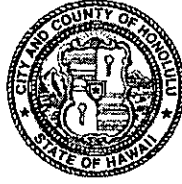


**SB 602**

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu-pd.org



PETER B. CARLISLE  
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA  
CHIEF

DELBERT T. YATSUYAMA  
RANDAL K. MACADANGDANG  
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE SD-TA

February 10, 2011

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Tourism  
The Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Mercado Kim and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 602, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to Legalize Slot Machine Gambling and Gambling by Video Poker Machines

I am Jerry Inouye, Captain of the Narcotics/Vice Division of the Honolulu Police Department.

The Honolulu Police Department opposes Senate Bill No. 602, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to Legalize Slot Machine Gambling and Gambling by Video Poker Machines.

In keeping with our conviction of sustaining and enriching communities, we are strongly opposed to all forms of gambling. Slot machines and video poker machines can be addictive and can lead to increased expenditures of family income. This is an unsound risk as they attempt to improve their economic status, and the odds are against them.

By holding steadfast against legalized gambling, the Honolulu Police Department continues to keep its pledge to work in partnership to enhance and strengthen our communities through the enforcement of state and county statutes and newly enacted laws.

The Honolulu Police Department urges you to oppose Senate Bill No. 602, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to Legalize Slot Machine Gambling and Gambling by Video Poker Machines.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
LOUIS M. KEALOHA  
Chief of Police

  
JERRY INOUYE, Captain  
Narcotics/Vice Division

*Serving and Protecting With Aloha*



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAI'I  
49 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, ROOM 314  
HONOLULU, HI 96813  
TEL: (808) 531-7448 FAX: (808) 599-5669  
[VOTERS@LWV-HAWAII.COM](mailto:VOTERS@LWV-HAWAII.COM)  
[WWW.LWV-HAWAII.COM](http://WWW.LWV-HAWAII.COM)

TESTIMONY OF LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS — HAWAI'I  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM  
SB602. HEARING FEB. 10, 2011 1:20 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

CHAIR MERCADO KIM, VICE CHAIR HOUCHI, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HAWAI'I STRONGLY OPPOSES SB602. OF ALL FORMS OF GAMBLING, SLOT MACHINES AND VIDEO POKER PLAY HAS BEEN PROVEN THE MOST ADDICTIVE. IT PUTS AT RISK THE MOST VULNERABLE OF HAWAI'I'S POPULATION AT A TIME WHEN SOCIAL PROGRAMS ARE BEING CUT.

THE BENEFICIARIES OF THIS PROPOSED MEASURE WOULD BE THE INDUSTRY. WE DO NOT MAKE MACHINES HERE IN HAWAI'I, AND MOST OF THE MONEY FOR DISTRIBUTION WOULD GO TO THE MAINLAND. THE INDUSTRY HAS THE MONEY TO UNDERWRITE A VERY LARGE AD CAMPAIGN THAT, IF SUCCESSFUL WOULD ESTABLISH A POLICY THAT WILL BE THE FORERUNNER OF LEGALIZATION OF VARIOUS OTHER FORMS OF GAMBLING. EXPANSION HAS BEEN THE NORM ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.

PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE SB602.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
SUSAN DURSIN  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS — HAWAI'I



**HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE**  
6301 Pali Highway  
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224

Email to: [TSM@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:TSM@Capitol.hawaii.gov)  
Hearing on: Thursday, February 10, 2011 @ 1:20 p.m.  
Conference Room #224

**DATE:** February 3, 2011

**TO:** Senate Committee on Tourism  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senator Ronald Kouchi, Vice Chair

**FROM:** Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director

**RE:** **Opposition to SB 602** Proposes a constitutional amendment to legalize slot machine and video poker gambling that are not visible from the street in designated resort areas within Waikiki on the island of Oahu as provided by law. (ConAm)

Honorable Chairs and members of the Senate Committee on Tourism, I am Walter Yoshimitsu, **representing the Hawaii Catholic Conference**. The Hawaii Catholic Conference is the public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii, which under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents over 200,000 Catholics in Hawaii.

We strongly oppose gambling in any form. The Catholic Church holds that gambling becomes morally problematic when it interferes with an individual's other duties or responsibilities. Observing that "the passion for gambling risks becoming an enslavement," the Catechism of the Catholic Church highlights the need for moderation to avoid addictions and unhealthy behaviors.

