



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

LATE

TO: Honorable Chair Tsuji, Vice-Chair Ward and Committee Members

House Committee on Economic Development and Business, 3-22-13, 1030am, Rm 325

RE: HCR223/HR177; Gambling Task Force WITH AMENDMENTS

Submitted by: Inga Gibson, Hawaii State Director, The Humane Society of the United States, P.O. Box 89131, Honolulu, HI 96830, igibson@hsus.org, 808-922-9910

On behalf of our members and supporters in Hawaii we thank the Committee for its consideration of a **critical amendment to remove from page 1, line 19 the reference to including in the taskforce study the feasibility of dog or horse racing.** We do not take a position on the remainder of the resolution but oppose the mere consideration of Greyhound or Horse Racing for the following reasons:

- **Commercial Dog racing is already illegal in 38 states** including Guam who in 2010 prohibited Greyhound racing after the closure of its track. Hawaii would be going backwards by even considering this activity.
- **Cruel and Inhumane:** Dog racing is cruel and inhumane, and is in process of being phased out nationally. While at the racetrack, dogs live a life of nearly endless confinement, suffer serious injuries, and are sometimes killed when they are no longer profitable. While at the racetrack, dogs are confined in small cages barely large enough for them to stand up or turn around for long hours each day. On average, over one thousand dogs live in warehouse style kennels at each racetrack.
- **Dogs Suffer Serious Injuries:** Thousands of dogs are seriously injured each year at commercial racetracks, including dogs that suffer broken legs, cardiac arrest, spinal cord paralysis and broken necks. Unfortunately, not all of these injuries are reported to the public because some states do not even keep records on the number of dogs injured each year. Hawaii has no laws regulating large-scale dog owners or breeders thus how can the state even consider regulating this new activity involving hundreds or even thousands of dogs when current dog welfare laws are lacking. More at http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/greyhound_racing/ and www.grey2k.org
- **Horse Racing:** There is no national regulatory authority setting standards and policing the industry. It's something of a free-for-all, with states setting their own rules. The state associations are controlled by race horse owners and others involved in the racing industry, and the rules are lax—allowing drugging of horses on race day; running horses on surfaces that are too often hazardous, and starting them too young; permitting reckless breeding that makes the horses vulnerable to breakdowns; and discarding them when they don't perform well.
- According to a New York Times article from 2012 an estimated **24 horses die every week** on the track in horse racing (more at: <http://hsus.typepad.com/wayne/2012/03/horse-racing.html>)

Lack of Taskforce Expertise: As noted above there are serious health and welfare considerations involved in both dog and horse racing activities yet there is no suggested task force member or agency listed that has any expertise in either equine or animal health or welfare.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 3:04 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: mmmmahalo2000@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR223 on Mar 22, 2013 10:30AM

Categories: LATE TESTIMONY

HCR223

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for EDB on Mar 22, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Moran	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: We do not want nor need this in Hawaii. Dog racing? Are you kidding me? Organized animal abuse and a haven for organized crime Vote NO. Mahalo,

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HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

6301 Pali Highway
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224

LATE

ONLINE SUBMITTAL

Hearing on: Friday, March 22, 2013 @ 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room #312

DATE: March 21, 2013

TO: House Committee on Economic Development & Business
Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair
Representative Gene Ward, Vice Chair

FROM: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director

RE: **STRONG OPPOSITION** to HCR 223 / HR 177 REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A GAMBLING TASK FORCE TO PERFORM A SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF LEGALIZED GAMBLING IN HAWAII.

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 under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva. We oppose this measure that would create a task force to analyze gambling in Hawaii.

To begin with, the resolution to create a commission to study legalized gambling is seriously flawed as it already starts with the false premise that gambling will yield all these alleged benefits to Hawaii. Language in the bill stating that “potential” revenue will “maintain important social programs” is very disingenuous as it is going to make money off the very people it may end up having to help!

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** this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

DATE: March 21, 2013
TO: House Committee on Economic Development & Business
Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair
Rep. Gene Ward, Vice Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, Executive Director
RE: **OPPOSITION** TO HCR 223 / HR 177 REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A GAMBLING TASK FORCE TO PERFORM A SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF LEGALIZED GAMBLING IN HAWAII.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. I am Eva Andrade, **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 oppose this bill that would establish a gaming commission and ask that you REJECT THIS BILL.

