



NEL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN SCHATZ  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
**OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES**

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250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 107  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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CATHY L. TAKASE  
ACTING DIRECTOR

To: House Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business  
House Committee on Judiciary

From: Cathy L. Takase, Acting Director

Hearing: Wednesday, March 23, 2011, 11:25 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 312

Re: Testimony on S.B. No. 755 SD2  
Relating to Economic Development

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The Office of Information Practices (OIP) takes no position on the purpose of this bill, which is to establish a Hawaii peer to peer gaming commission authorized to issue two 10 year licenses to operate peer to peer internet gaming operations. However, OIP offers the following comments and concerns regarding two provisions of the bill.

First, OIP notes the following regarding provisions related to the commission's meetings. The proposed §3(f) at part I, section 2 (p. 5), appears to make explicit that the commission will be subject to the open meeting provisions of part I of chapter 92 (the Sunshine Law): "The commission, subject to chapter 92, shall hold at least one meeting in each quarter of the State's fiscal year." Given this statement, OIP questions the provisions in that same section that provide that "[s]pecial meetings may be called by the chairperson or any four members upon seventy-two hours written notice to each member" and that require the commission "to keep a complete and accurate record of all of its meetings."

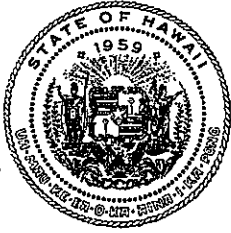
The Sunshine Law contains provisions that address these matters. Specifically, the Sunshine Law provides at §92-8(b) for emergency meetings where an unanticipated event requires a board to take action on a matter within less than the 6 day public notice period

required by the Sunshine Law. However, the Sunshine Law only allows such meetings where certain requirements are met to ensure the necessity of such a meeting and to allow as much public notice as possible under the circumstances. Given that this provision balances the need of boards to act under a shortened timeframe with protection of the public's interest, and generally applies to all other boards subject to the Sunshine Law, OIP recommends that the special meetings provision in the proposed bill be deleted. Further, §92-9 of the Sunshine Law requires boards to keep written minutes of all meetings that "give a true reflection of the matters discussed at the meeting and the views of the participants." Given this, OIP recommends that the requirement that the commission keep a complete and accurate record of all its meetings be deleted to avoid any confusion regarding application of the Sunshine Law's provisions.

Second, OIP questions the need for the blanket confidentiality provision provided at proposed §8(d) at part II, section 5(p. 26) for all information and records "supplied to or used by the commission in the course of its review or investigation of an application for a license." OIP notes that there is generally no such confidentiality requirement for other types of licensures, and that HRS chapter 92F, the Uniform Information Practices Act (Modified) (UIPA), already provides exceptions from public disclosure that would apply, in large part, to the licensing application information that this bill seeks to protect. For example, the UIPA's "frustration of a legitimate government function" exception would protect a license applicant's confidential commercial and financial information as well as the commission staff's recommendations and memoranda about a license applicant.

Whether to provide the confidentiality provision proposed is a policy decision for the Legislature. However, OIP notes that it would be a departure from the underlying intent of the UIPA to provide a uniform standard for records disclosure. OIP further notes that, if a confidentiality provision is enacted, language in that section that reads "and exempt from public disclosure required by chapter 92F" is unnecessary and should be deleted because the UIPA provides an exception for disclosure at §92F-13(4) for records made confidential by state statute.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

RICHARD C. LIM  
DIRECTOR

**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

No. 1 Capitol District Bldg., 250 South Hotel St., 5th Flr., Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804  
Web site: [www.hawaii.gov/dbedt](http://www.hawaii.gov/dbedt)

Telephone: (808) 586-2355  
Fax: (808) 586-2377

STATEMENT OF  
**RICHARD C. LIM**  
DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM  
BEFORE THE  
**COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS**  
AND  
**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
Wednesday, March 23, 2011  
11:25 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312  
in consideration of  
**SB755 PROPOSED HD1**  
**RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Chair McKelvey, Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Choy and Vice-Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent of SB755, HD1 PROPOSED which seeks to generate revenues for the State of Hawaii from peer-to-peer gaming, and establishes a commission under DBEDT. We do have concerns, however, about the regulatory role that DBEDT may assume in regards to overseeing and administering the commission that is licensing the gaming activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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**From:** Tina Desuacido [tina500@juno.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 9:26 AM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Subject:** Tax Foundation Testimony  
**Attachments:** s0318e11.pdf; s0755e11.pdf; s1107d11.pdf

**TRANSMISSION OF TESTIMONY**

**DATE:** Monday, March 21, 2011

**TO:** House Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business

**FROM:** Tax Foundation of Hawaii

**Total Pages 9**

**FOR:** Rep. Angus McKelvey, Chair

**Testifier:** Lowell L. Kalapa, President - Tax Foundation of Hawaii

(Mr. Kalapa will not appear in person at the hearing.)

