

Testimony for TOU 1/31/2011 9:15:00 AM HB394

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: comments only
Testifier will be present: Yes
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Comments:

HB 394
In room 312 at 0915 on 31 January 2011
House Committee on Tourism

Chair Brower and Respected Members of the Committee,

My name is Reg White. I look at the love of so very many of our island population for gambling in one or more of its various forms and this proposal worries me. Slot machines, and particularly mechanized poker, are both very addictive and can consume a great portion of a devotee's life, preventing them from dependably earning a living and costing their families a great portion of the family's income and support. Could not the same, or about the same amount of income to the state's coffers be realized by the institution of a state lottery system instead. This could give the same excitement and stimulus to the crowd for gambling to win big from a small investment without taking up such a great amount of the participants daily life and interfering with their ability to support their families.

The lottery would also be attractive to our visitors and scratch cards and lottery tickets can be purchased at the ABC or 7-11 while waiting for the bus to take them out to meet our people or participate in one of our optional tour activities instead of luring them to waste their visiting time here closeted in some remote room with highly addictive computer gambling machines. This distraction will take income away from our optional tour industry and transfer it to the gambling industry, not new money generated, but just transferred from tourism to gaming while the tour industry suffers and generates less income on which to pay payroll and taxes.

Please do consider the advantages of approving the less invasive lottery form of gambling so that our people and our visitors are left free to enjoy their lives and our land while at the same time raising the additional revenue required to continue our government on its way and at once creating for our people the excitement of competing in the chance to win big.

Respectfully,

Reg White
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