We should be proud that 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 continue to boast of its promise of economic revitalization and prosperity. This may sound like a good idea for Hawaii but 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.

Our specific concerns about this bill relate to the following:

1. We are concerned that the gambling commission members, as selected, may not be impartial.
2. We see no need to analyze the costs and benefits of various types of gambling since we are opposed to the introduction of legalized gambling (in any form) into Hawaii.
3. We believe that the introduction of any form of gambling could lead to the introduction of all other forms.
4. The social costs, damage to small businesses, and increased crime would far exceed any economic benefits.
5. The tourism industry would be irreparably damaged in spite of the fact that you are trying to prove otherwise.
6. Our island lifestyle and scenic beauty would be altered forever and once that change is made, we can never go back.

It seems to me Hawaii is rather akamai for its continued rejection of legalized gambling. As we all know, Hawaii is special. Let us continue to have the honor of being one of only two states in the nation where legalized gambling is neither promoted nor endorsed. Let's keep it that way!

LATE

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 3:33 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: alohahouse@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR223 on Mar 22, 2013 10:30AM

Categories: LATE TESTIMONY

HCR223

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for EDB on Mar 22, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorraine Askam	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please do not spend my tax dollars and your time considering horse or dog racing on Hawaii. Does ANYTHING about either of those make Hawaii a better place? Or enhance our paradise? If you must have gambling research a Hawaiian lottery that gives back to our poorly financed educational system. Pay our teachers more, fix our crumbling schools. Are you serious about horses and dogs? More cruelty to animals. My voice speaks for the thousands of animal lovers on our islands!

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edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Cc: towle@hawaiiintel.net
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Categories: LATE TESTIMONY

HCR223

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for EDB on Mar 22, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ginger Towle		Oppose	No

Comments: NO,NO, NO!!! We don't even have the ability to control large scale dog breeding! This sport is outlawed in 38 states and for good reason!! There is a mountain of material documenting the inhumane aspect of this sport. Horse racing again is a free for all without any national regulatory authority setting any standard etc. Both activities pace little if any concern for the long term or even current health concerns. If you have to gamble poker chips and slot machines feel no pain I Like to think that we in Hawaii are above such blatant disregard for our animals. Ginger Towle - President-WHHS

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edbttestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 5:09 PM
To: edbttestimony
Cc: rodnrod@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR223 on Mar 22, 2013 10:30AM

Categories: LATE TESTIMONY

HCR223

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for EDB on Mar 22, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terri Shishido	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: please remove page 1, line 19 referencing dog and horse racing from gambling measure. We must not allow dog and horse racing in Hawaii.

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Cc: spikecat1@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR223 on Mar 22, 2013 10:30AM

Categories: LATE TESTIMONY

HCR223

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for EDB on Mar 22, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judith Aikawa	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: page 1 line 19 references to dog and horse racing should be removed!

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To: edbtestimony
Cc: tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR223 on Mar 22, 2013 10:30AM

Categories: LATE TESTIMONY

HCR223

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for EDB on Mar 22, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments: i support passage of bill to legalize gambling and help contribute to build and expand hawaii's economy

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Cc: mauicat7@Yahoo.com
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Categories: LATE TESTIMONY

HCR223

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for EDB on Mar 22, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mike willinsky	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Page 1, line 19 regarding dog and horse racing should be removed.

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edbtestimony

From: John Kawamoto [jk1492@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 11:24 PM
To: edbtestimony
Subject: Testimony for HCR 223 / HR 177

Categories: LATE TESTIMONY

To: House Committee on Economic Development and Business

From: John Kawamoto

Re: SCR 223 / SR 177

Hearing: March 22, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.

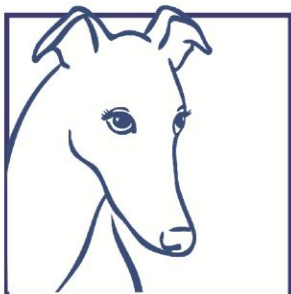
Opposing SCR 223 / SR 177

I am opposed to SCR 223 / SR 177, which would create a task force to conduct a study of the benefits of legalized gambling. The idea of a study might convey the sense of neutrality. However, the wording of this resolution and the composition of the task force as described in the resolution stack the deck in favor of legalized gambling. Whereas the significant social costs of legalized gambling far outweigh any potential benefits, the study would emphasize the benefits and not the costs. As such, the study would be biased and unbalanced and would not serve the public interest. The gambling industry understands how to create conditions that favor the “house,” and the “house” comes out the winner in SCR 223 / SR 177.

