



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2021**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:
S.B. NO. 1381, RELATING TO CRIME.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

DATE: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 **TIME:** 1:20 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Via Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**
(For more information, contact Landon M.M. Murata,
Deputy Attorney General, at 586-1049)

Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) appreciates the intent of this bill but has concerns.

This bill would establish an intergovernmental task force comprised of the Attorney General, the Directors of Public Safety and of Transportation, the Chiefs of Police and the Directors of Planning of all the counties, representatives of various federal agencies, and others, with the purpose of dedicating itself to the eradication of illegal gambling and drug activities

The Department has concerns with section 2 beginning on page 1, line 16, of bill regarding the duties of the task force. Specifically, subsection (d) on page 3, lines 12-14, directs the task force to “examine relevant issues, determine the resources needed to address these issues, and devise a coordinated action plan.” However, subsections (d)(1) and (2) then require the task force to establish several initiatives that would more appropriately be examined by the task force when devising the coordinated action plan. The Department recommends that initiatives such as (1) a statewide program to identify and eliminate illegal gambling houses and drug houses, (2) community safe zones throughout the State, and (3) a requirement that lands and structures that may be used for gambling activities be situated more than ten thousand feet from churches, schools,

and residential areas, should be considered by the task force when fulfilling its duty to “examine relevant issues, determine the resources needed to address these issues, and devise a coordinated action plan.” These initiatives should not be mandated without the requisite examination by the task force. The resources and legislative action that may be necessary to accomplish these actions are not known at this time because, as the bill provides, it will be the responsibility of the task force to evaluate such matters and report on its findings to the legislature as provided in subsection (f) on page 4, lines 14-17.

Accordingly, the Department recommends that the words “Activities of the task force shall include:” on page 3, lines 14-15, should be amended to read “In fulfilling its duties under this subsection, the task force shall consider the resources and legislative proposals that may be necessary to accomplish the following:”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
MAYOR

OUR REFERENCE
YOUR REFERENCE

POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNTY OF MAUI

55 MAHALANI STREET
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793
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TIVOLI S. FAAUMU
CHIEF OF POLICE

DEAN M. RICKARD
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

February 12, 2021

Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
J. Kalani English, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Thirty-First Legislature 2021
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SENATE BILL 1381 RELATING TO CRIME

Dear Chair Nishihara and Committee Members:

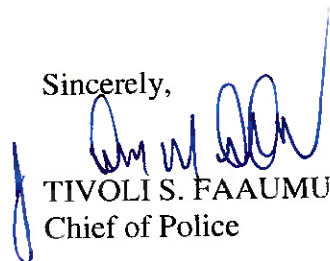
The Maui Police Department OPPOSES the passage of SB 1381 RELATING TO CRIME.

This act, in part, establishes an intergovernmental task force comprised of Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies to eradicate illegal gambling and drug activities. This is redundant as there is already an inter-county task force and established law enforcement partnerships that we call upon to combat these issues in our respective counties. The act as written will also take away our autonomy to operate within our own unique jurisdictions.

In addition, under SECTION 2(d)(2), the act will identify locations where gambling is permitted, as chosen by the same intergovernmental task force. As a law enforcement agency, we do not support legalized gambling in the State of Hawaii.

Accordingly, the Maui Police Department will NOT SUPPORT SB 1381 as written.
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



TIVOLI S. FAAUMU
Chief of Police



/AIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 9

/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BLVD. SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

The Waikiki Neighborhood Board supports the concept of the following bill: SB1381

At the February 9, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Waikiki Neighborhood Board the Board voted in favor of the concept of this bill.

Crime in Waikiki is a constant concern of the Waikiki Neighborhood Board and passage of this bill will strengthen the ability of the Honolulu Police Department and the City Prosecutor to better protect the residents and visitors in Waikiki.

Robert J. Finley
Robert J. Finley
Chair



Submitted Online: February 15, 2021

Hearing: Tuesday, February 16, 2021

TO: Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, President

RE: Support for SB 1381 Relating to Crime

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii. We support this bill that would create a task force encompassing federal, state, and city agencies to engage in an organized, collaborative effort to devise a coordinated action plan to eradicate illegal gambling and drug activities, establish community safe zones across the State, examine relevant issues, and to determine the resources needed to address these issues.

Once organized at this basic level, task force members can begin to discuss how to best respond in a coordinated manner towards dealing with the issues that we are facing in Hawaii today: illegal gambling, crime, drug abuse, and sex trafficking. These are all issues that directly affect families in our beautiful state – and they are all issues that directly intersect with gambling. Rather than creating a piecemeal approach to dealing with them, we appreciate the concerted effort to bring together the professionals that are united in their purpose to eradicate these issues.

