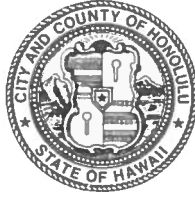


POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honoluluupd.org



RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

SUSAN BALLARD
CHIEF

JOHN D. MCCARTHY
AARON TAKASAKI-YOUNG
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE PJ-GK

February 5, 2021

The Honorable Sean Quinlan, Chair
and Members
Committee on Economic Development
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 312
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Quinlan and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 359, Relating to Gaming

I am Major Phillip Johnson of the Narcotics/Vice Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD opposes House Bill No. 359, Relating to Gaming.

The HPD opposes the legalization of gambling in Hawaii. Numerous studies have confirmed that gambling causes problems such as bankruptcy, theft, embezzlement, suicide, child abuse and neglect, divorce, incarceration, and homelessness. Studies have also demonstrated that gambling schemes are essentially regressive taxes on low-income people, those who can least afford to participate.

The financial burden associated with these problems will far outweigh any benefit realized in the name of community betterment.

The HPD urges you to oppose House Bill No. 359, Relating to Gaming, and thanks you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

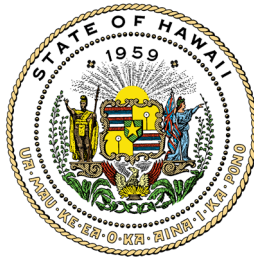
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Ballard".

Susan Ballard
Chief of Police

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillip Johnson".

Phillip Johnson, Major
Narcotics/Vice Division



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
The Honorable Sean Quinlan, Chair
The Honorable Daniel Holt, Vice Chair

H.B. NO. 359, RELATING TO GAMING

Hearing: Friday, February 5, 2021, 9:30 a.m.

The Office of the Auditor takes **no position** on H.B. No. 359 and offers the following comments.

The bill establishes a Hawai'i gaming commission, which would have the authority to, among other things, supervise all casino gaming operations in the State. The bill directs the Auditor to “conduct a program and financial audit of the [Hawai'i gaming] commission” after the first full fiscal year of operation, and every four years after the initial audit.

We have some concerns about our capacity to perform the recurring work required by this bill without additional staff. In addition to the work we are asked to perform at the close of each legislative session, we are statutorily mandated to regularly audit the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, and the Deposit Beverage Container Program; to review the special funds, revolving funds, trust funds, and trust accounts of all state departments; to assess proposed special and revolving funds; and to analyze the State's tax exemptions, exclusions, credits, and deductions.

If tasked with regularly performing program and financial audits of the commission, we will likely retain an independent CPA firm to audit the commission's financial statements. We suggest the commission be required to reimburse us the costs that we incur to perform the audits, similar to the Department of Health's obligation to reimburse us for the costs we incur to audit the Deposit Beverage Container program every other year. *See* Section 342G-107, HRS.

Thank you for considering our testimony related to H.B. No. 359. We are committed to providing meaningful audit findings that address the issues identified by the Legislature.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-7400 • FAX: (808) 768-7515

STEVEN S. ALM
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



THOMAS J. BRADY
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

THE HONORABLE SEAN QUINLAN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawai`i

February 5, 2020

RE: H.B. 359; RELATING TO GAMING.

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and members of the House Committee on Economic Development, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in strong opposition to H.B. 359.

The purpose of this bill is to establish a casino on Hawaiian home lands, potentially in Kapolei, to be overseen by a newly proposed gaming commission. While the Department understands there is serious demand for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to increase its rate of production for beneficiaries, we strongly urge the Legislature not to venture into money-making opportunities—such as building a casino—that are highly likely to have a substantial negative impact on public safety and welfare.

To date, multiple studies that show a clear correlation between casinos and increased crime and societal ills among their surrounding community. For example, Macao—one of the cities that H.B. 359 specifically points to as an inspiration for this bill¹—experienced a 52.6% increase in reported crimes between 2002 and 2008 (following the liberalization of casino licensing in 2002), from 9,088 to 13,864², and experienced a 26.6% increase in the number of high school drop-outs in the same period, from 1,886 to 2,388³. Another study on Macao estimated that the overall social costs of gambling increased by 163% between 2003 and 2007, from an original expense of \$40M to \$106M.⁴ This was based on seven areas of social impact⁵, and was said to be a conservative figure, expected to rise further in subsequent years.

¹ See House Bill 359 (2021), p. 2, ln. 20. Available online at http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2021/Bills/HB359_.pdf; last accessed February 4, 2021.

² *Id.*, at 72.

³ Wan, Y.K.P., Li, X.C., and Kong, W.H., "Social impacts of casino gaming in Macao: A qualitative analysis," *Tourism: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, Vol. 59, No. 1, 2011, p. 71. Available online at <https://hrcak.srce.hr/file/101945>; last accessed February 3, 2021.

⁴ Fong, D.K.C., Fong, H.N., and Li, S.Z., "The social cost of gambling in Macao: Before and after liberalization of the gaming industry," *International Gambling Studies*, Vol. 11, No. 1 (2011), pp. 43-56. Abstract available online at:

Closer to home, a recent study commissioned by the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women (“HSCSW”) points to the serious risk of increased sex trafficking in our community, if H.B. 359 is enacted.⁶ “In 2020, Child and Family Services...identified 97 sex trafficking victims among its clients,” statewide; this spanned five different islands, and “[t]he majority of the victims (64%) identified as Native Hawaiian.”⁷ Another community-based service provider, Susannah Wesley Community Center, reported a 65% increase in the number of people needing sex trafficking-specific therapy, during the COVID-19 pandemic alone.⁸

Seeing that Hawaii’s sex trafficking industry is clearly subject to increase, given changes in the economic climate, one can only infer that adding a casino into the mix would further exacerbate this already staggering problem. As pointed out in the HSCSW report, casinos would be expected to attract large numbers of men with disposable income, and a 2010 federal study found that “casino patrons were 17% more likely than the average survey respondent to have paid for sex in the past year.”⁹ Moreover, indigenous women are particularly susceptible to victimization, and already account for a majority of known sex trafficking victims in Hawaii, yet the proposed casino is anticipated to be located near one of the largest Native Hawaiian communities in Hawaii.¹⁰

On a more granular level, multiple studies—including the HSCSW report—have also shown a correlation between casino gambling and domestic violence, divorce, bankruptcy, drug and alcohol use, and risky or illicit sexual behavior.¹¹

Despite the substantial hardship of maintaining sufficient funding to meet the needs of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, the Department strongly urges the Legislature not to give in to temptation to introduce such dangerous—albeit lucrative—industries as casinos, into Hawaii’s communities. Multiple studies show a negative correlation between casinos and public safety and welfare, such that the high risk for increased crime—including sex trafficking and domestic violence—outweighs any potential income

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu strongly opposes H.B. 359. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14459795.2010.548393?scroll=top&needAccess=true>; last accessed February 4, 2021.

⁵ *Id.* Those seven areas were: treatment costs, prevention costs, family/friends physical and psychological costs, legal costs, rent-seeking costs, regulatory expenses, and the public costs of training, promotion and research. *Also see* Wu, Shou-Tsung and Chen, Yeong-Shyang, “The social, economic and environmental impacts of casino gambling on the residents of Macau and Singapore,” *Tourism Management*, Vol. 48 (June 2015), pp. 285-298, Section 2.1, Social Impacts. Available online at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0261517714002441>; last accessed February 3, 2021.

⁶ Hawaii’s State Commission on the Status of Women, “Gambling With Women’s Safety: A Feminist Assessment of Proposed Resort-Casino,” January 26, 2021. Available online at https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/1.26.21-r2.1.21-GIS-FINAL_DHHL-Casino.pdf; last accessed February 4, 2021.

⁷ *Id.*, at page 3.

⁸ *Id.*, at page 4.

⁹ *Id.*, at page 4. Internal references omitted.

¹⁰ *Id.*, at pages 5-6.

¹¹ *Id.*, at page 3. *See also* Wu, Shou-Tsung and Chen, Yeong-Shyang, “The social, economic and environmental impacts of casino gambling on the residents of Macau and Singapore,” *Tourism Management*, Vol. 48 (June 2015), pp. 285-298, Section 2.1, Social Impacts. Internal citations deleted. Available online at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0261517714002441>; last accessed February 3, 2021.



HAWAII TEAMSTERS & ALLIED WORKERS LOCAL 996

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Local996@hawaiiTEAMSTERS.com

1817 Hart Street
Honolulu, HI 96819-3205

Telephone: (808) 847-6633
Fax: (808) 842-4575

Testimony to the House Committee on Economic Development
February 5, 2020 ;9:30 am *Via Videoconference*

Support for HB359 – Relating to Gaming

Dear Chair Sean Quinlan and Vice-Chair Daniel Holt:

The Hawaii Teamsters & Allied Workers Union, Local 996 is in Strong **SUPPORT** of HB359. The bill for an act will grant a forty-year gaming license for a single integrated resort property on Hawaiian home lands designated for commercial use on the island of Oahu (excluding lands west of Ko Olina), establish a Hawaii Gaming Commission, impose a wagering tax on gross gaming revenue, create a State Gaming Fund, and appropriates funds.

Our State faces one of the worst economic downturns of its entire history. The integrated resort that allows gambling will be a much-needed boost to the local economy that could provide hundreds of construction jobs and thousands of long-term hospitality and retail jobs. Further, the integrated resort, upon completion, will provide much needed tax revenue to both the state and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). DHHL is the *only* State department that has the explicit constitutional mandated mission to provide housing for our Native Hawaiian families. The Department waitlist is over 28,000 persons long. Every waitlisted person represents a local family in need of a home. By increasing the funding available to the department through an integrated resort, the department will play a critical role in addressing Hawaii's ongoing housing crisis. A steady funding source to DHHL will help spur the construction industry through public infrastructure projects and housing developments benefiting our local economy. We also support Hawaii establishing the necessary environmental conditions that permit gambling as an economic activity benefiting DHHL while preventing any potential social and health risks. Let's get our people to work, support our local businesses and economy, and fulfill our State's promise to house our Native Hawaiian neighbors and their local families.

Sincerely,

Cody Sula
Government Affairs Liaison
Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers, Local 996

WAYNE K.S. KAULULAAU
President/Principal Officer

RYAN YOSHIDA
Secretary – Treasurer

FREDERICK LIVA
Vice President

ANTHONY "BULLY" BADAYOS
Recording Secretary

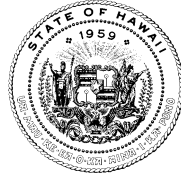
WENDY NAILE
Trustee

JAMES "KIMO" LAROYA JR.
Trustee

WALTER FOX III
Trustee

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 5, 2021 AT 9:30AM VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

HB 359 RELATING TO GAMING

February 4, 2021

Aloha Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) strongly supports this bill, which establishes a Hawai'i Gaming Commission authorized to issue a single forty-year license for an integrated resort on Hawaiian Home Lands designated for commercial use on the island of O'ahu excluding lands west of Ko Olina.

July 9, 2021 marks the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920. While over 10,000 beneficiary families have received homestead awards in that time, another 28,000 beneficiaries and their families wait for the hope of Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole's promise to his people.

As a condition of Statehood, the State also carries this promise to the native Hawaiian people to fulfill the mission of the Department. While recent funding allocations from the legislature are historically high, there remains a gap between the annual \$20-\$30 million the State can afford to allocate to the Department, and the nearly \$200 million that the Department and the Hawaiian Homes Commission believe is necessary to carry out its duties.

To date, there has been no legislative proposal in 100 years that both ensures reliable and consistent funding at the levels that this bill proposes or that envisions a solution to the ever-growing waitlist.

This bill authorizes the Hawaiian Homes Commission to exercise its authority over its lands to maximize its revenue generation by allowing the issuance of a single gaming license to operate an integrated resort. The Department believes, conservatively, an integrated resort including a casino on Hawaiian Home Lands could generate a minimum of \$30 million in annual tax revenue. This unprecedented revenue source is greater than the Department's total annual revenue receipts from all commercial lands combined. The Department would utilize these much-needed funds to

develop lots and acquire additional lands to satisfy the waitlist and develop native Hawaiian housing and communities in light of the State's housing and economic crises.

A single gaming facility could generate between 2,000 and 7,000 new jobs that extend far beyond service-industry occupations, including new positions that do not currently exist in Hawai'i in I.T. and computer science, accounting and auditing, investigations and enforcement, and executive level positions. Gaming jobs are generally higher paying – offering a solution to the State's growing number of kama'āina forced to leave the State and a pathway for those abroad to return home.

This bill also proposes a tax structure that brings revenue to both the Department and the State. The State stands to realize additional increases in general excise tax and transient accommodations tax revenues as a result of the positive economic impacts of an integrated resort. Gaming has been found to have a complementary, rather than substitution, effect on other businesses, and there is empirical evidence to support the "drawing power" of casinos and the impact of consumer spending on surrounding businesses.

The State of Hawai'i is uniquely situated between large domestic and international markets and has a robust visitor industry infrastructure, more so than many markets across the country that already generate billions of dollars in revenue. While the Department acknowledges the many concerns of social ills associated with gaming, the scientific community and over thirty years of research and data on gaming offer Hawai'i the means to both address these social ills and operate gaming responsibly.

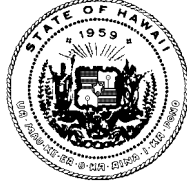
Reports indicate no causal link between gaming and addiction, bankruptcy, poverty, and crime. In fact, jurisdictions that allocated resources from gaming revenue to address these possible outcomes have demonstrated no statistically significant increases in these ills, and in some cases have observed decreases.

While vulnerable communities in rural areas are often the focus of some reports to justify prohibiting gaming, we have instead learned that gaming is as equally powerful a tool in addressing many of the comorbidities that plague vulnerable communities. These approaches have instead empowered and offered economic independence for many indigenous communities across this country.

This bill provides an opportunity to generate and leverage funds at a larger scale to meet the myriad needs of the native Hawaiian people and of the Department.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

LATE



‘O kēia ‘ōlelo hō’ike no ke
Komikina Kūlana Olakino o Nā Wāhine

Testimony on behalf of the
**Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of
Women**

Comments re: HB359
February 5, 2021

Aloha Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt and Honorable Members,

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women provides comments on HB359, which grants a forty-year gaming license for a single integrated resort property on Hawaiian home lands designated for commercial use on the island of O‘ahu excluding lands west of Ko Olina. The measure, if passed, would also establish the Hawai‘i Gaming Commission.

At the request by members of the Hawai‘i State House of Representatives, the Commission recently submitted an ex ante evaluation of the impacts on women of the proposed resort-casino. The report, *Gambling With Women’s Safety*, found that Native Hawaiian, immigrant and impoverished women, LGBTQ people and children living in geographic proximity to the resort-casino are likely to experience the most gambling harm, such as problem gambling (addiction), domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault and sex trafficking.

Historically, demand for sexual services and “companionship” in Hawai‘i has been met through abduction, “picture brides,” and trafficking of Native Hawaiian and foreign-born women. Available data shows that many of these practices continue, and disproportionately impact the same groups of women. This project could worsen the State’s current sex trafficking crisis. Casinos draw a large presence of men with money to spend on leisure and relaxation including paid sex, which then impacts the number of prostituted people required to be brought in to meet the demand. This is likely to incentivize additional sex trafficking of women. Native Hawaiian women are particularly at risk of coercive recruitment into the sex trade due to their economic vulnerability. Mitigation measures would likely face a structural headwind because sex trafficking reduction requires demand reduction, which is unlikely to be undertaken because would require intervention with gambling customers who generate revenue. Thus, the resort-casino could create a vicious cycle that disincentives sex buyer demand reduction, and incentives arrests of or lack of exit services for sexually exploited women. This is only one of many potential risks to women identified in the report.

Finally, countries such as New Zealand should not be promoted as successful examples of legal gambling and sex industries where exploitation has been mitigated. Currently, a formal tribunal is underway to review a claim from Māori (indigenous) women that the state regulation of prostitution in New Zealand has prejudicially affected Māori women, fueling overrepresentation of Māori women in prostitution generally, and is inconsistent with the principles of the Articles Two and Three of Te Tiriti o Waitangi treaty between the British Crown and Māori. The links between sex trafficking and gambling in New Zealand require further research however sex trafficking and sexual exploitation of indigenous and immigrant women to meet the demand for paid sex remain systemic in that country.