**Date of Hearing - Tuesday, March 22, 2011**

**Position: Comments**

**Time of Hearing - 8:00 am**

**SB 318, SD-2 - Relating to Business Development in Hawaii (5 pages)**

**SB 755, SD-2 - Relating to Economic Development (2 pages)**

**SB 1107, SD-1 - Relating to the General Excise Tax (2 pages)**

**Number of copies - 4**

**Thank you.**

# TAXBILLSERVICE

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

**SUBJECT:** GENERAL EXCISE, Tax holiday for school supplies and computers

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 755, SD-2

**INTRODUCED BY:** Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** Adds a new section to HRS chapter 237 to establish an annual exemption from the general excise tax on the retail sale of: (1) books sold for less than \$50 per book; (2) clothing items sold for less than \$100 per item; (3) computers, computer software, and computer supplies sold for less than a total of \$1,500; and (4) school supplies sold for less than \$15 per item. Stipulates that the exemption shall not be applicable to: (1) rebates, layaway sales, rain checks, or exchanges when the transactions occur before or after the tax holiday period; (2) mail, telephone, e-mail, or internet orders with businesses operating outside the state; and (3) the sale of computer systems, devices, software, and peripherals designed or intended primarily for commercial use.

The annual general excise tax exemption shall be effective for tax years beginning after December 31, 2010, for a period of five days beginning on Wednesday of the last full week in July and ending at 12:00 midnight on the following Sunday, regardless of whether the Sunday falls in July or August. Delineates stipulations and exceptions as to what items qualify for the exemption.

Defines "book," "clothing," "computer," "computer software," "computer supplies," and "school supplies" for purposes of the measure.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2010 for tax years beginning after December 31, 2010

**STAFF COMMENTS:** This measure would grant an annual general excise tax holiday on retail sales of books, clothing, computers and computer accessories, and school supplies. The idea of "temporary" tax holidays ignores the forces and factors of the market and ignores basic economics of the marketplace. Such temporary holidays tend to skew the normal course of business and people's attitudes and shopping patterns. It creates the "coupon" syndrome of people deciding that they should wait until the store has another "discount period" or another coupon special. Why purchase that item now when it will go on sale next weekend in "another" one of those coupon offerings?

While the 4% or 4.5% is not as great as some of the discounts that have been offered by retailers, it will create that anticipatory attitude that will cause shoppers to delay their purchases until that special period.

It must be recognized that with the higher cost of living in Hawaii, families are struggling to make ends meet and have only so much in disposable income. Such a tax holiday, combined with promotions by businesses, will skew sales and therefore cash flow. To a certain degree, sales tax holidays are regressive, that is the poor tend to end up paying more in taxes than those in higher income categories because they will be less likely to have the cash or the credit to participate at the time the holiday occurs.

If advocates of this tax holiday believe that it will create new jobs, it should be noted that those jobs will be only temporary at best. While additional employees may be brought on in anticipation of the shopping bonanza, once the holiday is over, those temporary workers will be laid off in addition to furlough of permanent employees as one would suspect that sales activity would drop off severely in the aftermath.

Probably the most important and appropriate question is who is going to pay for this tax holiday? Given that state lawmakers and administration officials have not made a concerted effort to reduce the demand for tax revenues, will the burden of taxes be shifted to other businesses and individuals? Certainly the loss of revenues must be recaptured if the demand for spending those dollars is not reduced or contained. Would lawmakers be just as eager to enact this proposed tax holiday if it contained a provision that state spending had to be automatically reduced by the same dollar amount regardless of program? Probably not. But that is the problem with this and every other "goodie" tax proposals that would grant a tax break, lawmakers are just not willing to make concurrent reductions in state spending.