Many jurisdictions across the country adopted legalized gambling because significant benefits were promised. However, experience shows that all of the benefits were not forthcoming. Moreover, legalized gambling has resulted in increased cases of compulsive gambling that has destroyed the lives of individuals and their families. Furthermore, jurisdictions that have adopted legalized gambling have experienced significant increases in spouse abuse. Any revenue to the State resulting from a tax on gambling would fall short of paying for the considerable social costs of gambling.

It is true that gambling affects economic development. Gambling built the many casinos and hotels in Las Vegas. However, those casinos and hotels were not built on money that gamblers in casinos won, but what they lost. The benefits of legalized gambling will accrue primarily to the gambling industry. Legalized gambling represents a loss for the rest of society.

Hawaii is one of only two states that do not have legalized gambling, and it should be kept out of Hawaii. The study called for by SCR 223 / HR 177 is not needed and not wanted except by the gambling industry. If SCR 223 / HR 177 were a poker hand, it would be a weak hand indeed. With this hand, the Legislature should fold. Otherwise, the Legislature would only be bluffing and trying to fool the public.



Directors

Christine A. Dorchak, Esq.
President and Treasurer

Eric Jackson
*Vice President
Greyhound Companions
of New Mexico*

Valarie L. Wolf
Secretary

Tom Grey
Stop Predatory Gambling

Kathy Pelton

Charmaine Settle
*Galgo Rescue
International Network*

Directors Emeritus

Dr. Jill Hopfenbeck, DVM

Kevin Neuman
*Kansas City REtired
Greyhounds as Pets*

Michael Trombley, CPA

Carey M. Theil
Executive Director

*Organization Listing is
for Identification
Purposes Only*

March 22, 2013

Chairman Clift Tsuji, Chairman
Gene Ward, Vice Chairman
House Committee on Economic Development and Business
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 312
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HCR223 (oppose greyhound racing study)

Dear Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice Chairman and Committee Members,

I write this letter to urge you to strike the reference to dog racing at line 19 on page 1 of HCR223. Good public policy argues against even a consideration of introducing commercial greyhound racing to the islands.

On the mainland, greyhound racing is a dying industry that is inherently cruel to dogs. When first introduced to our country in the 1920's, it could not be foreseen that thousands and thousands of dogs would suffer and die. Records were not kept of track injuries or deaths, and the public could not know what really happened to racing dogs in the past.

Today, thanks to the enactment of Sunshine laws in various states, track records are now public documents. In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a dog was injured every three to four days. Colorado reported 2,600 injuries from 1993-2007. Most recently, it has been reported that 1,507 greyhound injuries were reported at one track in Texas from 2008-2011. Fifty-six dogs died. The majority of reported injuries tend to be broken legs, and other injuries include dislocations, torn muscles, paralysis, broken necks and broken backs. Electrocutions also occur. Some dogs die while racing, while others are put down because of the severity of their injuries, and/or because of their diminished value as racers.

When not racing, these gentle dogs are kept confined in warehouse-style kennels, inside small, stacked cages which are too small to allow free movement. Other than for brief turn-out periods, greyhounds live restricted for an average of twenty hours per day with little ability to interact with one another. The average greyhound stands thirty inches at the shoulder, but a standard cage size in the United States is just 32" wide by 41" deep by 34" high. To put it simply, this is no way to treat a dog.

PROTECTING GREYHOUNDS

The standard diet for dogs in the racing industry consists of rejected and diseased meat from downed animals. Deemed “4-D” by the federal government, this flesh may not be sold for human consumption; but it is purchased at very low cost by greyhound trainers and owners. As revenues continue to plummet, it is essential that tracks and kennels keep overhead as low as possible. This reality suggests that veterinary care may also be subject to a cost-benefit analysis.