Accordingly, the Commission hopes that the Committee will consider women's safety as a key factor in determining the path of this measure.

Mahalo,
Khara Jabola-Carolus, J.D.

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS, Casino gaming on Hawaiian home lands

BILL NUMBER: HB 359; SB 1321

INTRODUCED BY: HB by SAIKI by request; SB by KOUCHI by request, CHANG, KEOHOKALOLE, San Buenaventura, Shimabukuro

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Grants 40 year gaming license for a single integrated resort property on Hawaiian home lands designated for commercial use on the island of Oahu excluding lands west of Ko Olina. Establishes Hawaii Gaming Commission. Imposes wagering tax on gross gaming revenue. Creates State Gaming Fund. Appropriates funds.

SYNOPSIS: Adds a new chapter to the HRS authorizing casino gaming. Creates a gaming commission with powers necessary to supervise casino gaming and to collect taxes imposed by the chapter. The gaming commission may award one nontransferable gaming license, along with supplier's licenses and occupational licenses.

Section -8(d) provides that the application fee to compete for the gaming license is \$1 million, supposedly to defray the costs associated with an applicant's background investigation, so that if the investigation costs more than \$1 million the applicant will have to pay the difference.

Section 5 of the bill provides that the successful licensee will be expected to pay an additional \$5 million to DHHL no later than the day on which the casino opens.

Section -19 provides for a wagering tax of 45% of gross gaming revenues.

Provides other technical and conforming provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/2021.

STAFF COMMENTS: When deciding to legalize gaming, we need to be mindful about the possibility of opening Pandora's box to a degree greater than we may have anticipated.

This possibility arises because of a federal law called the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, or IGRA, 25 U.S.C. §§ 2701 et seq. President Ronald Reagan signed it into law on October 17, 1988, and, interestingly enough, the primary legislators involved in drafting it were Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, Representative and then (as of 1987) Senator John McCain of Arizona, and Representative Mo Udall of Arizona.

The IGRA allows Indian tribes to conduct gaming operations in a State, even if the State doesn't agree, under certain conditions. Basically, you need to have an Indian tribe, Indian lands, and gambling that is permitted by the State.

We now have neither Indians nor Indian lands here. However, there's nothing to prevent Native Americans headquartered elsewhere from packing their bags and moving here if the opportunity

is right. Indian lands usually means a reservation, but it could be any lands over which an Indian tribe exercises governmental power. It is possible for any of the federally recognized Native American tribes from whipping out a checkbook, buying up some land, and then going to the Department of the Interior to invoke a process called “fee-to-trust.” That process would result in the tribe acquiring governmental power over the land. See <https://www.doi.gov/ocl/trust-land-acquisition>.

Once those elements are in place, the IGRA says that the State will need to allow casino gaming on tribal lands if it allows casino gaming anywhere else. Those are the rules for what the IGRA calls “Class III gaming.” Thus, if this bill passes, casino gaming can be allowed in other locations in Hawaii for Indians on Indian lands.

There will be some temporary hurdles. A tribal ordinance permitting the gaming needs to be approved by the National Indian Gaming Commission, which shouldn’t be tough for a tribe that already conducts Class III gaming in another state. Finally, either the state and the tribe need to negotiate a compact, or deal, or the Department of the Interior needs to approve regulatory procedures over the gaming. In other words, if the tribe and the State don’t agree to a deal the Department of the Interior can shove one down the State’s throat.

And here is the kicker. The IGRA also provides that States are not allowed to levy taxes or fees on tribal gambling, unless specifically allowed in the compact. Thus, not only can an Indian tribe come to Hawaii to conduct casino gambling, but it might be able to conduct the gambling free of State tax. Here, that could be a tremendous competitive advantage over the proposed DHHL casino, where this bill specifically provides for a forty-five per cent (45%) tax on gross gaming revenues. And that may be on top of the familiar Hawaii GET, no exemption for which is provided in this bill.

The reason none of this has happened yet in Hawaii is simple. Hawaii has not allowed any form of gambling so far. So, under the IGRA, not even Class II gaming (bingo games and similar) is allowed in Hawaii.

All of that being said, are we in Hawaii ready for Class III gaming and the consequences that may well ensue from them?

Digested 2/2/2021

OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

STATE OF HAWAII
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT BUILDING
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 107
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: 808-586-1400 FAX: 808-586-1412
EMAIL: oip@hawaii.gov

To: House Committee on Economic Development

From: Cheryl Kakazu Park, Director

Date: February 5, 2021, 9:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference

Re: Testimony on H.B. No. 359
Relating to Gaming

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which would license a gaming resort on Hawaiian home lands and establish a Hawaii Gaming Commission. The Office of Information Practices (OIP) takes no position on the substance of this bill, but has concerns regarding a provision providing complete confidentiality for financial information in a gaming license application, and a confusing special meeting provision for the Commission that may conflict with the Sunshine Law. Therefore, **OIP has suggested amendments** to the bill for the following reasons.

Proposed subsection __-8(b), at page 33, lines 1-8, would provide complete confidentiality for all financial information submitted as part of a license application. For privately held companies, most if not all financial information included in a license or grant application or a contract bid can be withheld as confidential business information under the Uniform Information Practices Act in any case, but this provision would require confidentiality even for published financial information, such as the public filings a publicly held company must make or puffery about a company's holdings from a sales brochure. It would be ridiculous

to treat such information as confidential. **OIP therefore recommends that this subsection be amended so that lines 4-6 instead read “. . . any financial information submitted by each applicant shall be kept confidential by the commission to the extent permitted by law.”**

The proposed Commission meets the definition of a “board” in part I of chapter 92, the Sunshine Law, and thus will be required to follow the Sunshine Law’s requirements. However, a special meeting provision in proposed subsection __-3(e), at page 15, lines 1-7, confusingly appears to set separate and slightly different requirements for special meetings and may be based on an incorrect assumption that special meetings would not be subject to the Sunshine Law’s requirements.

First, under this bill a special meeting may be called “upon seventy-two hours written notice to each member.” The Sunshine Law doesn’t set a requirement for giving notice to board members, but does require filing public notice of meetings six days before the meeting date. **Thus, if the Commission tried to call a special meeting by giving written notice to each member four days ahead of the meeting date, it would meet the seventy-two hours requirement in this proposal, but would not meet the Sunshine Law’s notice requirement, and thus could not hold the meeting.** It could, of course, post public notice of the meeting six or more days ahead and also give written notice to its members seventy-two hours ahead, so strictly speaking this is not a conflict between the bill and the Sunshine Law, but it is confusing since it implies that written notice to the members would be the only requirement for calling a special meeting.

Second, the bill also requires the commission to “keep a complete and accurate record of all its meetings,” but since the Sunshine Law already has detailed minutes requirements that would apply to the Commission’s meetings, the

additional “complete and accurate record” requirement in this bill is duplicative and confusing.

While quorum requirements are not part of the Sunshine Law and thus OIP does not administer them, **OIP also notes that it is unclear whether this bill requires all five members to be present for the commission to make a final determination**, or simply requires a majority of the five members to vote in favor, regardless of whether all five are present or only three. OIP also recommends clarifying that requirement in its suggested language below.

To avoid confusion resulting from requirements that overlap and duplicate the Sunshine Law, OIP recommends that subsection (e) be replaced with the following:

(e) The commission~~[-subject to chapter 92,]~~ shall hold at least one meeting in each quarter of the State’s fiscal year. The commission shall hold its initial meeting within one year of the effective date of Act . Special meetings may be called by the chairperson or any three members ~~[upon seventy-two hours written notice to each member]~~. Three members shall constitute a quorum, and a majority vote of the five members ~~[present]~~ shall be required for any final determination by the commission. ~~[The commission shall keep a complete and accurate record of all its meetings.]~~

Thank you for considering OIP’s proposed amendment.

IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

February 5, 2021
9:30 am

House Committee on Economic Development
Via Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

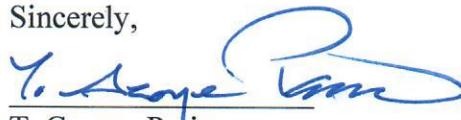
Re: HB359 – Relating to Gaming

Aloha Chair Quinlan, Vice-Chair Holt, and Members of the House Committee,

We **SUPPORT** HB359. The bill, if enacted, will grant a forty-year gaming license for a single integrated resort property on Hawaiian home lands designated for commercial use on the island of Oahu excluding lands west of Ko Olina, establish a Hawaii Gaming Commission, impose a wagering tax on gross gaming revenue, create a State Gaming Fund, and appropriates funds. Here at home, the pandemic has resulted in over 580,000 workers filing unemployment claims last year. We in Hawaii also face the distinct crisis of a looming homelessness tsunami. The moratoriums on evictions promulgated by the President and Governor are only stop-gap emergency measures that address public health and safety. Those measures do not address the underlying growing fiscal debt owed by renters and mortgagees to landlords and lenders. The Federal relief provided through CARES and subsequent legislation is greatly appreciated but does not keep pace with the growing debt. Many of our 'ohana have not been able to work and are now faced with upwards of a ten months' worth of back mortgage or rent payments that could be in the tens of thousands of dollars per family. We need worker relief in the short-term and we need to spur construction as part of our economic recovery.

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) is the *only* State department that has the explicit constitutional mandated mission to provide housing for our Native Hawaiian families. The Department waitlist is over 28,000 persons long. Every waitlisted person represents a local family in need of a home. By increasing the funding available to the department through an integrated resort, the department will play a critical role in addressing Hawaii's ongoing housing crisis. A steady funding source to DHHL will help spur the construction industry through public infrastructure projects and housing developments benefiting our local economy. We also support Hawaii establishing the necessary environmental conditions that permit gambling as an economic activity benefiting DHHL while preventing any potential social and health risks. The integrated resort project and the resulting tax revenue will help us rescue some of those swept up in the tsunami of houselessness. Let's get our people to work, support our local businesses and economy, and fulfill our State's promise to house our Native Hawaiian neighbors and their local families.

Sincerely,



T. George Paris
Managing Director

TGP: MP



Global Market Advisors

Gaming as an Economic Engine for Hawaii

Testimony in support of HB539

On behalf of Global Market Advisors, I want to thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today in support of HB539 that would allow the development of an integrated resort on the island of Oahu. Gaming has long been contemplated and discussed in Hawaii, and any authorization of a limited casino needs thoughtful consideration. This bill begins that conversation.

As you consider moving forward with this new form of entertainment for Hawaii, it is important to have the long-term gaming policy consideration for the State of Hawaii. This would include evaluating the current and future understanding of the economic opportunity, the social implications, and the best regulatory structure that suits the long-term goals for the state.

Integrated resorts (“IR”) have proven to be economic engines using gaming as the driver for these types of development. The key to the success of an IR is in sound gaming policy to set the standard for the long term. It should not be viewed as a quick fix to solve a budget crisis or to fill a niche. Having an IR development on the island of Oahu would provide a long-term source of revenue, not just through gaming but all of the other economic activity associated with a development of this size and scope. The revenue generated from this project can be reinvested in achieving the goal of finding home for native Hawaiian while creating high quality, high paying jobs.

Crafting sound policy and regulation is essential to the long-term success of a market and to allow the proper level of competition that prevents one form of legal gaming from cannibalizing another. There are countless examples of both good and less-than-desired markets that attempted to allow gaming. We have also studied the impact that gaming can have as a tourism generator. We have confidence that Hawaii will take a prudent approach to crafting any expansion – one that is uniquely designed for your market that is suited appropriately to the culture, customs, and legal structure.

As you evaluate the long-term policy goals, it is important to understand the positive impacts that gaming can have on a community, as well as mitigating any potential negative effects. It is important to take a thorough evaluation of the opportunity to guide the process moving forward,

relying on experts that specialize in the sector. We invite you to review the following brief considerations that can provide further understanding of the opportunity:

Gaming is one of the most regulated industries. This is designed in this manner to ensure a strong product for the marketplace to operate in a strictly regulated market that allows only the highest quality of individuals and organizations to operate gaming facilities. Gaming on its own is a complex industry to establish through the legislative process. There is only one opportunity to do this right, and it must be done prudentially and judiciously.

Please allow me to take a few moments to provide some comments on items that should be considered, should HB539 proceed forward. As background, I have personally worked on gaming legislation and regulation in various jurisdictions in the United States, as well as throughout the Americas, Europe, and Asia. Gaming policy is best developed by incorporating local jurisdictions and achieving common principles including the following:

- Understanding the economics and feasibility of gaming that is generating tax revenue to local and state entities
- Establishing a strictly regulated market that only allows access to suitable operators while creating solid regulations and standards
- Providing Consumer Protections

ECONOMICS AND FEASIBILITY

Any new gaming jurisdiction should take a realistic approach in studying the market so that any projections used for budgetary planning purposes will take into account the full legal gaming market while understanding the opportunity. This should include a comprehensive study to look at the impacts of all potential forms of gaming to understand the economic and social impacts on businesses, communities, and the state. While today's proposal only considers a stand-alone integrated resort, there may be other items to consider that would generate additional revenue to local communities and the state, or could potentially impact the proposed development. Having a clear understanding of these impacts will position the market for growth and attract quality development into the market.

It is also important to understand the impacts of the proposed development and ensure that they are right-sized for the market opportunity. This includes understanding the size, scope, and economic impact of these proposed projects, as well as understanding the temporary and permanent jobs created and the direct, indirect, and induced impact of these facilities. Having a clear understanding of these impacts will position the market for growth and attract quality development into the market.



LICENSURE AND SUITABILITY

No one is entitled to a gaming license. Plain and simple, it is a privilege to hold a gaming license. As Hawaii moves forward with the licensure of its six existing racetrack facilities, it must evaluate all of the organizations, directors, key employees, suppliers, and other stakeholders that have any interaction with the operations and the games themselves. This includes conducting background checks and finding whether or not individuals are suitable to hold a gaming license, as well as having the tools necessary for the board to remove someone that is not suitable.

Strong gaming markets allow for only the highest caliber of individuals to hold a gaming license. Whether they are a slot technician, a dealer, the president of a property, or the owner of a facility, all of these individuals need to be held to the same high standard that provides confidence in the process, the business that they are conducting, and the individuals participating in this form of entertainment.

CRAFTING A STRICTLY REGULATED MARKET

Integrity, first and foremost, exists in the laws and regulations that are paramount to any gaming market. Stakeholders need to know that gaming regulations and standards do not need to be reinvented. Multiple states and jurisdictions have already gone through this process and offer a solid foundation to draft regulations based on the legislative language and intent. Consumers need to be assured that, in a strict regulatory environment, the games are being held to the highest standards and integrity, whereas illegal and offshore markets do not have to follow these rules or standards. By adopting regulations and standards that allow for a level playing field, jurisdictions can be assured that they are offering a quality product while relying on best practices that have been demonstrated in other jurisdictions.

As the committee considers how to authorize an integrated resort, it can glean best practices from other markets to create a strong regulatory framework for Hawaii to attract the best operators to the market for the one license considered in a competitive process. This is best accomplished through sound policy. Legal operators that have licenses in other jurisdictions invest millions of dollars in infrastructure, marketing, operations, and employment into a market. These organizations already have standards for suitability and licensure to conduct gaming today. Whether it is an operator, a supplier, or anyone else assisting with the operations of a market, they need to be held to the same high standard that is expected in other major markets. They should also exhibit a solid track record, in order to avoid errors that have occurred in other jurisdictions.

The regulatory body is your gatekeeper for the industry as it will set the standards, develop and implement the regulations, and instill confidence in the process for operators, consumers, and the general public. It is imperative that this body have a strong background and understanding of the industry that it is about to become regulated. This includes understanding the dynamics



and challenges that can exist with the games, financial standards, consumer protections, and overall operations of both gaming and non-gaming amenities

In many jurisdictions, representatives of key sectors are appointed to the gaming oversight board to allow for certain professions to be represented on these bodies. This includes individuals that have specialties in finance/accounting, legal, or law enforcement. Technology is emerging as another standard because of the level at which the industry is evolving. While some of these individuals do not have a strong background in gaming, they offer an expertise from another sector that is applicable to understand the area in which they are regulating. This is not about self-governance but rather about having a strong body that listens to the industry and understands its role in regulating it.

CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

Consumer protections are the cornerstone of any strict regulatory environment. This includes ensuring that operators maintain key aspects of the Know Your Customer standard, as well as safeguards to ensure that customers are old enough to gamble, that they are able to fund their accounts, that they have not violated any anti-money laundering or other banking regulations, and that they are not on any watch lists. Technology greatly aids this process, allowing the operator to compare new customer data against existing databases in real time to ensure compliance.

Responsible gaming measures are another cornerstone of any consumer protection offering. At a minimum, this should include the ability for individuals to seek help for themselves or others who may develop a problem with gaming. In many jurisdictions, this also includes self-exclusion policies, which enable individuals to exclude themselves from gaming and opt out of receiving gaming promotions. Technology greatly aids this effort as well for self-exclusion and educational tools. Responsible operators will enlist robust programs to assist those individuals who may develop a problem. Research is also a key component that should be considered. This includes establishing best practices, making sure that measures are effective, and delivering resources that are appropriate to the unique characteristics of the market. Groups like the National Council on Problem Gambling, private entities like EPIC Risk Management, academic institutions, or others that specialize in the area can serve as solid resources.

In conclusion, the opportunity is set for Hawaii to create an integrated resort through a dynamic, strictly regulated gaming market. This will enhance and expand the tourism and entertainment offering within the states, using gaming as an economic catalyst to generate revenue for the state to meet the needs of native Hawaiians. Any new gaming jurisdiction should understand the economics and the actual revenue potential of the market, as well as the social impacts. In turn, this will lead to the crafting a Hawaiian structured regulatory framework that builds upon your existing standards, protects consumers, and creates an environment to enhance tourism. If done



correctly, the State of Hawaii, its residents, and its visitors will benefit from the experience and environment that is created. Using gaming as an economic catalyst, it is our hope that with a positive vote today, the Legislature will move forward with the opportunity for integrated resorts and other potential forms of gaming that are currently prevalent in United States.

Brendan Bussmann
Partner, Director of Government Affairs
Global Market Advisors
bdb@globalmarketadvisors.com
+1 402.432.1149





INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE, STRUCTURAL, ORNAMENTAL AND REINFORCING IRON WORKERS

Affiliated with A.F.L.-C.I.O.

LOCAL UNION NUMBER 625

94-497 UKEE STREET • WAIPAHO, HAWAII 96797

T.G. Paris
President Emeritus

February 5, 2021 – 9:30 am
Via Videoconference
House Economic Development Committee

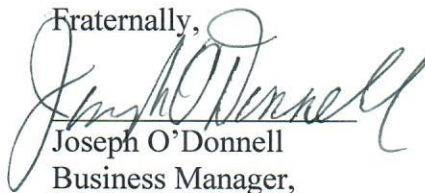
Re: Support for HB359 – Relating to Gaming

Dear Chair Sean Quinlan and Vice-Chair Daniel Holt:

The Iron Workers Local Union 625, AFL-CIO **SUPPORTS** HB359. The bill for an act will grant a forty-year gaming license for a single integrated resort property on Hawaiian home lands designated for commercial use on the island of Oahu (excluding lands west of Ko Olina), establish a Hawaii Gaming Commission, impose a wagering tax on gross gaming revenue, create a State Gaming Fund, and appropriates funds.

Our State faces one of the worst economic downturns of its entire history. The integrated resort that allows gambling will be a much-needed boost to the local economy that could provide hundreds of construction jobs and thousands of long-term hospitality and retail jobs. Further, the integrated resort, upon completion, will provide much needed tax revenue to both the state and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). DHHL is the *only* State department that has the explicit constitutional mandated mission to provide housing for our Native Hawaiian families. The Department waitlist is over 28,000 persons long. Every waitlisted person represents a local family in need of a home. By increasing the funding available to the department through an integrated resort, the department will play a critical role in addressing Hawaii's ongoing housing crisis. A steady funding source to DHHL will help spur the construction industry through public infrastructure projects and housing developments benefiting our local economy. We also support Hawaii establishing the necessary environmental conditions that permit gambling as an economic activity benefiting DHHL while preventing any potential social and health risks. Together, we can keep our people working, help them with housing, and spur our local economy.

Fraternally,



Joseph O'Donnell
Business Manager,
Financial Secretary-Treasurer



INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION

LOCAL OFFICE • 451 ATKINSON DRIVE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814 • PHONE 949-4161

HAWAII DIVISION: 100 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720 • OAHU DIVISION: 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
MAUI COUNTY DIVISION: 896 Lower Main Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 • KAUAI DIVISION: 4154 Hardy Street, Lihue, Hawaii 96766
HAWAII LONGSHORE DIVISION: 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

LOCAL 142

The Thirty-First Legislature
Regular Session of 2021

THE HOUSE
Committee on Economic Development
Rep. Sean Quinlan, Chair
Rep. Daniel Holt, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Videoconference
Friday, February 5, 2021; 9:30 a.m.

STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 359 RELATING TO GAMING.

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 359, which grants forty-year gaming license for a single integrated resort property on Hawaiian home lands designated for commercial use on the island of Oahu excluding lands west of Ko Olina, establishes Hawaii Gaming Commission, imposes wagering tax on gross gaming revenue, creates State Gaming Fund and appropriates funds.

The ILWU Local 142 recognizes some of the concerns a casino or gaming may cause but we also recognize the need to help expand and diversify our economy that has been harshly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Hawaii is still facing record unemployment and some analysts predict we may not see full recovery to pre-pandemic levels until 2024 at the earliest.

The single integrated casino and resort on Hawaiian home lands will generate good-paying jobs, help diversify the economy and provide additional revenue generation for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the state of Hawaii. But most importantly, the revenue received from the casino will allow DHHL to build much-needed homes for the 28,000 on the waitlist.

We believe this measure warrants further discussion and recommend passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



United Food & Commercial Workers Union, Local 480
 808 Factory Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
 Phone: 808 942.7778

LATE

Patrick K. Loo
 President

Gwen K. Rulona
 Secretary Treasurer

February 4, 2021

Hawaii Legislature
 House
 Economic Development Committee

Re: Support for HB359 - Relation to Gaming

Dear Chair Sean Quinlan and Vice-Chair Daniel Holt:

UFCW 480 **SUPPORTS** HB359. The bill for an act will grant a forty-year gaming license for a single integrated resort property on Hawaiian home lands designated for commercial use on the island of Oahu (excluding lands west of Ko Olina), establish a Hawaii Gaming Commission, impose a wagering tax on gross gaming revenue, create a State Gaming Fund, and appropriates funds.

Our State faces one of the worst economic downturn of its entire history. The integrated resort that allows gambling will be a much-needed boost to the local economy that could provide hundreds of construction jobs and thousands of long-term hospitality and retail jobs. Further, the integrated resort, upon completion, will provide much needed tax revenue to both the State and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, (DHHL). DHHL is the *only* State department that has the explicit constitutional mandated mission to provide housing for our Native Hawaiian families. The Department's waitlist is over 28,000 persons long. Every waitlisted person represents a local family in need of a home. By increasing the funding available to the department through an integrated resort, the department will play a critical role in addressing Hawaii's ongoing housing crisis. A steady funding source to DHHL will help spur the construction industry through public infrastructure projects and jousting developments benefiting our local economy. We also support Hawaii establishing the necessary environmental conditions that permit gambling as an economic activity benefiting DHHL while preventing any potential social and health risks. Let's get our people to work, support our local businesses and economy, and fulfill our State's promise to house our Native Hawaiian neighbors and their local families.

Fraternally,

Patrick K. Loo
 President



LATE

February 5, 2021
9:30 am

Committee on Economic Development
Representative Sean Quinlan, Chair
House

Via Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Re: HB359 - RELATING TO GAMING

Aloha Chair Quinlan, Vice-Chair Holt and members of the House committee on Economic Development:

The Prince Kūhiō Hawaiian Civic Club **SUPPORTS** HB359. This bill, if enacted, would grant a forty-year gaming license for a single integrated resort property on Hawaiian home lands designated for commercial use on the island of Oahu excluding lands west of Ko Olina, establish a Hawaii Gaming Commission, impose wagering tax on gross gaming revenue, create a State Gaming Fund, and appropriates funds. This bill provides a path forward to house over 28,000 Native Hawaiians and their local families.

Let us remember the words of Prince Kūhiō from a hundred years ago that still ring true today:

“The Hawaiian race is passing. And if conditions continue to exist as they do today, this splendid race of people, my people, will pass from the face of the earth... **The legislation proposed seeks to place the Hawaiian back on the soil**, so that the valuable and sturdy traits of that race, peculiarly adapted to the islands shall be preserved to posterity...**Perhaps we have a legal right, certainly we have a moral right, to ask that these lands be set aside. We are not asking that what you are to do be in the nature of a largesse or as a grant, but as a matter of justice--belated justice--and extend at least a helping hand...**” (emphasis added)

-Excerpt of Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianaʻole from the House Congressional Record, May 21, 1920

PKHCC supports the full funding of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to eliminate the waitlist. PKHCC supports the exploration of limited gambling to fund the trust to that end, not “as a grant, but as a matter of justice--belated justice.” Our state and our Hawai‘i communities have a legal and a moral obligation to return Native Hawaiians to the land. Let us fulfill the vision of our beloved Prince Kūhiō to return our Native Hawaiian ‘ohana to the “soil” to the benefit of all of Hawai‘i. Mahalo for your kind consideration.

Founded in 1964, PKHCC was organized to promote the education and social welfare of people of Hawaiian ancestry and objectives include supporting high ethical standards in business, industry and the professional fields of enterprise.

PKHCC urges the committee to **PASS** HB359.

Ke Aloha‘āina,



Anthony Makana Paris
Pelekikena

president@pkhcc.org



LATE

HAWAII BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

735 Bishop Street, Suite 412 * Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 524-2249 * www.hbctc.org

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& Glassworkers Local 1889

VAUGHN CHONG

Roofers, Waterproofers &
Allied Workers United Union
Of Roofers Local 221

February 5, 2021
9:30 am
Via Videoconference

Hawaii Legislature
House
Economic Development Committee

Re: Support for HB359 – Relating to Gaming

Dear Chair Quinlan, Vice-Chair Holt, and Committee Members:

My name is Gino Soquena, Executive Director of the Hawaii Building & Construction Trades Council (HBCTC), representing 16 of 19 construction trade unions in the State of Hawaii. HBCTC SUPPORTS HB359. The bill for an act will grant a forty-year gaming license for a single integrated resort property on Hawaiian home lands designated for commercial use on the island of Oahu (excluding lands west of Ko Olina), establish a Hawaii Gaming Commission, impose a wagering tax on gross gaming revenue, create a State Gaming Fund, and appropriates funds.

Our State faces one of the worst economic downturns of its entire history. The integrated resort that allows gambling will be a much-needed boost to the local economy that could provide hundreds of construction jobs and thousands of long-term hospitality and retail jobs. Further, the integrated resort, upon completion, will provide much needed tax revenue to both the state and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). DHHL is the only State department that has the explicit constitutional mandated mission to provide housing for our Native Hawaiian families. The Department waitlist is over 28,000 persons long. Every waitlisted person represents a local family in need of a home. By increasing the funding available to the department through an integrated resort, the department will play a critical role in addressing Hawaii's ongoing housing crisis. A steady funding source to DHHL will help spur the construction industry through public infrastructure projects and housing developments benefiting our local economy. We also support Hawaii establishing the necessary environmental conditions that permit gambling as an economic activity benefiting DHHL while preventing any potential social and health risks.

Let's get our people to work, support our local businesses and economy, and fulfill our State's promise to house our Native Hawaiian neighbors and their families.

Mahalo,
Gino Soquena
Executive Director, Hawaii Building &
Construction Trades Council

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 12:22:57 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marjorie erway	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I urge you to vote AGAINST HB359 and keep all forms of gambling out of the state of Hawaii.

There are many reasons, which I don't need to remind you of, as I'm sure you know them by now. They certainly are more important than the concept of having a casino built here for any entity.

Mahalo for your consideration!

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 1:26:46 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose bringing gambling into Hawaii. We do not need more societal problems, gambling addiction, crime and related problems, including preying on those who often have the least control over their finances. In the end, the damage to society is much greater than the alleged lofty ideas of income. There are so many major needs to address for our Hawaiian community, and they deserve so much more than they have been provided. Considering gambling is an insult as a means of addressing those historical wrongs, and would simply exasperbate the problems suffered by that community. Let's find reasonble ways to address the needs of the Hawaiian community, but gambling should not be one of the options.

Thank you for your consideration

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2021

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chair: Representative Sean Quinlan

Vice Chair: Representative Daniel Holt

DATE: Friday, February 5, 2021

TIME: 9:30 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 312

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

COMMITTEE HEARING: HB 359 RELATING TO GAMING (CASINO)

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 359; RELATING TO GAMING (CASINO)

The Hawaiian Homes Commission casino proposal in Kapolei, if adopted, will end up being challenged in the United States Supreme Court based on settled issues as to who is “Hawaiian” or “Native Hawaiian”, who owns the “Ceded Lands” or “Hawaiian Homes Lands” and Promoting Gambling in the State of Hawaii is a First-Degree Class C Felony.

The proposal of a casino in Kapolei must be presented to all the citizens of the State of Hawaii for approval or disapproval.

First, all citizens of the State of Hawaii are “Hawaiian” or “Native Hawaiian”, as written in the July 4, 1894, Constitution of the Republic of Hawaii, and confirmed in the April 30, 1900, Organic Act, and is recognized by the United States Supreme Court.

The Constitution of the Republic of Hawaii adopted on July 4, 1894: “Article 17. - Citizenship. Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the Hawaiian Islands, and subject to the jurisdiction of the Republic are citizens thereof.”

The Organic Act of April 30, 1900: “§4. Citizenship. That all persons who were citizens of the Republic of Hawaii on August twelfth, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, are hereby declared to be citizens of the United States and citizens of the Territory of Hawaii.

“And all citizens of the United States resident in the Hawaiian Islands who were resident there on or since August twelfth, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight and all the citizens of the United States who shall hereafter reside in the Territory of Hawaii for one year shall be citizens of the Territory of Hawaii.”

The United States Congress on July 9, 1921 established the unconstitutional sub-group of native Hawaiians (with the lower case “n”) from the established larger group of “Hawaiian citizens”.

On February 23, 2000, the United States Supreme Court decided in *Rice v. Cayetano*, “Held: Hawaii’s denial of Rice’s right to vote in OHA trustee elections violates the Fifteenth Amendment.”

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
RICE v. CAYETANO, GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH
CIRCUIT

No. 98 — 818. Argued October 6, 1999 – Decided February 23, 2000

“Held: Hawaii’s denial of Rice’s right to vote in OHA trustee elections violates the Fifteenth Amendment.

“(a) The Amendment’s purpose and command are set forth in explicit and comprehensive language. The National Government and the States may not deny or abridge the right to vote on account of race. The Amendment reaffirms the equality of races at the most basic level of the democratic process, the exercise of the voting franchise. It protects all persons, not just members of a particular race. Important precedents give instruction in the instant case. The Amendment was quite sufficient to invalidate a grandfather clause that did not mention race but instead used ancestry in an attempt to confine and restrict the voting franchise, *Guinn v. United States*, 238 U.S. 347, 364 — 365; and it sufficed to strike down the white primary systems designed to exclude one racial class (at least) from voting, see, e.g., *Terry v. Adams*, 345 U.S. 461, 469 — 470. The voting structure in this case is neither subtle nor indirect; it specifically grants the vote to persons of the defined ancestry and to no others. Ancestry can be a proxy for race. It is that proxy here. For centuries Hawaii was isolated from migration. The inhabitants shared common physical characteristics, and by 1778 they had a common culture. The provisions at issue reflect the State’s effort to preserve that commonality to the present day. In interpreting the Reconstruction Era civil rights laws this Court has observed that racial discrimination is that which singles out “identifiable classes of persons ... solely because of their ancestry or ethnic characteristics.” *Saint Francis College v. Alnbhyph; Khazraji*, 481 U.S. 604, 613. The very object of the statutory definition here is to treat the early Hawaiians as a distinct people, commanding their own recognition and respect. The history of the State’s definition also demonstrates that the State has used ancestry as a racial definition and for a racial purpose. The drafters of the definitions of “Hawaiian” and “native Hawaiian” emphasized the explicit tie to race. The State’s additional argument that the restriction is race neutral because it differentiates even among Polynesian people based on the date of an ancestor’s residence in Hawaii is undermined by the classification’s express racial purpose and its actual effects. The ancestral inquiry in this case implicates the same grave concerns as a classification specifying a particular race by name, for it demeans a person’s dignity and worth to be judged by ancestry instead of by his or her own merit and essential qualities. The State’s ancestral inquiry is forbidden by the Fifteenth Amendment for the further reason that using racial classifications is corruptive of the whole legal order democratic elections seek to preserve. The law itself may not become the instrument for generating the

prejudice and hostility all too often directed against persons whose particular ancestry is disclosed by their ethnic characteristics and cultural traditions. The State's electoral restriction enacts a race-based voting qualification. Pp. 15 — 21.

