
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CRIME.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature acknowledges the harmful
2 effects of illegal gambling and drug houses in communities
3 across the State. These effects include an increase in other
4 criminal activities such crimes of violence and sex trafficking.

5 The legislature believes that rather than attempting to
6 address these criminal activities in a piecemeal fashion, an
7 intergovernmental task force encompassing federal, state, and
8 city agencies should be established to engage in an organized,
9 collaborative effort to examine relevant issues, determine the
10 resources needed to address these issues, and devise a
11 coordinated action plan.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
13 special intergovernmental task force to eradicate illegal
14 gambling and drug activities and to establish community safe
15 zones across the State.

16 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
17 of the attorney general for administrative purposes a special



1 intergovernmental task force to eradicate illegal gambling and
2 drug activities.

3 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

4 (1) The state attorney general or the attorney general's
5 designee, who shall serve as chair of the task force;

6 (2) The director of public safety or the director's
7 designee;

8 (3) The director of transportation or the director's
9 designee;

10 (4) The respective chiefs of police of the counties of
11 Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, and of the City and County of
12 Honolulu, or their designees; and

13 (5) The respective directors of the planning or permitting
14 agencies of the counties of Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, and
15 of the City and County of Honolulu, or their
16 designees.

17 (c) Representatives from the following entities shall be
18 invited to participate by the chair of the task force:

19 (1) The office of the United States attorney for the
20 district of Hawaii, and if participating, the
21 representative shall be invited to serve as vice chair



1 of the task force; provided that the state attorney
2 general shall designate another task force member to
3 serve as vice chair if necessary;

4 (2) The United States Department of Homeland Security;

5 (3) The United States Drug Enforcement Agency;

6 (4) The Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

7 (5) Any governmental or private entity deemed relevant by
8 the chair of the task force.

9 (d) The task force shall dedicate itself to the
10 eradication of illegal gambling and drug activities in the
11 State. Accordingly, the task force shall engage in an
12 organized, collaborative effort to examine relevant issues,
13 determine the resources needed to address these issues, and
14 devise a coordinated action plan. Activities of the task force
15 shall include:

16 (1) Establishing, under the department of the attorney
17 general, a statewide program to identify and eliminate
18 illegal gambling houses and drug houses; and

19 (2) Establishing community safe zones throughout the State
20 for the purpose of enforcing zoning and other
21 restrictions on lands that may be used for gambling



1 activities, including casino gaming, regardless of
2 whether the activities are legal or illegal; provided
3 that the task force shall endeavor to establish, at a
4 minimum, a requirement that lands that may be used for
5 any type of gambling activity, and any structures
6 thereupon, be situated more than ten thousand feet
7 away from churches, schools, and residential areas;
8 provided further that the task force shall also
9 endeavor to establish an appropriate enforcement
10 mechanism for this requirement.

11 (e) The chair and vice chair of the task force shall
12 oversee the activities of the task force and lead the decision-
13 making of the task force members.

14 (f) The task force shall submit a report of its findings
15 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
16 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
17 the regular session of 2022.

18 (g) The members of the task force shall serve without
19 compensation and shall receive no reimbursement for expenses.

20 (h) The members of the task force shall not be considered
21 employees for the purposes of chapter 84, Hawaii Revised



1 Statutes, based solely upon their participation in the task
2 force.

3 (i) The task force shall be dissolved upon adjournment
4 sine die of the regular session of 2022.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

6

INTRODUCED BY:

RL McSwain

JAN 27 2021



H.B. NO. 1249

Report Title:

Gambling; Drugs; Special Intergovernmental Task Force; Community Safe Zones

Description:

Establishes a special intergovernmental task force to eradicate illegal gambling and drug activities and to establish community safe zones across the State. Requires a report to the legislature.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

