
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LEGALIZED GAMBLING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State's
2 education and law enforcement sectors are being negatively
3 impacted by numerous teachers and police officers departing
4 because of low pay, lack of affordable housing, the high cost of
5 living, and the resulting need to work second jobs to feed their
6 families. The legislature further finds that a creative,
7 innovative, and resourceful plan of action is needed to generate
8 revenue for pay raises for teachers and police officers that
9 will allow these individuals to remain in the State without
10 sacrificing their quality of life.

11 The purpose of this Act is to convene a task force within
12 the department of business, economic development, and tourism to
13 explore the feasibility of augmenting funding sources available
14 to pay teachers and police officers through revenues generated
15 by controlled legalized gambling, including offshore gambling
16 and a state lottery.



1 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a task force within
2 the department of business, economic development, and tourism
3 for administrative purposes to study the feasibility of
4 authorizing controlled legalized gambling in the State,
5 including offshore gambling and a state lottery system, as a
6 means of generating revenue for pay raises for teachers and
7 police officers. The study shall also include but not be
8 limited to:

- 9 (1) Determining whether a public-private partnership could
10 be developed to strategically place two gambling
11 casinos in West Oahu without impacting the aloha
12 spirit and causing Hawaii to be viewed as a gambling
13 capital;
- 14 (2) Evaluating whether a club card system could be
15 developed for controlled legalized gambling to ensure
16 the two casinos in West Oahu are the only sanctioned
17 gambling locations in the State apart from locations
18 authorized, if any, for a state lottery or offshore
19 gambling;



- 1 (3) Evaluating the feasibility of establishing other forms
2 of legalized gambling in the State, including a state
3 lottery or offshore gambling;
- 4 (4) Determining cost estimates and other implementation
5 requirements associated with legalizing gambling in
6 the State; and
- 7 (5) Examining any other relevant information deemed
8 necessary by the director of business, economic
9 development, and tourism.
- 10 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:
- 11 (1) A member designated by the president of the senate and
12 the speaker of the house of representatives, who shall
13 serve as the chairperson of the task force;
- 14 (2) The director of business, economic development, and
15 tourism, or the director's designee;
- 16 (3) The superintendent of education, or the
17 superintendent's designee;
- 18 (4) A representative from the Honolulu police department;
- 19 (5) A representative from the office of the mayor, city
20 and county of Honolulu;



- 1 (6) A representative of the Hawaii State Teachers
2 Association;
- 3 (7) A representative of the State of Hawaii Organization
4 of Police Officers;
- 5 (8) A representative of Hawaiian Airlines, Inc.;
- 6 (9) A representative from each of five casinos in Las
7 Vegas, Nevada, as determined by the chairperson of the
8 task force; and
- 9 (10) A representative of an area neighborhood board.
- 10 (c) Members of the task force shall serve without
11 compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses,
12 including travel expenses, incurred for service on the task
13 force. No member of the task force shall be made subject to
14 chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that
15 member's participation on the task force.
- 16 (d) The director of business, economic development, and
17 tourism, in consultation with the task force, shall submit a
18 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
19 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty
20 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2021.
- 21 (e) The task force shall dissolve on June 30, 2021.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to
 4 carry out the purposes of this Act.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 6 business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes of
 7 this Act.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
 9 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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 JAN 23 2020



H.B. NO. 2640

Report Title:

Controlled Legalized Gambling; Offshore Gambling; Lottery; Task Force; DBEDT; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a task force within the department of business, economic development, and tourism to study and recommend to the legislature the feasibility of authorizing controlled legalized gambling in the State, including offshore gambling and a state lottery system, to generate revenues for pay raises for teachers and police officers. Appropriates funds for the study.

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