“(b) The State's three principal defenses of its voting law are rejected. It argues first that the exclusion of non-Hawaiians from voting is permitted under this Court's cases allowing the differential treatment of Indian tribes.

“However, even if Congress had the authority, delegated to the State, to treat Hawaiians or native Hawaiians as tribes, Congress may not authorize a State to create a voting scheme of the sort created here. Congress may not authorize a State to establish a voting scheme that limits the electorate for its public officials to a class of tribal Indians to the exclusion of all non-Indian citizens. The elections for OHA trustee are elections of the State, not of a separate quasi-sovereign, and they are elections to which the Fifteenth Amendment applies. *Morton v. Mancari*, 417 U.S. 535, distinguished. The State's further contention that the limited voting franchise is sustainable under this Court's cases holding that the one-person, one-vote rule does not pertain to certain special purpose districts such as water or irrigation districts also fails, for compliance with the one-person, one-vote rule of the Fourteenth Amendment does not excuse compliance with the Fifteenth Amendment. Hawaii's final argument that the voting restriction does no more than ensure an alignment of interests between the fiduciaries and the beneficiaries of a trust founders on its own terms, for it is not clear that the voting classification is symmetric with the beneficiaries of the programs OHA administers. While the bulk of the funds appears to be earmarked for the benefit of “native Hawaiians,” the State permits both “native Hawaiians” and “Hawaiians” to vote for trustees. The argument fails on more essential grounds; it rests on the demeaning premise that citizens of a particular race are somehow more qualified than others to vote on certain matters. There is no room under the Amendment for the concept that the right to vote in a particular election can be allocated based on race. Pp. 21 — 27.

“146 F.3d 1075, reversed.”

Second, all Ceded Lands belong to the State of Hawaii in absolute fee, as decided on March 31, 2009 by the United States Supreme Court, in the case *State of Hawaii v OHA*.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES, *HAWAII ET AL. v. OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS ET AL.*, No. 07–1372. Argued February 25, 2009 — Decided March 31, 2009; “1. This Court has jurisdiction. 2. The Apology Resolution did not strip Hawaii of its sovereign authority to alienate the lands the United States held in absolute fee and granted to the State upon its admission to the Union.”

“(a) Neither of the resolution's substantive provisions justifies the judgment below. ...

“(b) The State Supreme Court’s conclusion that the 37 ‘whereas’ clauses prefacing the Apology Resolution clearly recognize native Hawaiians’ ‘unrelinquished’ claims over the ceded lands is wrong for at least three reasons.

“First, such ‘whereas’ clauses cannot bear the weight that the lower court placed on them. See, e.g., *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U. S. ___, ___, n. 3.

“Second, even if the clauses had some legal effect, they did not restructure Hawaii’s rights and obligations, as the lower court found. ‘[R]epeals by implication are not favored and will not be presumed unless the intention of the legislature to repeal [is] clear and manifest.’ *National Assn. of Home Builders v. Defenders of Wildlife*, 551 U. S. 644, ___. The Apology Resolution reveals no such intention, much less a clear and manifest one.

“Third, because the resolution would raise grave constitutional concerns if it purported to ‘cloud’ Hawaii’s title to its sovereign lands more than three decades after the State’s admission to the Union, see, e.g., *Idaho v. United States*, 533 U. S. 262, 280, n. 9, the Court refuses to read the nonsubstantive ‘whereas’ clauses to create such a ‘cloud’ retroactively, see, e.g., *Clark v. Martinez*, 543 U. S. 371, 381 – 382. Pp. 10 – 12.”

117 Haw. 174, 177 P. 3d 884, reversed and remanded.”

Third, the State of Hawaii does not allow gambling. In HRS 712-1220 Definitions, “Advance gambling activity”, is a penalty of: (2) Promoting gambling in the first degree is a class C felony.

SUBMITTED BY: James I. Kuroiwa, Jr. Director Hi LECET (Ret.) LIUNA Local 368

Appointed by President George W. Bush and served two terms on the Hawaii State Advisory Committee of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. (2007 through 2011). President and RME of Mahana Landscaping, Inc. (Hawaii Island Projects: Hyatt Regency at Waikoloa; The Ritz Carlton (The Orchids) at Mauna Lani; Hapuna Beach Resort; The Four Seasons at Kaupulehu; and other projects from 1985 through 1998). Served as the 81 mm Mortars Section Leader with the 100th Battalion/442nd Infantry USAR (1964 to 1971) and 1st/502nd Ambl 101st Abn I Corps Vietnam (1969).

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 5:59:33 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Gambling leads to destructive behavior and brings with it a criminal element. Kill this bill!

Alice Abellanida

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 6:51:08 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Rathbun	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE House Bill 359 to allow any kind of gaming (gambling). The Hawaii State Government nor any of it's Committees/Commissions are qualified or equipped to operate these types of businesses. There will be little if any benefit to Native Hawaiian Indiginous People. Government needs to be a responsible steward of the peoples' monies and this is not a way to do it!

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 8:04:35 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Gaming comes with a heavy burden, never remaining just gaming for the benefit of native populations. It appears to be easy money, but brings with it crime and exploitation. It is a bad road to get started on!

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 8:20:47 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sanoe Marfil	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB359 is an important bill relating to a 30 year license for the Department of Hawaiian Homeland to build a gaming structure.

Aloha, my name is Sanoe Marfil, a leesee on aina pulapula in Nanakuli. I also work in my community in the field of education. I am submitting this testimony to express my very strong opposition of HB349 as I have seen first hand the barriers we face and the actual things that we need as Native Hawaiians, living in a colonized society.

Research has indicated that Hawaiians have the highest poverty rates, lowest educational attainment and yet leadership feels like a casino that has proven to bring about abuse, addiction and increase crime is good?

Mahalo for your time and consideration and please oppose HB349

Mahalo,

Sanoe Marfil

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 10:27:39 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carm Akim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

THIS IS NOT THE BEST MEANS OF GENERATING MONEY FOR THE NATIVE HAWAIIANS. BELIEVE THE STUDIES ON THE NEGATIVE OUTCOMES OF GAMBLING TO THE COMMUNITY AND ITS RESIDENTS. CONSIDER ALL ASPECTS OF THE BILL AND VIEW THINGS GLOBALLY

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 11:31:03 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mykie E. Menor Ozoa-Aglugub	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The impact study done by the Commission on the Status of Women has demonstrated that casinos have a detrimental, violent effect on entire communities - especially women and children. The State cannot sell out our women and children to experiment with casinos. There are more sustainable ways to boost the economy that don't create an increase in sex trafficking, abuse, and violence. Native Hawaiians need housing, social services, and justice, not casinos.

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 11:36:52 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aloha	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This proposed solution does nothing to support social services or help in building homes for the communities that have the highest rates of homelessness and poverty. Plus there will be an increase in human trafficking which already targets those same communities.

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 12:16:40 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Makanalani Gomes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We DO NOT need a casino; we need the STATE to do their due diligence and fund the department properly to ensure Hawaiians receive housing. Shame on the State for not properly funding the department from statehood, we should not have to risk the wellbeing of Hawaiians to make money to build homes for ourselves. We need our land back and our bodies back. We know this will increase violence against womxn, children, and other marginalized folx! This will not create the kind of economy we need to truly house folx and take care of people.

‘A’ole LOA!

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 1:14:16 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ana Kahoopii	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

"A'ole granting a 40-year lease on Hawaiian Homelands for a state-run casino. Senators supporting this bill have not visited our homestead, reached out to us in any way asked our opinion, or sought our mana'o on fixing the hewa that plagues DHHL.

The beneficiary consultation was done after the fact and in the usual unscrupulous manner. And although the majority of beneficiaries said a'ole it's being forced on the Hawaiian Homes community. If the state of Hawaii wants to do some real problem solving and fix the hewa, listen to what we have been telling you for decades. Stop leasing our lands to non-beneficiaries and give us our lands.

33% of Hawaiian homelands are being utilized by non-beneficiaries. All of these entities reside on DHHL lands; schools, healthcare clinics, airports, churches, rubbish dumps, hazardous waste storage facilities, the military, race tracks, wastewater treatment plants, restaurants, shopping malls, harbors, cell towers, energy companies, car lots, Home Depot, Walmart, Target, resorts, utility companies, USPS, UH, Hawaiian Telcom, Wells Fargo Bank, Hawaii Public Housing Authority, State of Hawaii Dept of Human Services, Solar farms, Wind Farms, HECO, Parks and Rec, DWS, HELCO, DPW, DLNR, DOA, OHA, QLCC, KSBE, Credit unions, LDS real estate services, Verizon, Monsanto, highways, roads, T Mobil. And now one more degenerate, despicable, insulting project is being proposed with the same pathetic promise.

With every lease granted we heard the same old song we needed the funding these organizations would provide to finally get kanaka on their lands. Some of the richest corporations in the world reside on DHHL lands and you still can't manage to fulfill your constitutional duty. Some of the wealthiest ranchers in the state of Hawaii have pastoral acreage when our own people haven't been granted a pastoral award in over 30 years. Parker and Kahua ranch has sold off hundreds of acres of their own ranch lands making \$millions as gated community developers while leasing DHHL pastoral lands for pennies on the dollar and our people die on the list.

So if the state really wants to clean up the shit show that is DHHL then 1.) do a real inventory of our lands 2.)write a bill to conduct a forensic audit of DHHL 3.) give kanaka their leases and let them build their homes, farms, ranches 4.) bring all non-beneficiary leases up to date with current market value including fees for airspace, harbor and

landing fees 5) Admit the state has a conflict of interest regarding the management of Hawaiian Home Lands.

The appointment of the chair and commissioners ought to be determined by the beneficiaries and the management of the trust itself needs to adhere to the congressional act without state interference. That would be a good start and an honest effort."

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 6:36:42 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raul Nohea Goodness	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Oppose HB359 strongly.

I am Kanaka Maoli/Hawaiian, reside in Wailuku, HI, and vote in State of Hawaii elections. There are a number of reasons, for me, #1 it is that Hawaiian Homelands are being misused for this casino and gaming authority proposal.

This is not comparable to Native-owned gaming on the U.S. Continent in any way. Kanaka Maoli Hawaiians are not going to control any aspect of these casinos, and our lands "designated for rehabilitation of the native Hawaiian people" will be used for the opposite.

In fact, if this proposal goes forward, it will be "Exhibit A" for breach of trust by the State of Hawaii in their management of the trust obligation of HHCA as mandated under the Admissions Act.

Legislators, kill this bill.

Mahalo - Malama pono

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 7:38:54 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am testifying in strong opposition to this bill.

I have lived in Las Vegas and worked in retail on the Las Vegas strip. In addition, I have many family and friends that live close to Native American reservation casinos in southern CA. The casinos (including those in CA, such as the Pechanga Resort & Casino) bombard the local community with free gifts, free play, and free dining to get the community in to the casino regularly. The worst in Las Vegas were the constant "free offers" to CASH PAYCHECKS and benefit checks at the casinos!

Make no mistake that corporate casinos are predatory and a terrible influence on children. I watched many of my friends and coworkers lose their cars, homes, and families to gambling. Our communities will prove no match to the slick advertising and insidious influence of the casino corporations.

Lets look at the real ideas being put forth by the bright people in our community and stop being led around by corporate lobbyists waving shiny objects and the promise of easy money. Let's also do a thorough and transparent audit of DHHL to determine exactly how lands/resources have and are being used to make sure it's to the "full" benefit of its beneficiaries. We have the chance to address the needs of our community and must put in the work. A casino is not the answer.

Thank you for your time.

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:33:55 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Henrietta Paris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives:

Mahalo for taking up such a measure. My name is Henrietta Paris, and I am a DHHL waitlister. My mother was a waitlister, my sisters are waitlisters and many of my cousins are waitlisters, I'm well into my 60's and most of my 'ohana is still waiting. We understand that DHHL has been traditionally underfunded. We understand the need is great to get our people into housing. We appreciate the opportunity to qualify for Home Lands, and hope that you help to find ways to fund the department, like through limited gambling. Mahalo.

Henrietta Paris

Kapolei, Oahu

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:38:22 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melvin Paris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Reps:

My name is Melvin Paris. I do not qualify for Hawaiian Home Lands, but my wife and many of my family do. Please help them have a shot of owning their own home in Hawaii. My wife and I was not able to get one house of our own. We are happy that our boy has been able to get one and we live with him. It's a shame that Hawaiians are houseless in Hawaii. Please help get them off the beaches and into homes. I support gambling. Please fund the department. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Melvin Paris

Kapolei, Oahu

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:39:15 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashlie McGuire	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This will only cause damage to the Hawaiian people, the land, the righteousness of these islands, and quite literally the women, children, and other vulnerable folks in any surrounding area. Casinos rarely do real good for the communities they are in. Typically they offer a short term solution, financial gains, to the long term problem of community support and resources being available to those who are marginalized. Historically casinos have been used to help indigenous people support and uphold their communities-but at what cost? The evidence is clear-NO CASINOS IN HAWAII NEI

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:43:13 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. We do not need a casino that could cause an increase in crime and create more problems with poverty.

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:59:01 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryten Chu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Government Leaders,

I am asking that this Bill not be passed. The life of our land will be in jeopardy if a casino is allowed to be here. There are reasons why gambling has been illegal here in our state. We know that these kinds of facilities will invite more harm than help to our community. Please do not sacrifice the future of our opio for gains that will not benefit our state in the long run.

Thank you for caring & protecting the aloha spirit here in our aina.

Ray Cho, Ph.D.
1718 Halekoa Dr.
Honolulu, HI 96821

Chairperson Sean Quinlan
Hawaii State Legislature - House Committee on Economic Development
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

February 4, 2021

Chairperson Quinlan,

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit my testimony. I have been following the gaming bill (HB359) closely, and I write to you today as a gambling scholar and as a local. I grew up in here in Hawaii, went to Kalani High School, and went on to eventually earn a doctorate degree in Hospitality from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. My research interests include the social and economic impacts of commercialized gambling. The unique circumstances of Hawaii's economy today represent in my view, a narrow window of opportunity for understanding how Hawaii can become a global standard-bearer for integrated resort development, and how this vision can play a key role in the broader strategic plan for Hawaii's economic future. As such, I write to you in support of this bill. Despite my sunny outlook, anyone who knows Hawaii well, should and rightfully so, have reasons to be cautious.

As a gambling scholar, I have come to understand that measuring the benefits of gambling against the social costs is not a straightforward exercise¹. The scientific approach to responsible gambling policy is still a young idea², and predicting what a casino in Hawaii could or should look like goes beyond even what I can predict. On one hand, the industry and its supporters will tout jobs, tax revenue, and economic expansion.³ On the other hand, the critics will point to a long list of social costs that place a burden on communities.⁴ Members of this House committee are acting dutifully in considering how a casino may invite more social problems, which could amplify economic problems we already have. However, these perspectives are quickly evolving.

Gambling is broadening, both as an industry and as a science. The gambling industry has globalized into a \$227 billion dollar industry⁵, spanning not just casinos, but also to online platforms. Paralleling this expansion, the scientific aspect of gambling studies, once largely dominated by specialized clinical experts, has transitioned into a multidisciplinary field that

¹ Walker, D. M. (2007). Problems in quantifying the social costs and benefits of gambling. *American Journal of economics and sociology*, 66(3), 609-645.

² Blaszczynski, A., Ladouceur, R., & Shaffer, H. J. (2004). A science-based framework for responsible gambling: The Reno model. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 20(3), 301-317.

³ American Gaming Association. (2020). State of the States 2020: The AGA Survey of the Commercial Casino Industry.

⁴ Walker, D. M., & Barnett, A. H. (1999). The social costs of gambling: An economic perspective. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 15(3), 181-212.