In sharing the Catholic theological perspective on gambling, we are also aware of and very concerned about other important and related aspects of the issue that would serve to make specific pieces of gambling legislation morally unacceptable. We believe that the promotion of the common good of society and the protection of individual rights is always to be the primary goal of public policy. Accordingly, the potential negative consequences of an expanded "culture of gambling" needs to be carefully evaluated.

Please OPPOSE any form of gambling in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Email to: [TSMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:TSMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)  
Hearing on: Thursday, February 10, 2011 @ 1:20 p.m.  
Conference Room #224

**DATE:** February 3, 2011

**TO:** Senate Committee on Tourism  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senator Ronald Kouchi, Vice Chair

**FROM:** Allen Cardines, Jr., Executive Director

**RE:** **Strong Opposition** to: SB 602 Proposes a constitutional amendment to legalize slot machine and video poker gambling that are not visible from the street in designated resort areas within Waikiki on the island of Oahu as provided by law. (ConAm)

Honorable Chairs and members of the Senate Committee on Tourism, I am Allen Cardines, **representing the Hawaii Family Forum**. Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii, representing a network of various Christian Churches and denominations. We strongly oppose this bill that would change the constitution to legalize slot machine and video poker gambling.

Hawaii is among only two States (Utah and Hawaii) in the nation where all forms of gambling remain illegal. Proponents of legalized gambling in Hawaii boast of its promise of economic revitalization and prosperity. There may well be an element of truth to their claims; however, greater scrutiny reveals a far different story. While it may be true that legalized gambling could potentially yield new jobs, the potential greater negative economic impact must also be considered. Not unlike the social costs associated with other addictive behaviors, compulsive gambling wreaks havoc on individuals, families, and communities.

The widespread proliferation of gambling on the mainland has produced very troubling consequences for the people and communities most closely associated with it. Those consequences include: increased violent crime, property crime, and drug-related crime; an increased influence of organized crime; increased addiction and family deterioration; a disproportionately adverse impact on youth and the poor; and, a net negative economic impact.

Gambling is often associated with crime. The relationship is easy to understand. Many types of gambling have been, indeed still are, illegal. Hence, by definition, criminals are the only operators of games. When gambling restrictions are relaxed, criminals are the first to open up legal gambling establishments.

# hawaii family forum

## Page Two

We should also point out the obvious. Lots of people in Hawaii travel to Las Vegas for fun and recreation. Those visits are 100% irrelevant to the simple issue at hand - should Hawaii become more like Las Vegas by legalizing gambling? To answer that question, we really should examine the data about what it is like to live in a place like Vegas.

This data should serve as a clarion call for all of us - a reminder of the compelling reasons the people of Hawaii and our elected representatives have consistently and steadfastly resisted the siren song of the big money gambling interests. It reminds us why "the Las Vegas effect" upon our islands would wreak havoc on our ohana based community and our aloha spirit.

How does Nevada rate in the nation? Nevada is number three in bankruptcies and abortions. Number four in rape, out of wedlock births and alcohol related death. Number five in crime, number six in prisoners locked up and number 50 in voter participation. This and other well-documented information is available through the Hawaii Coalition Against Legalized Gambling.

In response to this data, the Coalition's response seems appropriate: "Not in my Backyard." Shouldn't that be our collective community response?

It seems to me Hawaii is rather akamai for its continued rejection of legalized gambling. As we all know, Hawaii is special. This issue is no different - we are one of only three states in the nation that can boast of no legalized gambling. Let's work hard to keep it that way!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