The decline of greyhound racing has been ongoing for years, and media outlets have long reported the spiraling collapse of this industry. Between 2002 and 2010, the total amount gambled on greyhound racing declined by 63%. Not only have humane concerns come to the forefront, but competition from other forms of gambling has forced tracks to close. Over the last decade, the number of American tracks has been cut in half. Where there were nearly fifty dog tracks in fifteen states in 2001, now there are just twenty-two in seven. The trend is definitely with the greyhounds as are the majority of citizens.

In November 2008, GREY2K USA placed a question before Massachusetts voters asking for an end to dog racing in the state, and for the closure of its two dog tracks. The public was provided the tracks’ own injury records and given access to racing footage. As a result, people came to understand that as long as dog racing continued, greyhounds would suffer. Moreover, there had been a 37% decline in revenue over the last three years at one track, and 65% at the other. In weighing out the waning benefits to the state against the cruelty that dogs suffer, the citizens of Massachusetts ‘voted for the dogs’ and outlawed greyhound gambling by a 56-44% margin statewide.

I would also call to your attention the recent experience of the U.S. Territory of Guam. In 2009, after several years of financial losses, the owner abruptly down the facility and abandoned hundreds of dogs. The result was an urgent public health and humane dilemma which was publicized worldwide. We were proud to support the international adoption efforts and then to help write the language that legally prohibited dog racing there as of 2010.

Like Guam, Hawaii would be challenged to offer homes for greyhounds once they were no longer used for racing. The few who would be locally adopted would take the place of other animals looking for homes. An ongoing, multi-national and expensive adoption strategy would be required to deal humanely with the overload of dogs created by any introduction of dog racing to the islands.

GREY2K USA is a non-profit greyhound protection group which was formed for the explicit purpose of ending dog racing in the United States. It is our sincere hope that Hawaii will not become another Guam. This would represent a step backwards, and result in both financial losses and harm to the humane traditions of your beautiful society.

Sincerely,



Christine A. Dorchak, Esq.
President, GREY2K USA
www.grey2kusa.org

LATE

edbttestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 8:05 AM
To: edbttestimony
Cc: JCruuzKiyomi@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR223 on Mar 22, 2013 10:30AM*

Categories: LATE TESTIMONY

HCR223

Submitted on: 3/22/2013

Testimony for EDB on Mar 22, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Cruuz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: wrightwrighton@yahoo.com
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Categories: LATE TESTIMONY

HCR223

Submitted on: 3/22/2013

Testimony for EDB on Mar 22, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Damian Wright	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: hanamalia84@yahoo.com
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Categories: LATE TESTIMONY

HCR223

Submitted on: 3/22/2013

Testimony for EDB on Mar 22, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malia Wright	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SENT VIA EMAIL

March 22, 2013

Representative Clift Tsuji
Chair, Committee on Economic Development and Business
Representative Gene Ward
Vice Chair, Committee on Economic Development and Business
Hearing on House Resolution 223 / 177 – Requesting the convening of a gambling task force to perform
A social and Financial analysis of legalized gambling in Hawaii
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Tsuji and Vice Chair Ward!

Enterprise Honolulu supports the establishment of a State Wide Gambling Task Force to address the long term affects of Legalized Gambling on Hawaii's Financial, Social, Political, Environmental, and Cultural health. It is important that representatives from the neighbor islands have representation on this task force and resources to support their participation be allocated for this purpose.

Sincerely,

Pono Shim
President & CEO
Enterprise Honolulu, Oahu Economic Development Board



LATE

edbtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 8:23 AM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: randys1tyme@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR223 on Mar 22, 2013 10:30AM

Categories: LATE TESTIMONY

HCR223

Submitted on: 3/22/2013

Testimony for EDB on Mar 22, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Tyme	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Tsuji and members of the Committee on Economic Development and Business, I would like to testify in support of HCR223. I think that creating a task force to see how legalizing gambling will affect our state is a great idea. I personally think that legalizing gambling would benefit our state by bringing in tourism and creating jobs. I visit Vegas almost 4 times a year. Legalizing gambling would allow me to spend my money at home instead of spending money to fly to another state and spend money there. I just think it would be a good idea to find out how gambling will affect our state. Thank you for your time and consideration. -Randy Tyme