⁵ IBISWorld. (2020). Global Casinos & Online Gambling Industry - Market Research Report.

encompasses a broad mix of economics, public policy, mathematics, social sciences, psychology, and treatment experts. In this vein, there is evidence to suggest that the domain of gambling discourse has become more industry neutral. Most notably, the National Council on Problem Gambling, America's most established organization on gambling issues, does not take a position for or against legalized gambling, advocating solely for those affected by problem gambling⁶.

Because of the unique qualities of Hawaii, both proponents and critics of casino are limited in their ability to transpose the outcomes of one community to another. No matter how much research they may have to support their arguments, casinos have never existed here before. However, the lack of a crystal ball should not be a justification to pause and think. HB359 is a call to action. Hawaii remains an exception as a gaming case-study because of its multidimensional profile as a progressive U.S. State, a world-class destination, a critical geopolitical hub, and a flagship example of cultural and ethnic diversity. What results from this mix-plate of strategic advantages includes a broad range of natural, institutional, and infrastructural resources. Gambling does introduce various unknowns, but Hawaii is ready for such a voyage, and there are new discoveries related to economic development that can emerge.

More than Hawaii is ideally positioned to confront the issues related to an integrated resort, Hawaii is overdue for an informed discourse on casinos at the legislative level. The success of casinos, unlike other forms of gambling, rely on the core competencies of travel and hospitality services, much of which the State already has. The pandemic has magnified the need to generate revenue even when the critical pipeline of inbound tourism is constricted. Casinos can help in this regard by focusing on high-worth patronage. I urge the members of this committee to act now in considering how an integrated resort—built by the people of Hawaii and for the people of Hawaii—can serve as a shining example of economic development through integrated community and tourism planning⁷.

As someone who grew up here, I care deeply about Hawaii and the Aloha that binds us together as a community. In considering the vulnerability of our communities, I also ask the committee to consider the strength and resilience of the people of Hawaii. A dose of skepticism around casino gambling is important and necessary to upholding the values encompassed by our State motto. However, we should not in this pursuit, overlook our collective strength in practicing Kokua. Compliance plays a fundamental aspect of a well-regulated gambling industry⁸. Combined with the Akamai nature of Hawaiian ingenuity, I see a world in the not-too-distant future where innovative solutions around complex social and economic development problems are homegrown here in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share my voice with the committee. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

Kind regards,
Ray Cho, Ph.D.

⁶ National Council on Problem Gambling. (2019). 2018 Annual Report.

⁷ Haugland, S. A., Ness, H., Grønseth, B. O., & Aarstad, J. (2011). Development of tourism destinations: An integrated multilevel perspective. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 38(1), 268-290.

⁸ Lucas, A.F., & Kilby, J. (2012). Introduction to Casino Management.

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:22:31 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Michal Hamid	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Chair and Representative Sean Quinlan, Vice Chair and Representative Daniel Holt, and esteemed members of the House Committee on Economic Development,

My name is Sarah Michal Hamid and I am testifying today in strong opposition to HB 359.

HB 359 would grant a forty year gaming license for a resort property on Hawaiian home lands in Kapolei, and it would also increase the risk of sex trafficking, sexual exploitation, and violence against Native Hawaiian women, girls, and queer folks--these risks are not worth it.

A recent report from the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women highlights the dangerous and detrimental impacts that a casino would have on the lives of Native Hawaiian women, girls, and queer folks. It points to historic and systemic underfunding of DHHL which necessitates the proposal of these very projects. The report also highlights the already existing problem in Hawai'i of sexual exploitation, sex trafficking and sex buying, all of which would likely be exacerbated by the proposed casino. If the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated anything to us in Hawai'i, it has shown us that women and girl are always on the chopping block when it comes to social services. We can no longer continue this vicious cycle and must committ ourselves to protecting women and girls who are survivors of the sex trade and sex trafficking, rather than creating new oppportunities for their exploitation. For this reason, I stand firmly in opposition to HB 359 and urge you to do so as well. Mahalo for your time and have a wonderful day.

Sincerely,

Sarah Michal Hamid

House Committee on Economic Development
Representative Sean Quinlan, Chair
Representative Daniel Holt, Vice Chair

Friday, February 5, 2021
9:30 am, Conference Room 312
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

HB 359 - RELATING TO GAMING

Aloha Chair Quinlan and Vice-Chair Holt, and members of the House Committee on Economic Development:

I am in **SUPPORT** of the intent HB 359 which is an opportunity and potential for increased revenue to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and the state to directly address the unprecedented economic shock of COVID-19 that threatens to gut legislative funding for the foreseeable future. Such revenue is desperately needed to fulfill the needs of more than 28,000 DHHL waitlist beneficiaries for which the department requires over \$6,000,000,000 for infrastructure costs; separate and apart from costs for maintenance of existing lessee communities housing nearly ten thousand beneficiaries, upkeep of several utility systems, and other costs. This reality is exasperated by the findings of the DHHL 2020 Beneficiaries Study, in which 51% of DHHL applicants reported to earn less than 80 percent of the HUD area median income, indicating that half of applicants may not be able to qualify for a preferred turn- key housing unit.¹

From Mā‘ili, my name is Kamuela Werner. I graduated from Nānākuli High School, hold a Masters in Public Health from the University of Hawai‘i and am currently studying Applied Cultural Anthropology with a research focus in environmental racism against Native Hawaiians of Nānākuli-Wai‘anae.

My maternal kūpuna are Waimānalo Hawaiian Homestead beneficiaries and my paternal kūpuna, including my father, are Nānākuli Hawaiian Homestead beneficiaries. Learning from the resilient stories of my homesteading kūpuna who built their homes from scratch on marginal agricultural lands and in economically impoverished communities, I respectfully ask you to **SUPPORT** HB 359.

Why? Because there is a more than 100-year Hawaiian housing crisis which has played a generational role in perpetuating poor social, economic, and health outcomes for Native Hawaiians. In fact, according to Center for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics in the U.S. Small-Area Life Expectancy Estimates Project based in part on U.S. census data, the census tracts that include the homesteads of Princess Kahanu, Nānākuli, Wai‘anae Valley, and Waimānalo respectively have the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 7th lowest life

¹See the study here: <https://dhhl.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/DHHL-Applicant-Report-FINAL-210109.pdf>

expectancies in the State.² From a public health and data-driven perspective, adequately resourcing our trust for needed infrastructure upkeep and development is a matter of life and death.

Therefore, I strongly urge the committee to **PASS** HB 359. Mahalo nui.

Ke aloha ‘āina,

Kamuela Werner, MPH

²See the U.S. Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project data tables for Hawai‘i here: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/usaleep/usaleep.html>

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:33:17 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandra Balgos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

STRONG OPPOSE HB 359- RELATING TO GAMING

Aloha Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and Members of the Economic Development Committee,

My name is Alexandra Balgos, I live in Mililani, and I am one of the Co-Coordiators of AF3IRM Hawai'i. I strongly oppose HB 359 because I know that this development will put more women at risk of exploitation, especially Black, Brown, Native, and Immigrant women. There is no money in the world that could make up for the harm this development would cause for the women, girls, and queer relatives of this place. I urge you to vote against HB 359. Thank you for your time.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:55:50 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pieter Meinster	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the idea of a Casino for the potential of economic growth it presents, however, although economic development is often cited by the casino industry and local governments to sell the idea of casino gambling to the communities, the actual impact to economic development is ambiguous, as such I would strongly encourage the following;

- 1) Maintenance of absolute fiscal transparency with regards to income, expense and tax revenue produced and tax revenue allocation (to be annually audited by an independent third party).
- 2) When trying to calculate the impact to economic growth, local unemployment should be compared with State wide unemployment and other factors, such as population changes and local business conditions, should also be considered when comparing local unemployment rates before and after a casino opens.
- 3) The Casino should commit to hiring the bulk of their employees from the immediate area, avoid sourcing personnel from out of State at all costs. There should be rigorous training program defined to integrate resident employees into the business, reinvesting in the local community through professional development and creating personal equity for the local community.
- 4) There is often a detrimental social/moral impact from having Casinos in certain communities, the Casino should divert some of their income to support law enforcement initiatives and invest in outreach for community members that are suffering, regardless if suffering can be tied directly to Casino activities.

Mahalo

Pete

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 10:09:46 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Definite NO Forty Year Gaming Lincense for any Casinos on Hawaiian Home Lands.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 10:26:15 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noel Shaw	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Kā• kou,

My name is Noel Shaw and I am a Hawaiian Homestead Beneficiary. I write in opposition of HB359, DHHL's Casino Gambling Bill for three reasons:

1. DHHL did not meaningfully consult with it's beneficiaries before sending the Bill to be voted on.
2. DHLL does not hold the authority to make decisions regarding the self determination of the Hawaiian people.
3. The data used to support the passage of the Bill isn't specific to Hawai'i and the unique political, economic, and social status of Hawaiian people.

For these reasons, I urge the House to also oppose the proposal.

Mahalo,

Noel

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 10:35:04 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

NO CASINO. NO LICENSE

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 10:35:18 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
K. Piltz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Quinlan and Members of the Committee on Economic Development:

I strongly support HB 359 Relating to Gaming. This measure will provide the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) the ability to raise funds to continue with many programs that benefit the native Hawaiian community. The necessity to raise funds is especially important to DHHL's mission of providing housing for their beneficiaries.

DHHL's current budget does not provide enough funding for them to fulfil their mission going forward while also trying to address the growing backlog of beneficiaries who are on a very long waitlist. The State's budget is in crisis. This legislature cannot address all the budgetary needs and wants of the State, without new tools to raise income for the State. HB 359 provides this Legislature with a new tool that can be used to address the State's budgetary needs..

DHHL diligently researched the impacts of gaming upon the economy, and more importantly, the impacts on the social welfare of Hawaii's larger population. Their research has culminated in a very well thoughtout measure that will provide a way to add to Hawaii's economic growth, while addressing issues that any new industry may bring into a community.

This State needs a way to kick start the economy and HB 359 may be the way to do it. HB 359 deserves the chance to be implemented with the safe guards outlined to ensure that the most vulnerable in our communities are protected.

I strongly urge you to support and pass HB 359. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 11:04:19 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patty Kahanamoku-Teruya	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony for Friday's hearing.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 11:14:30 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nadia Fale	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

To whom it may concern, as a resident of O'ahu I would like to express my opposition to Bill HB359. While I myself am not Native Hawaiian, I recognize and respect that my Hawaiian brothers and sisters are the rightful descendants of this 'Ā• ina. I believe that protecting Hawaiian people and their rights should be considered one of the highest priorities of our government. Passing this bill and allowing for the construction of a casino would do the opposite as there is no guarantee that this project would have direct, if any, benefits for Native Hawaiian people. Studies in other communities have shown that it is much more likely that the introduction of a casino will have negative effects on O'ahu and its residents especially those who are Native Hawaiian. This bill is a blatant misuse of funding that can and should be allocated to directly supporting issues such as Native Hawaiian houselessness.

Mahalo for your time and attention,

Nadia Fale

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 12:36:43 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lilia Hao	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB359 and feel that building a gaming casino using Hawaiian Home lands would be detrimental to society and the Hawaiian community.

Mahalo,

Lilia Hao

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 1:23:34 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley de Coligny	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose developing a casino on Hawaiian homelands or anywhere in Hawaii. No amount of money is worth increasing violence against women and children.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 1:47:18 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clifford Laronal	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

On behalf myself and my Ohana who resides on 89-245 PUA Ave. in NÄ• nÄ• kuli we say A'ole and oppose this bill.

I believe that the facts written here are very true and stand by it!

WHILE MANY states have looked to legalized gambling, lotteries and casinos to bolster their

budgets, the effects of gambling on low- income and disadvantaged individuals have received inadequate consideration.

Empirical evidence from around the country demonstrates the disproportionate negative impacts that legalized gambling and lotteries have on low-income individual

An article from the Hawai'i Apple Seed Center Law and Economic Justice 2013.

#1The presence of casinos tends to increase problem or pathological gambling, particularly for residents of disadvantaged, low-income neighborhoods. Excessive gambling is associated with a variety of social problems, including job loss, substance abuse, crime, divorce, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence and homelessness, all of which worsen the plight of people in poverty. Moreover, casinos have also been shown to increase crime in the surrounding area. The state will need to compensate for these social ills by increasing policing, social services and establishing programs to deal with problem gambling.

more info @hiappleseed.org

me and my Ohana says NO NO No and No!

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 2:11:27 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cassandra Chee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill because a casino would make Hawai'i even more dangerous for women and LGBTQIA+ people.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 2:30:00 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathryn MacKenzie	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Quinlan,

I am testifying today in opposition to HB 359, RELATING TO GAMING.

The State of Hawaii has a fiduciary responsibility outlined Article XII of the Hawaii State Constitution to administer the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act . This fiduciary responsibility requires the legislature to make sufficient sums available to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. The Legislature of Hawaii has failed to meet this requirement forcing thousands of beneficiaries to be waitlisted. The Department of Hawaiian Homelands has been underfunded by this legislative body for many years and is now turning to casino gaming as the answer. This action is unacceptable and creates a precedent that DHHL should be a self funding department but the constitution of this state requires otherwise. When entering into statehood the state took on the fiduciary responsibility to provide sufficient sums to execute the provisions of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and putting that responsibility onto the department itself is wholly unacceptable. Furthermore, the budget shortfall is a State-wide issue, not a DHHL specific issue. Hence correcting budgetary issues by establishing a casino on Hawaiian Homelands is biased against DHHL and beneficiaries and by doing so you are breaking the trust given to the legislature in the State Constitution. While many can understand the budget issues of the State, putting the burden of self funding on DHHL and ignoring the fiduciary responsibility of the State as laid out in the Constitution is completely inappropriate.

I write this as a citizen, as a Hawaiian, and as the partner of a waitlisted beneficiary.

Mahalo for your time,

Kathryn Mackenzie

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 2:37:00 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca M Goldschmidt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I wholeheartedly OPPOSE HB 359, which would bring an unnecessary gaming/casino to Kapolei on Hawaiian Homelands. Research shows that casinos are not healthy for the community because of alcohol and drug use/abuse; gambling addiction in already vulnerable and economically disadvantaged communities; and the detrimental effects of violence against women/LBGQTQ+ community that increases with the establishment of gaming institutions. Hawaiians and other marginalized groups need Housing, Food Security, Healthcare, and Jobs, NOT a casino!

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 2:53:42 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hinaikawaihiilei Keala	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Ke aloha no, my name is Hina Keala and I am submitting written testimony AGAINST bill HB359. According to the DHHL website, "The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is governed..to protect and improve the lives of native Hawaiians. The act created a Hawaiian Homes Commission to administer certain public lands, called Hawaiian home lands, for homesteads." This casino or any casino in Hawai'i has NO benefits for native Hawaiians. This casino would take lands that are appropriated for Hawaiians to live on and instead create a space for corruption, addiction, and exploitation. No amount of money or potential money is worth taking away land for native Hawaiian dwelling, programming, or community spaces. The trust has over 40,000 applications for families waiting to be returned to the 'Ä• ina. 40,000 applications of Hawaiians either dying on the Hawaiian Homes list, moving away from thier homelands due to high living costs, becoming more and more disconnected from thier kulaiwi, the 'Ä• ina of thier kÄ«puna. This casino is a step backwards in the direction that we need to be going in order to put Hawaiians on the 'Ä• ina that they have right too. DHHL, put Hawaiians in homes already, not hostage to the hawaiian homes list.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 3:14:35 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ivy Hsu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it puts the women, girls, and LGBTQ people in our community at risk. The money generated will not be worth the consequences. We need to generate money in a way that will also benefit our Native Hawaiians, the land and the people.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 3:31:11 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John P. Karbens Sr.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I strongly oppose legalized gambling of any type in Hawaii including casinos, lotteries, and other types. I have testified in the past as a member of the Hawaii Coalition Against Legalized Gambling. The level of illegal gambling in Hawaii will only increase if forms of gambling are legalized. Sufficient studies conclude that legalizing gambling will increase levels of addiction, crime, prostitution, money laundering and other destruction of the social fabric of Hawaii. My reservations are based on being raised in an area where illegal gambling was rampant, observing the effects of illegal gambling since first moving to Hawaii at age 21, observing regular opposition by this legislature to casinos for 50+ years including one proposed at Turtle Bay, experiencing a floating gambling operation next door to my condo and living briefly in Nevada with its legal and illegal gambling and related crime. Mahalo for your dedication to the people of Hawaii.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 3:36:32 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tea™sha Kahumoku-Derricotte	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 3:45:18 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lily Cabinatan	Top Notch Fruits & Chickens, LLC	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please seriously consider the Hawaiian people as well as the rest of us. Gambling is not the answer. Get creative on how to create funds that will empower the Hawaiian people not depower them.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 3:55:23 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nora Pollard	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Introducing a casino to Hawai'i will put more women and young girls at risk of abuse and sexual exploitation and trafficking which is already a problem that hasn't been being dealt with. Why make it worse? This land can be used productively for community, but this is not the way.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 3:58:19 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jessica hernandez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

A casino is not the answer for Native Hawaiians struggles to access food, housing, and security. Casinos bring trouble and create trouble. This state already attracts sex traffickers and human traffickers. A casino will only exacerbate that issue. Women and queer people are especially at risk. Additionally, we need to focus on sustainable, human-centered, healthy economies. Considering what the pandemic has wrought in Hawaii and Las Vegas--both places that are highly dependent on tourism--it's ridiculous to consider building a casino.

I strongly oppose building a new casino and request that this committee tear this bill up and never consider it again.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 4:04:35 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
A. Shigemura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a concerned citizen living on the island of Oahu, I oppose HB359. This will severely impact many individuals living in this State. There is an element that exists with gambling that can only hurt the community where it locates to do business, the surrounding communities, and will eventually affect the entire island chain. This is not a healthy business element and should be opposed by our State Legislator.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 4:06:47 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ben Yamamoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB359.

Gambling will hurt the poor citizens it suppose to help and benefit the greedy and criminal elements in Hawaii. There is enough suffering on the Westside.

The Westside needs legitimate businesses that will create jobs for the people. Make it easier for new businesses to start.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 4:24:02 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Breanna Agas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a non-Kā• naka, I stand alongside Native Hawaiian women who are against this development. Choosing to pursue such endeavors without the consultation of Native and Indigenous peoples is an attack on their holistic well-being. No financial reward will compensate the damage that this casino will bring to local communities.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 5:02:29 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edie Ignacio Neumiller	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am oppose to House Bill 359 and should not pass.

Aloha,

E. Ignacio Neumiller

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 5:03:12 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alana Sooriyakumar	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am strongly opposed to allowing this casino. It will contribute to the already devastating numbers of addiction and poverty we have in this island, and state. This is not beneficial for anyone except those in power and control, the regular people of Hawaii are being exploited by the making of this casino. Many poverty stricken people will use their limited income or welfare money on gambling in hopes to win big, thus depriving themselves and their families of the most basic needs. Drug addictions, prostitution (sex trafficking is already a problem here in Hawaii, we don't need to provide another reason for it to expand), drinking and driving, and other crimes are all bound to increase as well. Suicides,

Below are excerpts from the Washington Post link below. Please do not allow this casino to happen.

"But the casinos also lead to a plethora of social ills, including increased substance abuse, mental illness and suicide, violent crime, auto theft and larceny, and bankruptcy. The latter three all increased by 10 percent in communities that allowed gambling.

Other work backs up the crime finding. The Baylor's Earl Grinols, University of Georgia's David Mustard, and the University of Illinois' Cynthia Dilley [found](#) that 8 percent of crime in counties with casinos was attributable to their presence, a crime increase that cost residents, on average, \$65 a year.

And the bankruptcy finding has been replicated as well. The St. Louis Fed's Thomas Garrett and Mark Nichols [found](#) that Mississippi riverboat gambling increases bankruptcies not just in Mississippi, but in counties outside the state where many residents gamble in Mississippi. The effect was largest in neighboring states, with the Mississippi casinos responsible with a 0.24 percentage point increase in bankruptcy filings. Interestingly, other casinos — such as Las Vegas, Atlantic City, and so forth — didn't have statistically significant effects on other areas' bankruptcy rates.

But as with the liquor industry, much if not most of the gambling industry's revenue come from addicts. Grinols [estimates](#) that 52 percent of revenue at the typical casino comes from problem gamblers, while an Ontario study [put the figure](#) at 35 percent and a

[Louisiana one](#) at 42 percent. So even if gambling takes more money from the middle-class than the poor, it largely takes that money from middle-class people who aren't exactly rationally willing to spend it.

Casinos aren't even a particularly good source of tax revenue. Kearney notes that a number of studies have found that Indian casinos cannibalize business at nearby restaurants and bars, and in so doing actually reduce state tax revenue."

So while the casino will produce jobs, it's negative impacts much outweigh the jobs produced.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2012/10/30/studies-casinos-bring-jobs-but-also-crime-bankruptcy-and-even-suicide/>

Mahalo,

Alana

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 5:19:12 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julia D Cramer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing to oppose HB359. We DO NOT need a casino in Kapolei. These types of businesses are extractive, exploitative, and make our communities unsafe. The safety of women and children in Hawaii need to come before profits. This island has issues with sex trafficking that are so much worse because of the large numbers of tourists and soldiers that pass through our communities each year without any personal investment in this island.

In the midst of this global pandemic we have had to face what we always knew. It is unwise to foster an economy that is utterly reliant on tourism. We need to invest in and encourage businesses that offer jobs outside the service industry, so that we can offer real opportunity to the people of Hawaii. Industries that make us more independent. Industries where the wealth that is generated returns to the community and not the pockets of a few wealthy business owners or their share holders.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 5:36:42 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Connor Logsdon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not think casinos are something that Hawaii needs. There are many other things that would be beneficial to these islands. It seems an unnecessary thing to add to the ecological impact that tourism already has. It would only be a detriment to the community. More of the states income would go towards out of state owners of these casinos. Enough already

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 5:55:28 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monica Kalama	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Quinlan,

I am testifying today in opposition to HB359.

As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, resident of Hawaiian Homeland and strong believer in social justice I write this testimony to advocate against the proposed "solution" to an already unjust issue. When entering statehood it was contractually agreed that the state would accept fiduciary responsibility in executing the provisions of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. This "solution" places the financial burden on DHHL and its beneficiaries and is simply contradictive of the State Constitution. When proposing a casino on Hawaiian Homeland you are also proposing further distrust from the Hawaiian community, further discrimination as Hawaiian Homeland residents will bear the burden of all that comes with a casino. It is the working and middle class that will fall prey to the evil of gambling as they search for a shot of financial gain to provide for their families. There will be an increased demand for Sex Trafficking and vulnerable youth and adults will pay the price. Casino's also bring rise in alcoholism, substance abuse and crime. As a mother I do not want my children growing up in a dangerous environment, which is inevitable when gambling and casino's are involved. People may be in favor of a casino for personal entertainment; however no one wants it in their own backyard. This is my backyard that you are wanting to bring poison to and once again Hawaiian's are forced to bear the consequences. For those who deny the existence of systemic racism and injustice; this is a prime example. Why are Hawaiian's continuing to be disenfranchised in their own land and when will it ever stop?

Please just ask yourself if you would want a casino in your backyard.

Mahalo, I appreciate your time and consideration.

Monica Kalama

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 5:58:51 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lindsay Terkelsen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a Native Hawaiian, I oppose House Bill 359 because it does not contribute to the "further rehabilitation of the Hawaiian race.." and is not socially responsible. My 'ohana and I agree that casinos in general and this proposed casino are detrimental in the following ways, including but not limited to:

- They directly and indirectly increase demand for sex trafficking, exacerbating gender, race, and migrant inequities
- They directly and indirectly exploit, exacerbate, and profit off of addiction, including drug, alcohol, and gambling addictions
- This proposed casino would consume and exploit off Native Hawaiian land

No amount of money is worth endangering our most marginalized communities. The February 1, 2021 statement by DHHL fails to prove that this proposed casino would be socially responsible.

I am confident that the Hawaiian Homes Commission and Dept of Hawaiian Homelands can provide a stronger, more creative and positive solution to increase revenue and rehabilitate the Hawaiian race, a solution that will not involve putting Hawaiian lives, rights, and livelihoods on the line the way the destructive HB359 does. My 'ohana and I oppose House Bill 359.

Me ke aloha pumehana,
Lindsay Terkelsen

daughter of John Terkelsen and Jennifer McKinney

granddaughter of Beatrice Kuamo'o and Elvin Terkelsen

great granddaughter of Mary Kawaiala Brown and Louis Kawaiolahia Kuamo'o

great great granddaughter of Nahaku Uli'i and Enoch Brown - and of Solomon Kuamo'o and Mary Santos

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 6:02:39 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alani Bagcal	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Representative Sean Quinlan, Chair

Representative Daniel Holt, Vice-Chair

House Committee on Economic Development

Dear Chair Quinlan, Vice-Chair Holt, and esteemed members of the committee

My name is Alani Bagcal and I am writing today in strong opposition of HB 359.

A casino's ability to increase sex trafficking here in Hawai'i is absolutely terrifying and devastating. Referring to research that shows casinos and sex trafficking go hand and hand, just like gambling and domestic violence, Hawai'i does not need a casino. With consequences of violence against women, women of color, Native Hawaiians and LGBTQIA+ folks I do not see any justification to build one, on an already over industrialized island. Please prioritize the health and safety of women.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to this bill,

Alani Bagcal

96815

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 6:26:17 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Wiggans	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose House Bill 359 as it has been approached in a very rushed manner. I understand the need to find fiscal breathing room for the state, especially as a teacher for the Department of Education and faculty representative for the Hawaii Dtte Teachers Association. However, the environmental and social effects of this casino have not been exhaustively explored. The impacts on the Hawaiian community have not been recognized, nor have the Hawaiian people been sufficiently solicited when it comes to the planning, construction, and logistical operations of this proposed casino once built.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 6:59:04 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brendan Ajolo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Too many negative impacts to our state! Let's be part of the multi state lotto instead!!

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 7:47:04 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jared Hai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a Registered Native Hawaiian for Hawaiian Homestead Lands, I support this Bill. It will provide necessary income for DHHL to further fulfill its Mission for Registered Native Hawaiians.

Thank you!

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 7:51:43 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emma Ishihara	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a lifelong resident of Hawaii and recognizing that gambling disorder is a huge issue and that disorders like this have disproportionately impacted minorities including the Native Hawaiian community, I oppose the building of any sort of casino, which could be the source of mental illness and increases in crime rates including sexual violence and trafficking.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:13:26 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Mueller	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hawaii has been dependent on its tourist industry for too long. Recovering from the economic and social pressures of the pandemic will only be made harder if we continue to place all revenue strategy in tourism avenues. A casino will not only cheapen the experience of Hawaii for both visitors and residents, it is an extremely unhelpful way of attempting to create jobs and stimulate economy in the long term. A casino will only endanger the well being of the women, girls, and LGBTQ people in the islands as it is a place that facilitates trafficking and sex exploitation. Hawaii's money should be better placed in creating systems and revenue streams that benefit local people and investing in programs that address issues of housing, food security, and sovereignty. Native Hawaiians have had their people and land violated enough. A casino is a slap in the face. As Representative Staceylynn Eli has said: "No amount of money is worth increasing violence against women and children." Please listen to Hawaii's people on this. Do not place them in jeopardy.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:36:15 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lacey Kon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

If the goal in mind is truly for the good of the people, a casino cannot be the answer. Who will this casino cater to? If tourists, I oppose Bill 359 because we, as a state, need to stop relying on foreign money and people. Many of us are out of jobs because we are employed through tourism. Do not build a tourist dependent economy because as we've seen with the current global pandemic, the hospitality industry is not reliable. Because the casino will be built in our islands, we must assume that local residents will take part in these gaming activities. I don't have to look up the statistics to pull numbers for DUI charges, domestic violence, theft and robbery, alcohol and drug abuse, underage drinking, identity theft, sex trafficking, etc., all of which already occur heavily within our state. Building a casino will contribute to the ongoing issues we are currently facing and will most likely, cause these issues to occur even more frequently than we've seen. How many more victims die to DUIs before it matters? How many more people are kidnapped and sold before it matters? How many more children are taken by CPS before it matters? Do not wait until five years after the casino is built to put together a list of bad reasons to build. Gambling is illegal for a reason. You'll have people taking out loans, borrowing money from friends, stealing money from others. Gambling is like a drug and it can most definitely become an addiction. Too many of my people have gone down that path and I will not stand to allow that type of toxicity in my homeland. Why not use that land to grow crops? Not only can you sell for profit, you can feed the people. Supply long-term jobs that are considered essential so residents can keep their job and feed their families even through the next pandemic. Give natives a purpose and a reason to live, to put their hands into the dirt and contribute to the community. One casino = more money. More money = more problems.... and more alcohol, more drugs, more trafficking, and more abuse. Our land, our people, our island chain is worth more than a "get rich quick" scheme. E 'olu'olu, hanele our futures me nÄ• lima mÄ• lama.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:40:48 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaiwiola Coakley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

DHHL's mission is to build homes for Hawaiians, not casinos. Native Hawaiians have been decimated by vices throughout history and do not need a gambling house in their midst. If the Hawaii legislature were to permit casinos, it would be an unconscionable action with hurtful consequences to a vulnerable people, including all locals, residents and visitors alike.

As a Native Hawaiian, I strongly oppose HB359.

Kaiwiolamaialohaiamana K. Coakley

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:41:55 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joanna Maile Pokipala Resurrection	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, I oppose this bill.

Mahalo

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:08:03 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
khealani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

I truth thing this is the best thing you folks would do for the state instead if making the rail in which is a waste of tine. This casino with have us natives stay home in the islands as more of because the Covid in the mainland is terrible and not much locals want to be traveling far from home. I support this decision to the fullest. Hawai'i needs and casino, and no matter what crime is not and excuse because the crime rate is already high. I think this is an excellent opportunity for Hawai'i. A Hui hou!!!!

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:09:35 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chyloe Leon Guerrero	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Much can be learned from the trials and suffering of Native Americans related to casinos on their reservations. Casinos can and will increase crime activity and put more local families, especially Native Hawaiian families, at even more risk for substance abuse and gambling addiction. There surely are much better ways to deal with our native lands, like prioritizing housing Native Hawaiian families above all else.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:22:13 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isabelle Lee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

NO amount of money is worth further endangering women and children of Hawai'i. This is a horrible and unnecessary use of land, resources, and time.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:42:32 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kapulei Flores	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

as a Kanaka Maoli of this land who has seen the homeless situation only grow as time goes on, it is a little concerning that DHHL's priority is this casino instead of giving land and homes to the hundreds of Hawaiians on the waiting list. DHHL has a history of neglecting their responsibility to give land and housing to Native Hawaiians, land that geneology belongs to Hawaiians. If DHHL needed more money for their program there are other ways to get funds while prioritizing the people instead of looking for profit. Not only is gambling illegal in Hawai'i, but this casino will only amplifying the sex traffic market/situation that we have in Hawai'i. I think its time the government focus on the wellbeing and basic necessities of the people of these islands instead of prioritizing toursim and making money. Year after year the government chooses to focus on big coperations, tourism, and what will get them the most money. Please do something different and think about what will actually be beneficial for the people of Hawai'i and all the unsloved issues we already have, such as homeless and sex trafficking.

Me ke aloha, a concerned Kanaka Maoli who has seen too many Hawaiians die on the Hawaiian Homes waiting list for DHHL to be prioritizing a casino over getting housing for the people in the middle of a pandemic.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:45:26 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christian Kahookaulana	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

As a Native Hawaiian, I oppose this bill. I oppose this bill because it is a proven statistic that with casinos comes more crime. These crimes consist of selling drugs, drug use, prostitution, human trafficking, and others. If you build a casino, our people will be using it. Especially in Kapolei where there are mostly locals. Not much tourists leave the comfort of Waikiki. Hawaiians are already at a decline, our bloodline is dwindling down. Our people will get caught up in the bad business of casinos, & it will lead to a faster decline of our Hawaiian people.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:58:14 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debra M Javar	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB359.

Gambling is NOT what HHL should be used for! Gambling will lead to even more social and legal problems, ie addictions, incarceration, homelessness. Is this what you people want for us Hawaiians? Us Hawaiian people want to Live on the HHL land! We don't want or need any CASINO!