# Hawai'i Coalition Against Legalized Gambling

1124 Fort Street Mall, Suite 209  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
524-7766

## COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

### Member Organizations

Advocates for Consumer Rights  
Animal Rights Hawaii  
Buddhist Peace Fellowship  
Christian Voice of Hawaii  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Church of Perfect Liberty  
Common Cause  
Disciples of Christ  
Hale Kipa  
Hawaii Assemblies of God  
Hawaii Association of International Buddhists  
Hawaii Christian Coalition  
Hawaii Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC)  
Hawaii District United Methodist Church  
Hawaii Family Forum  
Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention  
Hawaii Rainbow Coalition  
Hawaii Religions for Peace  
Hawaii Youth Services Network  
Honolulu Friends Meeting (Quakers)  
Honolulu Police Department  
Institute for Religion and Social Change  
Interfaith Alliance Hawaii  
Kokua Council  
League of Women Voters of Hawaii  
Life of the Land (Hawaii)  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition Hawaii  
Mestizo Association  
Muslim Association & Islamic Center of Hawaii  
Pacific Gateway Center  
Presbytery of the Pacific  
Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church  
Small Business Hawaii  
Soto Zen Mission of Hawaii  
Temple Emanu-El  
Windward Coalition of Churches  
The Woman's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands (UCC)

### Cooperating Organizations

Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii  
Catholic Diocese of Honolulu  
Hawaii Bankers Association  
Hawaii Business Roundtable  
Hawaii State PTSA  
Hawaiian Humane Society

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair  
Thursday, February 10, 2011  
1:20 p.m. Conference Room 224

## OPPOSED TO SB602

My name is H. Thomas Kay, Jr. I am a kamaaina attorney testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Coalition Against Legalized Gambling (HCALG). HCALG is opposed to SB604 for the following reasons:

The measure proposes to amend the Hawaii Constitution by adding a new section to Article XVI authorizing the operation of slot machines and video poker machines in Waikiki. Such activities would presently be illegal under Section 712 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes and have nothing to do with Article XVI of the constitution, which is entitled "General and Miscellaneous Provisions."

The gambling issue raised by SB602 is much too narrow for consideration as an amendment to the Hawaii Constitution and should not be included in a ballot to be voted upon by the citizens of Hawaii. Instead, the proponents of this bill might ask the legislature to amend Hawaii Revised Statutes to legalize slot machines and video poker machines in Waikiki, a measure that HCALG would oppose.

The Senate also needs to weigh the highly detrimental effects these machines would have on our Hawaii residents and the resulting social costs incurred by the state, city and county governments.

H. Thomas Kay 373-3479  
1516 Kamole Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821

## kim5 - Deborah

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**From:** Will at Page Marketing [will@pagemarketing.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 02, 2011 11:18 PM  
**To:** TSM Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony: Against SB 602 Thursday, February 10, 2011

Aloha Senator Kim and Kouchi,

This is to OPPOSE SB 602.

Gambling will add nothing to the gross state product and damage Hawaii's tourism industry.

Slot machines, lotteries, bingo, casinos and the like are not a part of our Hawaiian host culture and have no legitimate place in the islands.

Please come up with some other ideas on boosting Hawaii's economy. Every year the legislature comes to the table with another gambling bill.

Thankfully SB 602 spares us the pages of rhetoric about all of the wonderful things that gambling will do for the economy and all of the programs it will feed with revenues.

Gambling will add nothing to Hawaii.

Mahalo,  
Will Page

P.O. Box 1546, Kailua, HI 96734



## kim5 - Deborah

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 04, 2011 6:46 PM  
**To:** TSM Testimony  
**Cc:** toddhairgrove@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB602 on 2/10/2011 1:20:00 PM

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Testimony for TSM 2/10/2011 1:20:00 PM SB602

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Todd Hairgrove  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [toddhairgrove@yahoo.com](mailto:toddhairgrove@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/4/2011

Comments:

**kim5 - Deborah**

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**From:** Lynne Matusow [lynnehi@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 7:52 AM  
**To:** TSM Testimony  
**Subject:** IN SUPPORT OF SB 602, legalized gambling

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Testimony for Toursim Committee, Hearing Feb. 10, 2011, 1:20 pm

I am in favor of this bill. I believe the voters should have the opportunity to decide whether they want this constitutional amendment.

I would rather locals stay here instead of spending their money in Las Vegas, giving Nevada the income and taxes that go with it.

Lynne Matusow  
60 N. Beretania, #1804  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
531-4260

Attention: Senate Committee on Tourism

Hearing: Thursday, February 10, 2011 1:20 PM

Conference Room 224, State Capitol

Subject: OPPOSE SB602

Submitted by: Mary Smart, Mililani, HI

Chairman Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members:

1. I request you OPPOSE SB 602

Re: Proposing An Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii to Legalize Slot Machine Gambling and Gambling by Video Poker Machines.