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edbtestimony

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To: edbtestimony
Cc: daniyoungx333@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR223 on Mar 22, 2013 10:30AM

Categories: LATE TESTIMONY

HCR223

Submitted on: 3/22/2013

Testimony for EDB on Mar 22, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danica Y. Tyme	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HCR223. Our state needs to create a task force to find the impacts of legalizing gambling. Since the age of 21, I travel to Vegas, Atlantic City, and even outside of the country about 3-4 times a year to gamble. I am now 26 years old. What can I say? I like to gamble, I'm good at it. I intend to keep traveling so I can gamble for the next 20 years. You do the math. Not only will it create jobs, it will bring more money into the state and bring more tourism. I believe that legalizing gambling will benefit the state, but until then... the state should consider researching the pros/cons/impacts of legalizing gambling in Hawaii. Thank you for allowing me to testify.

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edbtestimony

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Cc: angelshave4legs2@aol.com
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HCR223

Submitted on: 3/22/2013

Testimony for EDB on Mar 22, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room 312

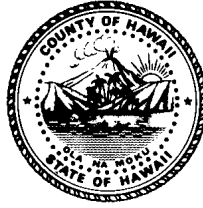
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jane Shiraki	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please DELETE & REMOVE, references to dog and horse racing on page 1, line 19! In a 2012 report by Animal Legal Defense Fund, Hawaii was ranked as one of the 10 worst states for animal abuse laws. (corrected typo in paragraph) Animal exploitation at the expense of animals is the OPPOSIT defintion of Paradise. It does NOT FIT and there is no desperate reason do this other than ignorance and greed! I have spoken to countless visitors to Hawaii and they are coming here to enjoy the natural beauty of Paradise, the beaches, the surf, the mountains trails, to see the beautiful ocean animals, to enjoy the sunshine, the friendly people, and wish to return again for this reason, not dog and horse racing! The world has advanced, evolved in knowledge of the misery of animals used in entertainment and sports racing, and would darken the image of paradise. Please do not go backward in progress. Commercial dog racing is illegal in 38 states, including Guam. and is in the process of being phased out nationally. Dogs and horses are not machines anymore than people are not machines. Dogs need to be loved and treated decently with affection, not deprived of this. They endlessly help and give benefits to people and the American nation. In 2012, Scientists have declared such mammals to be conscious beings! Do not subject them to broken legs, cardiac arrest, spinal cord paralysis and broken necks, this is the horrors of what happens because people cared about their profits. In horseracing, 24 horses die every week. Please do not participate in their deaths. Please focus on what Hawaii NEEDS! Education! We are at the BOTTOM OF SAT SCORING LIKE THE ANIMAL ABUSE LAWS HERE. "How ironic – the state with the most powerful teachers union is the same one that, despite being one of the top 10 spenders per student, consistently remains near the bottom on standardized student achievement tests." We're currently 10th from the bottom – an all-time low in my 37-year Hawaii experience. <http://www.midweek.com/teachers-strong-as-students-suffer/>

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Margaret Wille
Council Member
District 9 - North and South Kohala



Phone No. Hilo: (808) 961-8027
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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i

LATE

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25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720*

*Holomua Center
64-1067 Mamalahoa Highway, Suite C-5
Waimea, Hawai'i 96743*

*West Hawai'i Civic Center Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i, 96740*

Testimony in SUPPORT OF HCR 223 requesting the Convening of a Gambling Task Force to Perform a Social and Financial Analysis of Legalized Gambling in Hawai'i

My name is Margaret Wille, Chair of the Hawai'i County Council Committee on Agriculture, Water and Energy Sustainability testifying in **SUPPORT** of HCR 223.

I believe the financial and socio-cultural costs and benefits to the State and Counties needs to be analyzed to make informed decisions regarding the possibility of allowing one or more forms of legalized gaming – including high stakes bingo, lottery, and casino level gambling. Issues that should be considered are 1) whether this source of income from any form of gaming outweighs the negative impact of any form of legalized gambling; and then if some form of gaming seems feasible, weigh in on how to mitigate, minimize, and avoid potential negative impacts.

In my opinion if any legalized gambling is to be allowed it should be one of the forms that has the least negative impact – for example high stakes bingo or certain forms of lottery. I do not think the state should jump into casino level gambling which is notorious for the most adverse impacts on the surrounding community and is closely associated with organized crime.