When and until state policy makers and administrators can get a firm grip on the spending spigot, any and all tax reduction proposals will be disingenuous. It should be remembered that the retail purchases this proposal intends to encourage are only possible if consumers have the resources to spend and have the confidence that there is stability in the economy. That stability in Hawaii is highly dependent, at this time, on the fiscal health of state and county governments.

Digested 3/21/11

**Testimony to the House Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business**  
**Tuesday, March 22, 2011**  
**8:00 a.m.**  
**State Capitol - Conference Room 312**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 755 SD2 RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and members of the committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") is in general support of SB 755 SD2 relating to Economic Development.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,100 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

This measure Creates annual exemption from general excise tax on retail sales of: school supplies of less than \$15 per item; computers, computer software, and computer supplies of less than \$1,500 per purchase; clothing of less than \$100 per item; and books of less than \$50 per item, transacted during a five day period in the last full week of July; requires all savings generated to be passed on by the seller to the purchaser without any increase in price; clarifies items not included in the exemption.

As Hawaii's economy makes a slow recovery, a "sales tax holiday" provided in this measure will afford consumers temporary relief and spark consumer confidence and spending, as well as provide temporary assistance to local businesses. Some studies show that this type of holiday increases job creation and net increase in tax revenues as a result of increased economic activity. An ancillary effect, especially in the retail industry, is that it increase store traffic and encourages spending not only on items that are exempted from the sales tax but on non-exempt items, which in turn generates tax revenues.

The Chamber asks that the committee pass SB 755 SD2 for further discussion. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair  
Representative Isaac Choy, Vice Chair  
Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business  
State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



HEARING Tuesday, March 22, 2011  
8:00 am  
Conference Room 312

RE: **SB 755, SD2, Relating to Economic Development**

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and Members of the Committee:

Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) is a not-for-profit trade organization representing 200 members and over 2,000 storefronts, and is committed to the support of the retail industry and business in general in Hawaii. Retail is one of the largest single employers in the state, employing almost 24% of the labor force.

**RMH strongly supports SB755, SD2**, which creates annual exemption from general excise tax on purchase of school supplies of less than \$15 per item; computers, computer software, and computer supplies of less than \$1,500 per purchase; clothing of less than \$100 per item; and books of less than \$50 per item.

In 2010, consumers in nineteen (19) states enjoyed some form of "sales tax holiday." The study cited in the preamble of this bill, *An Analysis of the Costs and Benefits of a Sales Tax Holiday in Florida*, provides compelling support for this legislation:

- Increased generation of jobs; 71% in retailing and 29% in other areas [21,896]
- Additional labor income: 61% in retailing and 38% throughout the economy [\$628 million]
- Net increase in tax revenues as the result of increased economic activity [\$118 million]

Further analytical evidence indicates:

- Reduction in the overall price shoppers pay solicits greater amounts of goods purchased, both tax exempt and non-tax exempt during this time period
- Tax holidays increase store traffic. A mall intercept survey during a back to school event in Texas revealed that 80% of shoppers said that the tax holiday motivated their decision to shop
- The benefits of a tax holiday tend to be shared by both consumers and retailers: about 80% of the tax relief remains with shoppers while 20% is shared with retailers. In a highly competitive sector like retail, additional motivation for consumer activity results in greater value for the consumer.

The tax exemption proposed in this measure will provide needed cost savings to Hawaii's families, especially during the back-to-school time frame, when there already are considerable budgetary concerns with getting children ready for a new school year. Further benefit will extend to Hawaii's non-profit organizations that hold school supplies fund drives, and to our teachers who purchase supplies in preparation for their classes.

The members of RMH respectfully urge you to pass SB755, SD2. We are prepared to work with the legislature and the tax department going forward. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Carol Pregill, President

RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII  
1240 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 215  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
ph: 808-592-4200 / fax: 808-592-4202



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 1:08 PM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Cc:** toddhairgrove@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB755 on 3/22/2011 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/22/2011 8:00:00 AM SB755

Conference room: 312  
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: 3/21/2011

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 11:12 PM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Cc:** beachbum1234@earthlink.net  
**Subject:** LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for SB755 on 3/23/2011 11:25:00 AM

Testimony for ERB/JUD 3/23/2011 11:25:00 AM SB755

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Earl Bialeck  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [beachbum1234@earthlink.net](mailto:beachbum1234@earthlink.net)  
Submitted on: 3/21/2011

Comments:

I am writing to you in support of Senate Bill SB-755-SD2 HD1 that was proposed and is up for hearing tomorrow. As a poker player in Hawaii, I truly appreciate that this bill will finally recognize what poker players around the world already know, and that is that poker is irrefutably a game of skill. And as such, it should be exempted from the gambling statute.