- a. Gambling does not improve a location; it spoils its ambiance. Along with gambling comes increased crime and other unsavory elements. It is important to preserve the family recreation atmosphere of Hawaii.
- b. In these difficult times in the economy, gambling will only prey upon the poor and the desperate. Hawaii has a high cost of living. Don't introduce a quick and easy method to bring more poverty to our state and citizens.
- c. When the nation is focused on obesity and healthy lifestyles, it would be better to promote Hawaii's beaches, hiking, and other recreational activities instead of the sedentary past time of gambling at slot and video poker machines.

2. Recommend a vote to OPPOSE SB 602.

**kim5 - Deborah**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 09, 2011 11:00 AM  
**To:** TSM Testimony  
**Cc:** web@cartoonistforchrist.org  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB602 on 2/10/2011 1:20:00 PM

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Testimony for TSM 2/10/2011 1:20:00 PM SB602

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Lee McIntosh  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 94-1667 Haehae Loop Naalehu, HI  
Phone: 808-929-9872  
E-mail: [web@cartoonistforchrist.org](mailto:web@cartoonistforchrist.org)  
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

**Comments:**

Madam Chair and Members of the Tourism Committee:

Aloha, my name is Lee McIntosh. I live in Kau on the Big Island. I am not in favor of SB 602, which would legalize slot machine and video poker gambling in Hawaii. Traditionally, Hawaii has resisted legalizing gambling in the past because of its ill effects on both our economy and families. We should not turn a blind eye in hope that legalizing gambling will address the deficit. Look at the states that have already legalized gambling. They are facing deficits as well. Gambling is not the answer, but fiscal accountability. I believe that legalizing gambling will increase the deficit, due to the costs involved in regulating the industry. Gambling should not be considered as a solution to our deficit. I encourage the committee to thoroughly investigate the effects of legalizing gambling in Hawaii before making a decision. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify about SB 602.

## kim5 - Deborah

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 09, 2011 7:45 PM  
**To:** TSM Testimony  
**Cc:** RawcoHI@cs.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB602 on 2/10/2011 1:20:00 PM  
**Attachments:** SB602 Slot Machines.doc

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Testimony for TSM 2/10/2011 1:20:00 PM SB602

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Reg White  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 1540 S. King St. Honolulu, Hi 96826-1919  
Phone: 808-222-9794  
E-mail: [RawcoHI@cs.com](mailto:RawcoHI@cs.com)  
Submitted on: 2/9/2011

Comments:  
SB 602  
In room 224 at 1320 on 10 February 2011  
Senate Committee on Tourism

Chair Mercado Kim 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 it's various forms and this proposal worries me. Slot machines, and particularly mechanized poker, are both very addictive, similar to iPhones, texting and computer gaming 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. There will also no doubt be a substantial loss of income and jobs in the optional tour market as some significant portion of our visitors closet themselves in some dark room away from distraction to play video gambling machines. This is the time they should be out getting to meet our people and to see our land and waters, to encounter the spirit of Aloha, the real reason they came to Hawaii in the first place. The snorkel tour, parasail, whale watch, dolphin watch and dinner cruise businesses will all lose volume along with Hawaiian Water Park and Polynesian Cultural Center. Really this is only a transfer of income from the present optional tour industry to the new gaming industry, no new revenue has been created, and this at the cost of local jobs and businesses in the tour industry. Worse, when the visitors get home they will realize that they could have spent the same amount of time closeted with their gaming machines much closer to home for way less money in travel and hotel costs. Look at the facts, at present 79% of our arrivals from the western states, 53% from the eastern states and 55% from Japan are repeat visitors to Hawaii. All of these people could easily have made trips to less expensive destinations closer to home if all they were looking for was gambling. Let's be very careful what we ask for!

If we must have some form of gambling, let's investigate the revenue realized to the state from a lottery system instead. The visitor can purchase the scratch cards and lottery tickets at the ABC or 7-11 on the way to catch the bus to one of our optional tour operators attractions. 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 and will not endanger our healthy, tax generating, optional tour industry.

Respectfully,

Reg White  
1540 S. King St  
Honolulu, HI 96826-1919  
808-222-9794  
[RawcoHI@cs.com](mailto:RawcoHI@cs.com)