Thank you.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 10:03:05 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mariko Reed	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

No amount of money is worth increasing violence against women and children.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 10:39:24 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Kahoonei	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

According to the DHHL website, Prince Kuhio noted as some of his final words were for the hope of the future is “to stick together and try to agree to the best of your ability to meet the most important problem: the rehabilitation of our race.” In this sense, the act of rehabilitating is to restore the native Hawaiian people to health or normal life after imprisonment, illness, or most importantly addiction. According to the American Psychiatric Association, for some people, gambling can become an addiction. According to the article, “Piliwaiwai: Problem Gambling in Hawai’I”, by Robin-Marie Shepherd, in the Hawai’I Journal of Medicine & Public Health, the article suggests that there are residents who experience problem gambling, but to an unknown extent. How does establishing a casino on homestead land help to rehabilitate the native Hawaiian race?

Another point, according to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, Title 1A.(b).(5), one of the principal purposes of this Act is providing financial support and technical assistance to native Hawaiian beneficiaries of this Act so that by pursuing strategies to enhance economic self-sufficiency and promote community-based development, the traditions, culture and quality of life of native Hawaiians shall be forever self-sustaining. How does DHHL strategy to be granted a casino license provide to indefinitely self-sustain the traditions, culture, and quality of life of Native Hawaiians? It does however perpetuate the idea that these lands will always be used as tourist destination and the Hawaiian people are part of the show. Native Hawaiians are explorers and navigators. Hawaiian people loved the written language when the missionaries came and saw the benefit of a new form to pass on knowledge, traditions, and culture.

Based on this, I do not think the establishing a casino on Hawaiian Homelands is the best course of action to rehabilitate and forever sustain the traditions, culture and quality of life of Native Hawaiians.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 11:19:42 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Jahn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB359. These communities on O'ahu do not need the negative issues that come with casinos and their supporting industries. According to one study on the social and economic impacts of native american casinos, "Four years after a casino opens, bankruptcy rates, violent crime, and auto thefts and larceny are up 10 percent in counties with a casino" (Evans & Topoleski). The short term economic benefits are not worth the potential long-term damage that may be inflicted upon our communities if casinos are allowed to operate on O'ahu. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 11:28:17 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Desiree Pia	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Desiree Pia, a native Hawaiian from NÄ• wiliwili, Kaua'i and I DO NOT approve of a casino of any kind in the state of Hawaii. I think it is a terrible idea considering we are not even federally recognized or have benefits the Native Americans and Alaska Natives have. If we had a casino, where would that money go? How would it benefit Native Hawaiians? In my opinion building a casino and allowing gambling in Hawaii will do more harm than good for our people. I believe gambling is a form addiction, and we do not need anymore substance abuse, violence, sex trafficking, poverty, and homelessness of Hawaiians. There are already so many problems with drug addiction and homelessness of our Hawaiian people, and bringing gaming, and a party atmosphere will only cause more crime. Leave the gambling and the party scene in Las Vegas! Secondly, why in the world should Hawaiian Homes even consider building of all things a CASINO on land that has been set aside for people of Hawaiian decent?! How about actually putting Hawaiians into homes on that land?! People literally die on the waiting list (which is completely outdated.. the blood quantum needs to change with the times) before they ever have their name drawn for a homeland! And then to know that there is a significant amount of land that could be used for homes, but instead your rather put a unnecessary casino on that land?! If the casino did pass, how would the revenue benefit Hawaiians anyway? Would it actually go back to us, and through what plans and programs? Or just into the pockets of corrupt private owners and government officials?! Don't give into greed of foreigners to fill your own pockets and work on getting Hawaiians back on their land instead!

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 11:51:04 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meredith Buck	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. First of all, gambling is illegal in Hawai'i. This would not only be in conflict with existing laws, it would set a dangerous precedent. Also, I have seen the negative impacts of gambling on communities on the North American continent. The associated addiction, substance abuse, sex abuse, and domestic violence issues connected to casinos and gambling houses is a price far too high to pay for some additional financial income. Please reject this bill today. Mahalo.

LATE

Aloha,

I am writing to ask your support in OBJECTING the proposed Casino and Gaming in Kapolei. West Oahu has immediate primary needs for more affordable housing that needs! Attention and focus instead of it dropping down as a secondary consequence after some, farfetched idea like a Casino that will take years to build & non guarantee of its promise, especially in volatile times like this pandemic like what we see in Vegas.

The focus is not to boost the economy but to Build Homes for the Hawaiians. Isn't that what we want... more homes for thousands waiting? But even if this is to address the economy - That promise will fall short.

Institute of American Value (IAV) Study...

When New Jersey allowed casinos into Atlantic City back in 1977, casino advocates promised that gambling would revive the town's fading economy. The casinos did create jobs as promised, but merchants who expected foot traffic to return to the city's main street, Atlantic Avenue were sorely disappointed. The money that comes to the casinos, stays in the casinos. Liquor stores and cash-for-gold outlets now line the city's once-premier retail strip. It is more like taking from Peter to give to Paul.

The impact of casinos on local property values is "unambiguously" negative, according to the National Association of Realtors. Casinos do not revive local economies. They act as parasites upon them. Communities located within 10 miles of a casino exhibit double the rate of problem gambling. Unsurprisingly, such communities also suffer higher rates of home foreclosure and other forms of economic distress and domestic violence.

The Casino will have a ripple effect of negatives that affect more than many would like to admit.

In the words of the Institute of American Values. (IAV)

"[S]tate-sponsored casino gambling ... parallels the separate and unequal life patterns in education, marriage, work, and play that increasingly divide America into haves and have-nots. Those in the upper ranks of the income distribution rarely, if ever, make it a weekly habit to gamble at the local casino. Those in the lower ranks of the income distribution often do. Those in the upper ranks rarely, if ever, contribute a large share of their income to the state's take of casino revenues. Those in the lower ranks do."

Is this really OK? Are Americans content to allow the growth of an industry that consciously exploits the predictable weakness of the most vulnerable people. Two States still say "NO" Ours is on. If not, it is never too late to find a better way! There is a Better Way and Casino is NOT one of them! Vote! No Casinos for West Oahu!

Bless You All!

Local Pastor in the West Oahu Community – Pastor Fika Esau

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 12:15:49 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Krystal Hope	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB359.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 2:00:38 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsey Nichols	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom this may concern,

HB359 will divert funds from needed programs that have proven their benefit to Native Hawaiian families and other local residents. There is a great suffering as the cost of living rises but people are unable to meet this due to job losses as a result of the pandemic and because of a living wage that has failed to rise concomitant to inflation. Other programs would benefit more from the allotment of resources (like the land that would be taken away from Hawaiians) than the development of a casino. Providing another opportunity to spend money and propagate the cycle of poverty fails to serve the people, their interests, or their long-term futures. Passage of this bill would represent a massive failure to protect the interests of all of Hawaii's citizens.

As Hawaii looks to generate more revenue in the future, it should instead look to invest in fields that would build the citizens and state together. Hawaii is leading the fight against climate change and pollution through passage of plastic reduction bills and a transition to a micro-grid for electricity. Hawaii should look to the technology sector to bolster its income generation, increase jobs for local people, and as a way to motivate the younger generations into higher-income fields. Development of a casino ignores the plentiful amount of good that Hawaii is doing and could do if given the proper attention and resources. I cannot underscore how passage of HB359 would be a huge disservice to the public and the future of the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 4:32:39 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Galacgac	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 359. Meeting the need for housing for Native Hawaiians is a priority, however, investing in gaming/gambling casinos is not the way.

Gambling and sex trafficking is a public health problem that will be exacerbated with this casino development. Studies have shown that casino gambling correlated with social deviations, such as problem gambling, drug and alcohol abuse/addiction, domestic violence, divorce, bankruptcy, and risky or illicit sexual behavior (especially prostitution). Communities near these casinos will be susceptible to these negative impacts.

The gaming industry will disproportionately impact women's safety. Around the globe, casinos and neighboring hotels have been sites where girls and women have been sex trafficked. There are higher percentages of male gamblers and it is predominantly men who are sex buyers. With the demand for paid sex, low-income girls and women become targets of the industry to meet this increased demand. There is already a rampant problem that regulations cannot not solve. No casinos is one way to stop its proliferation.

I urge all our elected leaders to oppose HB 359. The high unemployment rates during the pandemic with the collapse of the tourism economy showed how vulnerable Hawaii is. Hawaii's economic recovery lay in investing in and protecting local people, especially Native Hawaiians. Thank you for your time.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 6:46:46 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalehua Ontai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Pehea la e pono ai? Pehea la e ola ai ka lahui i keia? He Aina Hoopulapula keia!!!
Pehea la e pulapula ai ka lahui Hawaii ina kukulu ia keia wahi mea o ka aina e ma ko
kakou one? E ala, e alu, e kuilima! Ola kakou i ka pohaku, aole o keia ano wahi e kupu
ai paha na pilikia e ike ia nei ma ka aina Haole! Pehea la hoi ka pono? Hilahila!

How is this right? How will our lahui benefit from this? This is Hawaiian Home Lands!!!
How will we native Hawaiians thrive in our own home land with this structure of a foreign
land taking up space on our soil? Rise up! Our aina is number one, it keeps us alive,
care for the aina instead of building this structure that could cause similar problems
seen in foreign lands, here in Hawai'i!!! Shame!

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 6:53:30 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cecilia Mukai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB 359 on Gaming. The havoc and devastation of gambling is well documented in the literature. The intent of the benefits to select populations, in this case, to the Hawaiians, is negated by the social problems of addiction and crime associated with the gambling culture. Money taken in, is not even close to, the money expended to treat the social problems created with family disruptions, individual poverty and addiction everyone has personal knowledge of.

Yes, there is big money to be made in gaming. But, at what cost? Hawaii does not want to be penny-rich but dollar-poor.

Please, defeat HB 359 on gaming. Thank you.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 6:54:59 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaleigh DeSimone	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please accept this testimony in opposition of HB359. We know the harm casinos cause the local people, as well as the local housing market. I am requesting the state not shoulder the burden of its debt on the most vulnerable of its people. As a psychologist, I am deeply concerned for the certain rise in gambling addiction that will occur secondary to such an allowance. We are likely to see other harmful outcomes as well, to include higher substance use, demand for paid sex on our women and girls, houselessness, and violence. A casino serves no one but those in positions of power in the state. Proposing a casino is a failure to problem solve on the highest level and one that exploits the people for profit. There are so many other ways to stimulate our economy. Do not build a casino on Hawaiian lands.

Further, I do not claim to be an expert on this, but I encourage you to listen to the research. For more tangible reading on this topic, CNN published an article back in 2013 speaking directly to the health of communities surrounding casinos. Some highlights are as follows:

"The impact of casinos on local property values is "unambiguously" negative, according to the National Association of Realtors. Casinos do not revive local economies. They act as parasites upon them. Communities located within 10 miles of a casino exhibit double the rate of problem gambling. Unsurprisingly, such communities also suffer higher rates of home foreclosure and other forms of economic distress and domestic violence." (Frum, 2013).

"Before the spread of casino gambling, the IAV comments, the typical gambler was more affluent than average: it cost money to travel to Las Vegas. That's no longer true. Low-income workers and retirees provide the bulk of the customers for the modern casino industry. And because that industry becomes an important source of government revenue, the decision to allow casino gambling is a decision to shift the cost of government from the richer to the poorer, and, within the poor, to a subset of vulnerable people with addiction problems." (Frum, 2013).

In such a decision, I ask what do you want for the people of Hawai'i? Do you want more economic hardship, houselessness, and addiction? If so, I am sure you will proceed. However, if you value family and our local communities, you will oppose this bill without hesitation. A casino is not and never will be the solution.

Respectfully,

Kaleigh DeSimone

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 7:04:23 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
C. Kai Lucas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Honorable Legislators-

I am not a DHHL beneficiary, but I am Native Hawaiian. Before we allow gambling and all the evils that accompany it, to generate revenues for DHHL, let's consider something more appropriate. The obvious alternative is an agricultural crop historically successful across all the Hawaiian Islands for at least half a century: cannabis.

Why introduce a divisive, dangerous, enterprise to add to the already overdeveloped tourism industry? Lawmakers have been very publicly saying we need to diversify our economy away from tourism. Especially in light of the pandemic, this proposed intensive-gathering activity with low wage jobs in hospitality, is exactly the wrong approach. Please do NOT pass HB359 or any legislation that promotes gambling.

Respectfully,

Kai Lucas

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 7:15:59 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Francisco Javar Jr	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB 359.

WE DO NOT WANT A CASINO HERE ESPECIALLY ON HHL.

BUILD HOMES, FARMS FOR HAWAIIAN PEOPLE NOT CASINO!

GAMBLING IS NOT A GOOD THING!

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 7:21:27 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kahiau Snyder	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

AuÄ“, hilahila!

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 7:34:57 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
joseph simpliciano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The legislature further finds that over twenty-eight thousand native Hawaiians are awaiting homestead leases while the department of Hawaiian home lands struggles to develop land and lots. Current costs for infrastructure development, borne by the department, are in excess of \$150,000 per lot. In order to fulfill the needs of the current waitlist, the department requires over \$6,000,000,000 for infrastructure costs alone to serve its beneficiaries.

This was stated within the Bill introduced... how is it that the State of Hawai'i who have been taking federal funds generations after generations on behalf of native Hawaiians have no money to build homes for the 2800 native Hawaiians still on the waitlist? Why have we not looked into the people directly involved with the mismanagement since the inception of DHHL? Why is it that our legislators are, so very much opposed to such a Bill when we have been subject to many illegal gambling rooms all throughout the state of Hawai'i for years now? Even some of the legislators has had people killed in their districts because of these illegal gambling rooms, I suggest that legislation should look into each legislator and their campaign donors, thoroughly and truly weed out the reason why they are against it, prostitution, drugs, sex trafficking exist for years now and not one Bill created to fight against it, These homesteads are filled with people raising fighting chickens, chop shops, dealing drugs, and even prostitution you see it all the time and not one mention or call to DHHL enforcement to go fix it... something is truly wrong with our legislators. The creation of a gaming commission (which I strongly support) would permanently close down these illegal gambling rooms, rooms which our houseless community is spending millions of taxpayers dollars with hopes of winning it big and we all know that will never happen in an illegal gambling room. Is this one of the causes as to why we still have so many people living on the beach? Yes it is! They are selling their food stamps for cash just to go to these illegal gambling rooms you see it all the time in my district, you see all of the cars that is parked on the beaches in nanakuli and Waianae, parked right outside of the illegal gambling rooms so I do believe my point is valid and just not here say. My point is if this casino is built on DHHLCommercial lands is would be in line with the Kapolei master plan to create a second City or another Waikiki. I have also seen a person self admittedly say she is a illegal gambling room junkie, she stood at a protest against a legal casino and she is also a homesteader. That makes absolutely no sense so all of these people who are against it must have a valid reason as to why they are opposing it. Prince Kuhio chose to join the Republican Party because at the time there was no other way to conduct

kingdom business and till this day native Hawaiians are treated second class to tourism and politics, I think we should be the prince kuhio in this and look for a way to take care of native Hawaiians and that is by generating revenue by any means necessary.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 8:02:16 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leonard Mukai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to this bill and any gambling that would pollute this wonderful state that we live in. It is a proven gateway to addiction, organized crime, broken families, and other calamities. It can affect our present generation, children, grandchildren, and on nd on.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 8:05:32 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mea Aloha Spady	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a resident born and raised in Hawai`i of native Hawaiian blood, and as a woman, I am submitting my opposition to Bill 359. As an individual who has worked both with domestic violence and human trafficking service agencies in Hawai`i, I have serious concerns about the impact a casino will have on the prevalence of these social issues.

Whereas a National Institute of Health study demonstrated moderate-risk (MR)/problem gamblers had a 2.73-fold increase in the odds of experiencing FV victimization (21.3%; 95% CI: 13.1-29.4) relative to non-problem gamblers (9.4%; 95% CI: 8.5-10.4) and also had a 2.56-fold increase in the odds of experiencing FV perpetration (19.7%; 95% CI: 11.8-27.7) relative to non-problem gamblers (9.0%; 95% CI: 8.0-10.0), we can surmise that there is a probable negative impact on the Hawai`i community should a casino be established.

Further, the National Gambling Impact Study Commission reported: "Children of compulsive gamblers are often prone to suffer abuse, as well as neglect, as a result of parental problem or pathological gambling." In the Bill, North Carolina is listed as a precedent. However, the Bill does not address the additional economic impacts in North Carolina. For example, the Department of Health necessitated the creation and funding of a new state department, The North Carolina Problem Gambling Program to provide and support effective problem gambling prevention, education, outreach and treatment services throughout North Carolina.