I also support the encouragement of all the major tournament operators from the World Series of Poker to the World Poker Tour and the North American Poker Tour to have tournaments here in the islands. A lot of revenue leaves the state due to poker players traveling to other locations around the world to compete on the world stage. Passing this bill would allow us to compete locally as well as providing an influx of tourism dollars when we need it most. The modern poker player is generally an upper middle class, hard working, intelligent person who has disposable income and enjoys travel. We should be taking advantage of the opportunity to capture this income stream and boost our economy here at home.

Additionally, encouraging online poker operators to set up infrastructure here will create new jobs and will help bring in additional revenue to the state.

Mahalo,

Earl Bialeck  
3476-A Kehala Dr.  
Kihei, HI 96753  
808 214-3546  
[beachbum1234@earthlink.net](mailto:beachbum1234@earthlink.net)

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 2:53 PM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Cc:** jduyon@student.umass.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB755 on 3/22/2011 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/22/2011 8:00:00 AM SB755

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jacob Duyon  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [jduyon@student.umass.edu](mailto:jduyon@student.umass.edu)  
Submitted on: 3/21/2011

Comments:  
Make ONLINE POKER LEGAL ASAP

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 2:53 PM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Cc:** rmoshontz1@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB755 on 3/22/2011 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/22/2011 8:00:00 AM SB755

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position:  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: ronald moshontz  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [rmoshontz1@gmail.com](mailto:rmoshontz1@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/21/2011

Comments:  
Attention Senators;

I am writing to you in support of Senate Bill SB-755-SD2 HD1 that was proposed and is up for hearing tomorrow. As a poker player in Hawaii, I truly appreciate that this bill will finally recognize what poker players around the world have already known and that is poker is irrefutably a game of skill. And as such should be exempted from the gambling statute.

We also support the encouragement of all the major tournament operators, from the World Series of Poker, to the World Poker Tour, and the North American Poker Tour, to have tournaments here in the islands. Much revenue leaves this state because of poker players needing to travel to other locations world wide to compete on the world stage and this would allow us to compete at home as well as provide a much needed boost to our tourism dollars when Hawaii needs it most. The modern poker players is generally a upper-middle class, hardworking, intelligent person who has disposable income and enjoys travel. We should be capturing this income stream to boost our economy here.

In addition, the support of online poker operators to setup their infrastructure here will create new jobs and help bring in additional income from these businesses.

Mahalo, ron Moshontz

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 3:01 PM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Cc:** pitbull9391@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB755 on 3/22/2011 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/22/2011 8:00:00 AM SB755

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Daryl Carpenter  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [pitbull9391@yahoo.com](mailto:pitbull9391@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 3/21/2011

Comments:  
Attention Senators;

I am writing to you in support of Senate Bill SB-755-SD2 HD1 that was proposed and is up for hearing tomorrow. As a poker player in Hawaii, I truly appreciate that this bill will finally recognize what poker players around the world have already known and that is poker is irrefutably a game of skill. And as such should be exempted from the gambling statute.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 3:11 PM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Cc:** fjminahan@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB755 on 3/22/2011 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/22/2011 8:00:00 AM SB755

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Francis Minahan  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [fjminahan@gmail.com](mailto:fjminahan@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/21/2011

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 3:20 PM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Cc:** eugene.staten@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB755 on 3/22/2011 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/22/2011 8:00:00 AM SB755

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Eugene Thornton Staten II  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [eugene.staten@gmail.com](mailto:eugene.staten@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/21/2011

**Comments:**

Private poker is a past time that should not be deemed harmful or illegal. We should support this sport.

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 3:25 PM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Cc:** don@doncouch.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB755 on 3/22/2011 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/22/2011 8:00:00 AM SB755

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Don Couch  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [don@doncouch.com](mailto:don@doncouch.com)  
Submitted on: 3/21/2011

Comments:  
Please support this alternative way to attract more tourism.



