't think so.

What about those who have an addiction to gambling? The large attendance of Hawaii Residents in Las Vegas, the cock fights, and illegal gambling activities point to the fact that many in Hawaii struggle with this very issue. Therefore, we KNOW that HB2788 will lead to addiction for MANY people in Hawaii. The ends will not justify the means.

Some studies and anecdotes show that gambling is good for the population at large. But who have sponsored these studies? Who are these "independent and objective" researchers? Rep. Brower, I would greatly ask that you find out who they are. I believe that you will discover that those who report these studies are funded by the casino interests. Independent study after study done by the highest institutes in our land and government consistently point to a downside of gambling that is horrendous. I'm sure you are well aware of those studies.

Rep. Brower, please vote against HB2788. It is not a goose bearing gold eggs, it is a mongoose!

Respectfully,
Calvin T. Chinen

From: Connie Cox [mailto:drconcox@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 7:41 AM
To: Rep. Tom Brower
Cc: Constance Cox
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB 2788 Relating to Gaming

Dear Representative Brower:

The prospect of adding gambling to Hawaii is a balance of risks & benefits; the risks (potential to harm) far outweighs the benefits. Here are a few reasons why:

CRIME

Gambling breeds crime. Communities that welcome gambling also welcome an increase in crime. Any form of legalization makes an attractive target for career criminals. Organized crime has infiltrated numerous legal gambling operations in various states in recent years. This is NOT what we want for Hawaii!

ADDICTION & FAMILY DETERIORATION

Legalized gambling creates gambling addicts. Millions of Americans have developed devastating gambling addictions over the last few years as a direct result of gambling's rapid growth. An abundance of research and expert testimony demonstrates that as gambling expands, so does the number of those with serious gambling problems.

Legalized gambling devastates families because gambling exploits the vulnerable — the young, the old, and those susceptible to addictive behaviors. It entices the disadvantaged with the unrealistic hope of escape from poverty through instant riches. Authorities in gambling jurisdictions report dramatic increases in divorce, suicide, bankruptcy, and child abuse and domestic violence related to gambling. Research shows that children of gambling addicts experience lower levels of mental health and physical well-being.

NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT

Gambling is an economic negative. Many states and communities embrace gambling as a means to generate additional revenues as well as to inspire economic growth, boost tourism and create jobs. These claims rarely prove accurate.

Finally, the social costs associated with gambling — such as losses due to crime, additional law enforcement costs, gambling addiction treatment costs, and lost work productivity — are staggering, often far exceeding a state or community's total revenues from gambling. Given these and other considerations, it is unconscionable that our State government would promote any form of gambling activity. Legalized gambling is ravaging the lives of untold thousands of individuals and families, and contributes substantially to the moral decay of our communities. Therefore, we believe legalized gambling, in all its forms, should and must be vigorously opposed.

NEGATIVE IMAGE FOR HAWAII

Thus far, Hawaii still has a great attraction for Families. A gambling state will not make Hawaii more attractive, but less. Our increasing crime is a deterrent already; gambling will bring the desire for vacationers go down--> people will say they can go to Vegas for gambling; why bother going to Hawaii? The beautiful face of a Hawaiian vacation

Constance A. Cox, M.D.

will be tainted, because of all the negativities that go w/ gambling.
Please vote NO on HB 2788.

Thank you and take good care, Connie

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"You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him." --James D. Miles

"But they who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

Constance A. Cox, M.D.