Secondarily, additional economic impact studies should be made available to the public. If the claim is the impetus for establishment of casinos is a revenue shortfall for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, there should be additional economic impact studies conducted for other solutions. Surely, a casino is not the only possible solution. While the assertion is the casinos will generate revenue not only for DHHL, but for social responsibility, we do not need the casino to create new pockets of social need to then in turn fund the very issues it created.

I strongly oppose this Bill and hope that the voices of other community members are fairly heard throughout this process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 8:12:26 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalei Takakura-DeFrancia	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

DHHL should be focusing on housing our people before building casinos and based on that, I oppose this bill.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 8:28:37 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cecilia Rose Reilly	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

The prospect of a Gambling Facility on Hawaiian Homes land is among the last in a long, egregious history of mismanagement and fraud. In all ways and capacities i oppose Hawaiian land being used for this purpose! BUILD THEM HOMES!!

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 8:31:13 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pili Keala-Quinabo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB359 as I believe that the harm it will cause to Hawaiians and Hawai'i is much more than the opportunity it would provide.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 8:39:23 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamalani Keliikuli	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

DHHL needs to generate funds to help our people and a casino is not a solution

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 9:06:31 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Tanimura Winquist	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a resident born and raised in Hawai`i and as a woman, I am submitting my opposition to Bill 359. As an individual who has worked with domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking victims and survivors in Hawai`i, I have serious concerns about the impact a casino will have on the prevalence of these social issues.

Whereas a National Institute of Health study demonstrated moderate-risk (MR)/problem gamblers had a 2.73-fold increase in the odds of experiencing FV victimization (21.3%; 95% CI: 13.1-29.4) relative to non-problem gamblers (9.4%; 95% CI: 8.5-10.4) and also had a 2.56-fold increase in the odds of experiencing FV perpetration (19.7%; 95% CI: 11.8-27.7) relative to non-problem gamblers (9.0%; 95% CI: 8.0-10.0), we can surmise that there is a probable negative impact on the Hawai`i community should a casino be established.

Further, the National Gambling Impact Study Commission reported: "Children of compulsive gamblers are often prone to suffer abuse, as well as neglect, as a result of parental problem or pathological gambling." In the Bill, North Carolina is listed as a precedent. However, the Bill does not address the additional economic impacts in North Carolina. For example, the Department of Health necessitated the creation and funding of a new state department, The North Carolina Problem Gambling Program to provide and support effective problem gambling prevention, education, outreach and treatment services throughout North Carolina.

Secondarily, additional economic impact studies should be made available to the public. If the claim is the impetus for establishment of casinos is a revenue shortfall for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, there should be additional economic impact studies conducted for other solutions. Surely, a casino is not the only possible solution. While the assertion is the casinos will generate revenue not only for DHHL, but for social responsibility, we do not need the casino to create new pockets of social need to then in turn fund the very issues it created.

I strongly oppose this Bill and hope that the voices of other community members are fairly heard throughout this process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 9:34:47 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aoloa Patao	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha nā ,

This has nothing to do with what the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act promised. It did not promise a casino--it promised homes. This is not the right way to go about building homes for Native Hawaiians. Hawaii does not need a casino to create unhealthy habits and shady money-driven activities here. We NEED homes for our Hawaiian population. This bill will not help Native Hawaiians as the revenue from the casino will not go to DHHL, only 75% of the taxes.

Who is this bill really trying to support?

LATE

FROM: Sophina Placencia, Wai'anae Resident

TO: **Rep. Sean Quinlan, Chair**, Rep. Daniel Holt, Vice Chair and members of the House Committee on Economic Development.

HEARING: **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2021** **9:30AM** **CR#: 325**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and committee members,

My name is Sophina Placencia, I am a lifelong resident of Wai'anae, a former Executive Director for a nonprofit organization serving the houseless along the Wai'anae Coast, and most importantly I am a descendant of now deceased DHHL waitlisters.

I am **OPPOSED to H.B. #359** Related to Gaming that seeks to grant a 40 year gaming license on DHHL land designated for commercial use on O'ahu.

This bill is an irresponsible response to a decades-long crisis of decreasing the DHHL waitlist and putting Native Hawaiians into homes as a promise of cultural equity.

It is equivalent to DHHL, a Hawaii Government State Department, creating its own payday loan center (which is known for its predatory lending practices) so it can profit on the people it was meant to service under the guise of being a method to financially streamline the buildings of properties to decrease the DHHL waitlist.

I urge this committee to request from DHHL a comprehensive list of studies it's conducted that underscores how this approach, establishing gaming, is the best solution to alleviating the issue of Native Hawaiians on the waitlist for decades waiting on their right for cultural equity.

Mahalo for allowing me to submit this testimony. Should you have any questions feel free to call me at 808.940.4779

Sophina Placencia
Wai'anae Resident

LATE

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 9:43:45 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Regina Peterson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill!!!

LATE

Aloha Chair Quinlan,

I am testifying today in opposition to HB 359, RELATING TO GAMING.

The State of Hawaii has a fiduciary responsibility outlined Article XII of the Hawaii State Constitution to administer the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act . This fiduciary responsibility requires the legislature to make sufficient sums available to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. The Legislature of Hawaii has failed to meet this requirement forcing thousands of beneficiaries to be waitlisted. The Department of Hawaiian Homelands has been underfunded by this legislative body for many years and is now turning to casino gaming as the answer. This action is unacceptable and creates a precedent that DHHL should be a self funding department, however the state constitution requires otherwise. When Hawaii entered into statehood, the state assumed the fiduciary responsibility to provide sufficient sums to execute the provisions of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. Placing this responsibility onto the department itself is unacceptable.

In addition, the creation of casino gambling on DHHL administered lands blatantly distracts, and wastes resources which could otherwise be used for affordable housing directed at beneficiaries. This is a proposal that did not originate in the community and does not have significant buy-in from beneficiaries. It is an ill conceived solution to address the State of Hawaii's failure, not DHHL.

Furthermore, the budget shortfall remains a State-wide issue, not a DHHL specific issue. Hence correcting budgetary issues by establishing a casino on Hawaiian Homelands is biased against DHHL, the beneficiaries, and breaks the trust given to the legislature in the State Constitution. While many can understand the budget issues of the State, putting the burden of self funding on DHHL and ignoring the fiduciary responsibility of the State as laid out in the Constitution is completely inappropriate.

I write this as a citizen, as a Kanaka Maoli, and as family member and friend of many waitlisted beneficiaries.

Mahalo for your time,

David Keali'i MacKenzie

February 4, 2021

RE: HB 359 RELATING TO GAMING- SB 1321 RELATING TO GAMING

Aloha e, House of Representatives and Senators:

My name is Keoki Dudoit, resident of Kapolei born and raised here on the island of 'Oahu. I am a Native Hawaiian serving on the Board for the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement and Board for a Makana O Ke Akua (Clean and Sober Homes). I am also a business owner and minister in the church.

I am strongly opposed to HB359 relating to gaming, SB 1321. I believe that allowing a gambling facility to operate in our State will threaten the quality of life for our people. There is a reason why our forefathers have opposed legalizing gambling in our State, to prevent the problems and chaos that comes with this type of institutions.

I understand that legalizing gambling will increase revenue in Hawaii, but for me the trade-off is not worth it. Yes it will create jobs for hundreds and bring in a new crowd of customers (tourist), but we are the people that will suffer. Our young ones won't have a fighting chance. Our war with crime, drugs and homeless will be even harder.

It is time that DHHL fulfill it's mission to serve the Hawaiian people. We need the land to strengthen and enhance our local Native Hawaiian's. When will the people get to build and prosper on their land? DHHL has irresponsibly managed the assets entrusted to them for the Hawaiian people for years. We need to stop giving away what belongs to the Hawaiian people, especially because we need it to perpetuate our quality of health. If we don't stop it now we will face a continual misuse and lack of accountability from DHHL.

I simply want to say, legalizing gambling in our State of Hawaii will do worst for our community, local economy, and next generation. This type of business goes against our culture and local practices to provide the best opportunities for our lāhui (people) and 'āina (land).

I urge all house Representatives and Senators not to do not rubber stamp support to move this forward but to make sure that this beautiful State of Hawaii remains an island of O'hana (family) and keep our O'hana values in place for our keikis (children).

Mahalo for this time and opportunity to submit my testimony.

Mahalo piha,

Keoki Dudoit
92-365 Malahuna Pl
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 10:23:26 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

NO No No !!!

contributes to addiction, prostitution

and crime !!!!

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

TO: All State House Representatives

FROM:

Native Hawaiian DHHL and OHA Beneficiary for Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment

A'OLE Casino on DHHL land.

Please OPPOSE HB359

Please OPPOSE all House Bills regarding Casinos on DHHL Lands.

Aloha e Representatives,

Contrary to DHHL's false claims, please be aware, Big money attract dark people and negative consequences.

Casinos and gambling come from dark spirits. They are NOT the Aloha Spirit.

Citizens are not just gambling with money, they're gambling with their lives.

Gamblers are always a loser in the long run.

Casinos will only accept CASH to gamble. You go into a casino one day thinking I'm going to spend this much, but leave AFTER you gambled and lost the cash you allocated for your rent/mortgage, utility bills, car payment, children's school supplies, school tuition, clothing, child's bus fare, food, and more.

Sex traffickers are attracted to casinos. They will sex traffick island teenagers to gamblers. Pimps always bring prostitutes near casinos. They entice men who seem like high rollers. They entice men who are down on their luck and depressed from losing.

Laws are made to PROTECT AND SERVE ALL citizens. Casinos exploit many to benefit a little. Casinos take from Peter to pay Paul, take from Kate to pay Katherine. On DHHL land, casinos take from Aloha to pay Aila, take from Moana to pay Masagatani.

I humbly ask our law makers to oppose HB359, and all House Bills for casino on DHHL land.

Ke Akua Pu,

Germaine Meyers

DHHL and OHA Beneficiary for Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment and Nanakuli
Hawaiian Homestead Lessee

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 11:05:18 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roberta Helemano	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please oppose this bill... Don't make Hawai'i a gambling state.

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 11:12:27 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanoe Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a constituent and Hawaiian Homelands lessee, I strongly oppose HB359. The DHHL waitlist is very long and it is better to use the land for houses instead of a casino. Please do not allow a casino to be built on DHHL lands. It would be detrimental to Native Hawaiians and to the State.

Mahalo,

Kanoe Medeiros

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 11:26:07 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lei	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

No cassino

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 11:26:16 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kyani Bateman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

AuÄ“, hilahila iÄ• ‘oukou!

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 11:54:58 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I urge our esteem legislature NOT to support this bill. You all know the concerns and the risks.

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 12:10:22 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandy-Alia Serikaku	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Auheā 'oukou e ka Fake State o Hawai'i,

UM IT'S A BIG 'A'OLE from this Hawaiian who doesn't have enough of the out-dated white supremacist racist blood quantum qualifications that would allow me to rehabilitate and heal generational trauma on MY land that the department of Hawaiian home lands is supposed to be doing, like ke ali'i o Kalaniana'ole intended, you know for the ho'omaopopo, building homes for Hawaiians. Not Casinos for Haoles. Aue ka hÅ«pÅ• !

Aloha nÅ• ke akamai a aloha 'ole o 'oukou.

Na'u with my chest,

Brandy-Alia Serikaku

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 12:31:28 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren Kamalei Stovall	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. DHHL has one job: to provide homes for Hawaiians. Thousands have been on the waiting list for land for years, and they want to build a casino on these lands? This is not only a gross misuse of 'Āina, but the availability of gambling will have huge adverse impacts to the financial wellness of the people of Hawai'i, and especially Kanaka Maoli. 'A'OLE to HB359. Mahalo.

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 12:49:42 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

oppose any form of legalized gambling in hawaii

ALOHA , I OPPOSE ANY GAMING IN HAWAII EXCEPT FOR LOTTERY.

I Am the person who first introduced the idea of using Turtle Bay Resort aka Ko'olina.

EVERYTIME I hear those words, " By request of another Party" can only mean one thing, " A lobbyist is involved ! "

OK HALT THE CRAP ! I am the one who suggested KO' OLINA aka Turtle Bay. But still insist on LOTTERY ONLY.

IF YOU ALL DON'T READ THIS , THEN YOU ALL DON'T DESERVE TO SAY ANYTHING ! GOT IT ? READ IT !

JESUS CHRIST SAKES, HB 359. To incorporate a commission for Gaming would be imperative to fraud and corruption. (This was the original bill. Introduced by Scott Saiki aka by request of another party).

Based on the criteria of § -3 Hawaii gaming commission.

Under a bill for an Act HB 359. § -3, Unofficial.

(a) There is established the Hawaii gaming commission, which shall be a body corporate and a public instrumentality of the State for the purpose of implementing this chapter. The commission shall be placed within the department of Hawaiian home lands for administrative purposes only. The department shall not direct or exert authority over the day-to-day operations or functions of the commission. The commission shall consist of five members as follows:

(1) One member of the Hawaiian homes commission; and

(2) Four members to be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate under section 26-34; provided that:

(A) At least one of the members shall be native Hawaiian as defined in the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act;

(B) One member shall have experience in corporate finance and securities;

(C) One member shall have experience in criminal investigations and law enforcement;

(D) One member shall have experience in legal and policy issues related to gaming; and

(E) One member may have professional experience in gaming regulatory administration or gaming industry management.

(1), (2) Is an automatic direct implication of possible fraud and corruption. Where the Governor can be easily bribed to attain a member or friend of his own future stake. The rest of the segments A thru E would be irrelevant and no power to detain, or correct any mistakes from there.

Now , lets talk clear transparency to this bill shall we ?

When we look into a Bill for an Act, we want to know as tax payers what we are going to endure in our future. In most cases, we want to be assured that any Bill in law will maintain the clarity of no future " corruption , fraud, or deception."

So, Why is it that this bill is being introduced to coverup the NAMES OF THE PEOPLE WE KNOW AS LOBBYIST ?

Current Referral: ECD, JHA, FIN

Introducer (s): SAIKI (Introduced by request of another party).

BY REQUEST OF ANOTHER PARTY, AS IN ;
STATE / CITY / OR PRIVATE ENTITY OR CORPORATION UNDER A DELAWARE CORPORATION ?
Should that " unknown " party be STATE / CITY admin, would engage into ethics violation ;
According to HRS Section 2-83 of the ethics code on fair treatment, which says, "No officer or
employee shall use or attempt to use the officer's or employee' s official position to secure or
grant unwarranted privileges, exemptions, advantages, contracts, or treatment, for oneself or
others."

BLNR / DLNR tried to use this doing the TMT case to override a conflict of interest by a board
member who was involved with a non profit who was a part of TMT. This law was not used
then HRS Sect 2-83. Which should had been.

I do not foresee as clear concise admission to gaming or gambling in Hawai'i , when the Bill in
itself is or has already been tainted in Corruption or deception as we see in the above
Statement. Mahalo , Wildman.

Aloha, sent in PDF File Legal House Bill 359 gambling. I opposed by reason that a state official
under dhhl Bill Alia was the original person who introduced the bill thru House Speaker Scott
Sakai. As a State Admin, he may have violated HRS sect 2-83, No officer or employee shall use
or attempt to use the officer's or employee's official position to secure or grant unwarranted
privileges, exemptions, advantages, contracts, or treatment, for oneself or others.

BLNR tried to do that with One board member who was associated to a non profit organization
that was a part of TMT during a hearing. Wildman.

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 1:17:19 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Roussos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose Hb359!

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 1:51:38 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Giselle Bocon-Domen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

DHHL should be more concerned with putting kā• naka maoli on Hawaiian lands instead of building casinos an that same land. No laila, I oppose this bill.

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 2:20:13 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Naomi Tachera	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The Department of Hawaiian Homes Lands needs to focus on getting Hawaiians in Homes, not destroying families with a casino. This is totally unacceptable to even propose. We need as a state need to find more sustainable solutions for our economic future, for our future generations, for everyone in Hawai'i. Gambling is an addiction, and everyone is hurting financially right now, a casino will never be a solution, ever!

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 6:50:47 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Keawe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

NO CASINOS OR LOTTERIES IN HAWAI'!!!!

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

HB-359

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 9:32:56 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/5/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill as I'm worried about the effects on women/girls safety.