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 5:37 PM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Cc:** qigangsters@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB755 on 3/23/2011 11:25:00 AM

Testimony for ERB/JUD 3/23/2011 11:25:00 AM SB755

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: shaun tobin  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [qigangsters@hotmail.com](mailto:qigangsters@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/21/2011

**Comments:**

Please support the online poker bill. It needs to be regulated and we need the tax base. I am Hawaii resident and voter

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 6:57 AM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Cc:** ryan.zweig@gmail.com  
**Subject:** LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for SB755 on 3/23/2011 11:25:00 AM

Testimony for ERB/JUD 3/23/2011 11:25:00 AM SB755

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Ryan Zweig  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [ryan.zweig@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.zweig@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2011

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2011 7:00 PM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Cc:** tod@oahusurfshop.com  
**Subject:** - Testimony for SB755 on 3/23/2011 11:25:00 AM

Testimony for ERB/JUD 3/23/2011 11:25:00 AM SB755

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Tod Marcus  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [tod@oahusurfshop.com](mailto:tod@oahusurfshop.com)  
Submitted on: 3/21/2011

**Comments:**

Poker is a game of skill and should certainly be seperated from online gambling. This will bring IT jobs, commerce, and revenue to our state - along with a nice boost to our budget. Thank you.

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:18 AM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Cc:** Winnimanj@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** LATE TESTIMONY - Testimony for SB755 on 3/23/2011 11:25:00 AM

Testimony for ERB/JUD 3/23/2011 11:25:00 AM SB755

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jim Winniman  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [Winnimanj@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:Winnimanj@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2011

Comments:  
Aloha;

I am writing to you in support of Senate Bill SB-755-SD2 HD1 that was proposed and is up for hearing tomorrow. As a poker player in Hawaii, I truly appreciate that this bill will finally recognize what poker players around the world have already known and that is poker is irrefutably a game of skill. And as such should be exempted from the gambling statute.

It is well known that much revenue leaves this state because of poker players needing to travel to other locations to compete. This would allow us them to not only compete at home (not taking Hawaii dollars out of state) but would provide a much needed boost to our tourism dollars when Hawaii needs it most. That is why I also support the encouragement of all the major tournament operators, from the World Series of Poker, to the World Poker Tour, and the North American Poker Tour, to have tournaments here in the islands.

The modern poker players is generally a upper-middle class, hardworking, intelligent person who has disposable income and enjoys travel. We should be capturing this income stream to boost our economy here.

In addition, the support of online poker operators to setup their infrastructure here will create new jobs and help bring in additional income from these businesses.

There is little doubt that the recognition and support of this skill game would bolster our economy like no other single event can. Continually raising taxes is not the answer.

I believe we are one of only two states in the country where no form of gambling is legal (the other being Utah). There's a reason the other states have recognized the value here.

I think most would agree that if this bill were put to a public vote it would pass by a wide margin. As a democracy I'm hopeful and confident that Hawaii law makers can and will do what the people of Hawaii want. We need a major infusion of outside money coming into Hawaii and this is certainly an answer!

Mahalo Nui, Jim Winniman

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 12:26 PM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Cc:** livingland2001@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB755 on 3/23/2011 11:25:00 AM

Testimony for ERB/JUD 3/23/2011 11:25:00 AM SB755

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position:  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: William Lyon  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [livingland2001@yahoo.com](mailto:livingland2001@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2011

Comments:  
Attention Senators;

I am writing to you in support of Senate Bill SB-755-SD2 HD1 that was proposed and is up for hearing tomorrow. As a poker player in Hawaii, I truly appreciate that this bill will finally recognize what poker players around the world have already known and that is poker is irrefutably a game of skill. And as such should be exempted from the gambling statute.

We also support the encouragement of all the major tournament operators, from the World Series of Poker, to the World Poker Tour, and the North American Poker Tour, to have tournaments here in the islands. Much revenue leaves this state because of poker players needing to travel to other locations world wide to compete on the world stage and this would allow us to compete at home as well as provide a much needed boost to our tourism dollars when Hawaii needs it most. The modern poker players is generally a upper-middle class, hardworking, intelligent person who has disposable income and enjoys travel. We should be capturing this income stream to boost our economy here.

In addition, the support of online poker operators to setup their infrastructure here will create new jobs and help bring in additional income from these businesses.

Mahalo, W. Lyon

1601 Olinda Road  
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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011 1:21 PM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Cc:** devinjb3@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB755 on 3/23/2011 11:25:00 AM

Testimony for ERB/JUD 3/23/2011 11:25:00 AM SB755

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position:  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: devin bowen  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [devinjb3@yahoo.com](mailto:devinjb3@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2011

Comments: