

SB 855

Report Title:

RELATING TO COUNTY GAMBLING ORDINANCES

Measure Title:

Clarifies the authority of counties to adopt gambling laws
that do not conflict with state laws.

hawaii family forum

Email to: PSMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Hearing on: Tuesday, February 5, 2013
Conference Room #224

DATE: January 30, 2013

TO: Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, Executive Director

RE: Support for SB 855 Relating to County Gambling Ordinances

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure. 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 various faith groups. We support this bill that would clarify the authority of counties to adopt gaming laws that do not conflict with state laws.

As you know, Hawaii Family Forum has been consistently opposed to any form of legalized gambling in the state. We remain proud that Hawaii is among only two States (Utah is the other one) in the nation where all forms of gambling remain illegal.

We support this measure because we concur that county ordinances should be able to control, prohibit, deter, or otherwise affect gambling so long as these ordinances do not conflict with state gambling law, as the bill states.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

6301 Pali Highway
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224

ONLINE SUBMITTAL

Hearing on Tuesday, February 5, 2013 @ 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room #224

DATE: January 30, 2013

TO: Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

FROM: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director

RE: Support for SB 855 Relating to County Gambling Ordinances

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 support this bill that clarifies the authority of counties to adopt gambling laws that do not conflict with state laws. In deciding how to address whether to prohibit some or all gambling activities allowed by Hawaii law, cities and counties are confronted with much conflicting information on the effects of gambling on local communities, but in essence, we agree that it is best to allow them the freedom to make those decisions on a county level.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB855

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for PSM on Feb 5, 2013 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Kay	Hawaii Coalition Against Legalized Gambling	Support	Yes

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 PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

2:45 p.m.

My name is Tom Kay. I am legal counsel for the Hawaii Coalition Against Legalized Gambling. HCALG supports SB 855 relating to county gambling ordinances. The bill sets forth the authority of the counties to adopt anti-gambling laws that do not conflict with state laws.

During the past several years internet sweepstake gambling has swept through states on the mainland and is now in Hawaii. The sweepstake terminals and computers allow patrons to play casino type games including poker, blackjack, and slots.

Manufacturers, distributors and operators claim that they are operating legal sweepstakes, promoting products such as discount coupons, or services such as internet time, and that the patrons are receiving free play either by buying the product or service or actually being given free play time.

However, patrons are paying money to play the Casino games to win money. Playing the games in the terminals and on the computers constitutes illegal gambling in violation of Section 712-1220 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

County governments in Hawaii can effectively stop sweepstake gambling in their counties by enacting and enforcing zoning, licensing, and consumer protection laws. Passing SB 855 will encourage Hawaii County governments to adopt necessary laws and ordinances that will put an end to illegal sweepstake gambling that adversely affects their communities.