

Hawai'i Coalition Against Legalized Gambling

1124 Fort Street Mall, Suite 209
Honolulu, Hi 96813

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 Hawaii
Disciples of Christ
Hale Kipa
Hawaii Appleseed Center
for Law & Economic Justice
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
The 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
Smart 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

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

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Thursday, January 16, 2014
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325

The Hawai'i Coalition Against Legalized Gambling supports HB 614. The purpose of the bill is to amend Section 712-1270 of Hawaii Revised Statutes to include Part III Gambling Offenses to the list of other criminal offenses which can be terminated under Part V Nuisance Abatement.

Under this bill the Honolulu Police Department will be able to remind land owners and lessors of their duty to be aware of and stop their properties from being used for illegal gambling activities by citing the Nuisance Abatement law. Private citizens will also be enabled to initiate legal action under this law.

According to HPD violent acts are occurring in illegal gambling rooms and have been the cause of more than one homicide. Gambling rooms are also being used to distribute narcotics. Further, illegal sweepstake gambling activities and other gambling machines are being established in internet cafes and arcades through rental of premises, many of which are accessible to our youth in Hawaii.

Enactment of this legislation will remedy the current situation of land owners and lessors who fail to take action to remove illegal gambling activities from their property.

The Hawaii Coalition Against Legalized Gambling urges the Committee on Judiciary to Pass HB 614.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dianne F. Kay, President



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2014**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 614, RELATING TO GAMBLING.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Thursday, January 16, 2014

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S):

David M. Louie, Attorney General, or
Laura Maeshiro, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General is in support of this bill.

This bill seeks to include gambling offenses in the state nuisance abatement laws under chapter 712, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and entitles citizens who bring a nuisance abatement suit against a place used for gambling the same rights and protections of victims and witnesses in criminal proceedings.

Currently, the offenses that are included in Hawaii's nuisance abatement laws are relating to prostitution, obscenity, illegal drugs, and fireworks. The Hawaii Revised Statutes includes these offenses, along with nuisance abatement, under chapter 712, titled, "Offenses Against Public Health and Morals." Gambling offenses are also covered under this chapter, yet they are not included as covered offenses for nuisance abatement. Gambling rooms have been found to fuel other illegal activities, such as drugs and violence. Gambling rooms, like drug houses, should be included in our nuisance abatement laws.

This bill will simply give law enforcement an additional tool to protect the public through the abatement of gambling activity and its related ills.

Accordingly, the Department of the Attorney General respectfully requests that this bill be passed.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. McCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE **JI-TA**

January 16, 2014

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
State House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 614, Relating to Gambling

I am Jerry Inouye, Major of the Narcotics/Vice Division of the Honolulu Police Department, City and County of Honolulu.

The Honolulu Police Department supports House Bill No. 614, Relating to Gambling.


Over the years, illegal gambling rooms in Honolulu have been the scenes of violence and narcotics distribution. They have even been the root cause of several homicides. Currently, there are no consequences for landlords or property owners who turn a blind eye to gambling activity occurring on their properties. By including gambling in the current Nuisance Abatement statutes, this bill would provide an additional tool to law enforcement as well as the community in seeking long-term solutions to the problems created by illegal gambling rooms.

The Honolulu Police Department urges you to support House Bill No. 614, Relating to Gambling.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,



LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police


JERRY INOUYE, Major
Narcotics/Vice Division