This task force will ensure that there will be a clear and distinct plan in place to keep Hawaii safe from the unintended social ills that stem from it and we truly appreciate your consideration in moving this bill forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-1381

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 12:15:55 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/16/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. We need to protect our state from unlawful activities, and harmful legislation .

Please support this bill.

Alice Abellanida

SB-1381

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 7:01:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/16/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Thomas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

A'ole Casinos... A'ole Gambling.. A'ole Ka HEWA!

SB-1381

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 7:01:48 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/16/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
elizabeth Tavake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill! We need to create a taskforce and safe zones for the betterment of Hawaii!

SB-1381

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 7:43:45 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/16/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael I Rice	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I stand in support of this bill, however I have concerns with section D 2 that stipulates that a place of gambling (including legal casinos) not be within 10,000 feet (Roughly 1.8 miles) of Residential Areas and churches might be a bit strict in respect to a legal casino. Oahu is only 25 miles wide and is host to numerous churches and residential areas.

While I agree there should be increased punishments for illegal establishments found within this area, I don't think it should apply to legal casinos, or at the very least the distance should be reduced to 5,000 feet for legal casinos (while keeping the 10,000 foot distance for illegal establishments).

SB-1381

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 8:41:22 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/16/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex Kauhi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly Support

SB-1381

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 8:31:48 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/16/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rayne Kauhi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB1381

SB-1381

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 9:17:29 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/16/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
melvin masuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a private citizen -- like so many other private citizens -- I am very concerned about what appears to be increasing illegal gambling and drug activities not only in my own neighborhood in Mililani Town but also in other areas of the Islands of Hawaii. So, I very strongly support SB 1381.

LATE

SB-1381

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 2:21:12 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/16/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Robello	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in strong support of this bill. Throughout my lifetime, I have experienced family and friends who have taken part in gambling/gaming and it only led to disaster. It brought povety, drugs, violence, and all the unimaginal things that should not take place in communities with families, schools, and places. This is why I am in strong support of this bill that asks for safe zones. We need safe zones for our keiki, kupuna, and Hawai'i residents. As a parent, daughter, and sister, I would not want my 'ohana near gambling or gaming activity. Our state is in need of safer zones so that citizens of Hawai'i can rest assured that their loved ones are safe from the dangers that gambling/gaming poses to the community.

Mahalo,

Crystal Robello

LATE

SB-1381

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 7:14:41 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/16/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raiza Dalofin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This will help decrease crime in the state by using other government agencies, not just HPD

SB-1381

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 9:05:21 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/16/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
melissa Kaonohi-Camit	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

ALoha,

I am in support of bill SB 1381

Mahalo

SB-1381

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 9:43:51 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/16/2021 1:20:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jamie white	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I whole heartedly support community safety zones in Hawaii to eradicate illegal gambling and drug activities. Many of my family and friends were affected by drugs and illegal gambling for many years and generations. If we address this issue now it'll set precedence and change lives for generations to come. Gambling is not the solution to Hawaii's economy as you can see. Drugs are coming in Hawaii like fireworks on new years eve! Having these safety zones will help stop the bleeding. Gambling and drugs go hand in hand, along with other illegal activities. So I support this bill. Mahalo!

LATE

SB-1381

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 11:29:04 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/16/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nikos Leverenz	Testifying for Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill creates an intergovernmental task force where there are already a range of intergovernmental task forces and interagency collaborations. As such, it is duplicative and unnecessary.

Further, less government resources should be dedicated to supply-side interdiction. More resources should instead be dedicated to demand reduction measures like medically supervised treatment for those with diagnosed substance use disorders outside of the criminal legal context.

Policymakers should also seek to reduce criminal penalties for drug possession that place an inordinate toll on governmental resources, including overcrowded jails and prisons.

[As noted by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs](#), Native Hawaiians bear a disproportionate burden of the current punitive response to drug use despite not using drugs at drastically difference rates than other races and ethnicities. This disproportionality is exacerbated by sentencing laws, police and prosecutorial practices, and lack of meaningful treatment opportunities.

The current regime of prohibition has not worked and will not work. Another task force will not rectify those human hardships that are deeply felt by families and communities. A public health approach is much preferable in terms of addressing the reality of substance use and substance use disorder.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

LATE

SB-1381

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 12:50:40 PM
Testimony for PSM on 2/16/2021 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose as written. If Section 2 is removed, then this bill is supportable.

To expect the members of the "task force enforce zoning and endeavor to establish, at a minimum, a requirement that lands that may be used for any type of gambling activity..etc" is simply **disingenuous**.

On the surface, the bill leads to the believer that this "task force" is a good thing until you dig deeper and realize it's just a ruse.