FOR EXAMPLE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING: Comparatively, high stakes bingo does not bring with it substantial negative impact, and can be handled in a manner that promotes community among both residents and visitors. We could also require that one day a week the facility be used solely for local non-profits. Consideration should be given to locating the facility on state land in a location where it would not cause traffic congestion and would not negatively influence the quality of life in the surrounding area. Therefore the facility should not be located in a downtown – Waikiki area. The state should aim to receive at least 40% of the profits and if located on ceded land – at least 20% of those profits should be turned over to OHA.

Likewise a limited form of lottery is a feasible option – with the state allocating earnings to fund particular programs that are recognized by many as underfunded such as for special education, protection of the environment and marine resources.

I have already called for the County of Hawai'i Council to have a 45 minute discussion on this very subject on April 8, 2013. I am attaching the Communication that I have submitted for our Council's consideration.

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Hawai'i County Is An Equal Opportunity Provider And Employer*



It will be important for each County Council to be involved. I would therefore encourage amending the bill to provide for representation by each of the County Councils.

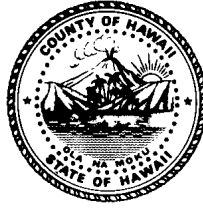
I am well aware of the negatives involved with any form of gaming, but I am also realistic about the financial needs of the State and believe we must face these hard choices and not instead find ourselves in the position of lobbying to sell out our island to corporate interests such as through the mechanism of the proposed Public Lands Development Corporation.

To summarize, I am in SUPPORT of forming a Gambling Task Force.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Margaret Wille
Council Member District 9
County of Hawaii
North & South Kohala

Margaret Wille
Council Member
District 9 - North and South Kohala



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LATE

TO: J Yoshimoto, Chair
and Members of the Hawai'i County Council

FROM: Margaret Wille, Council Member

Date: March 15, 2013

Subject: High Stakes Bingo Discussion

I request 45 minutes for a discussion to consider whether high stakes bingo would be acceptable as a means for the state to increase its revenue streams. The scope of discussion would include the financial and socio-cultural costs and benefits to the State and Counties, and the possibility of allowing each County to independently establish such a facility within that County.

Please place this matter on the appropriate April 8, 2013 Committee agenda.

If there are any questions please call me or my staff at (808) 887-2043.

Thank you.

MW/dh

LATE

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS

Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair Rep. Gene Ward, Vice Chair

Friday, March 22, 2013, 10:30am

Conference Room 312

My name is Dennis Kim, and I am the Hawaii Multi-Stake Director of Public Affairs for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. In Hawaii, the church has fifteen stakes with congregations on every island and a membership of 70,000.

We are opposed to HCR 223 and HR 177 because funds spent on this task force would be wasted in this time when the State finances are very tight. More importantly the result will either be to keep the status quo or recommend that some form of gambling be allowed under the pretense of raising funds for the state. Gambling is not the answer to our State's financial woes.

Even though gambling is outlawed in Hawaii, we see some addicted gamblers in our congregations. One that I am close to has lost his job over ten years ago and has not been able to find another one. He has disappeared from home many times staying away for days at a time. Items from the home mysteriously disappeared. Needed food is not purchased. Now he and his wife are being evicted from their rental home for non-payment. Luckily, his wife tries to keep things together, but the stress takes a heavy toll.

If gambling were legal in Hawaii imagine the cost should more citizens who are not brazen enough to defy current laws become addicted. If they want to gamble now they fly to Vegas, but they always have a return ticket which limits their gambling time. Should any form of gambling be allowed here in Hawaii, their gambling time is anytime, or all the time.

Las Vegas has marketed itself as a place to go if an individual wants to gamble. In reality, if someone in Hawaii wanted to gamble, he could fly to California and gamble at one of the many casinos there for a lot less money. But they go to Las Vegas. Similarly, Hawaii has built a world-wide reputation for its natural beauty, beautiful weather, and a great place to take the whole family. I would not want to ruin the years of marketing by allowing a business that potentially could detract from that marketing strategy and cause money that would be spent here, to flow out of the state.

It is my hope that the Committee on Economic Development & Business will consider the above comments and oppose these two resolutions.