

# OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

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To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

From: Cheryl Kakazu Park, Director

Date: February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference

Re: Testimony on S.B. No. 1321  
Relating to Gaming

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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

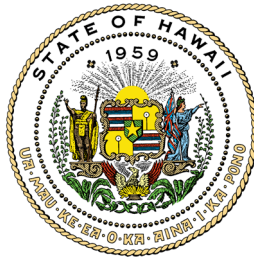
**additional “complete and accurate record” requirement in this bill is duplicative and confusing.**

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.



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SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

**S.B. NO. 1321, RELATING TO GAMING**

Hearing: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

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The Office of the Auditor takes **no position** on S.B. No. 1321 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 retain an independent CPA firm to audit the authority's financial. 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 S.B. No. 1321. We are committed to providing meaningful audit findings that address the issues identified by the Legislature.



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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 11, 2021 AT 1:00APM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**SB 1321 RELATING TO GAMING**

February 11, 2021

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Keohokalole, 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 amends the criminal code to enable the Hawaiian Homes Commission the freedom to evaluate the possibility of gaming. Should the Hawaiian Homes Commission ultimately decide to exercise its autonomy over its lands by entering into an development agreement, it will not be done so without extensive beneficiary consultation and due diligence. However, the ability to make that informed decision is one reserved for the Commission on behalf of its beneficiaries. Approving this bill is a reaffirmation of the Senate's commitment to native Hawaiian self-determination and self-sufficiency as a priority for our State.

The Department believes, conservatively, a gaming facility 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.

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.

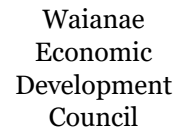
Consider the department’s request for lot development funds in its sufficient sums budget this year. Looking only at the projects that will be shovel-ready (design and construction) by the end of the biennium, the Department could impact over 700 lots at a cost of roughly \$64 million – nearly two to three times the Department’s normal budgetary allocation. This excludes nearly \$81 million in requests for planning, acquisition, and design work that would impact an additional 1,000 lots to be added to our project pipeline.

Year after year, the Department is left with the difficult task of explaining to those on the waitlist why some projects were greenlit and others have been tabled. That list for this year is included below, and the Department encourages the Senate to consider the needs of beneficiaries who will not see developments in these areas until another biennium.

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.

AREA or SUBDIVISION	PROJECT COMPONENTS	Lots	FY 2022	FY 2023
<b>HAWAII</b>				
Keaukaha	Scattered Lots		5,000,000	-
Hilo	Panaewa Lot 184	6	1,000,000	-
<b>KAUAI</b>				
Hanapepe	Hanapepe Residential Subdivision Phase 2	75		7,500,000
<b>MAUI</b>				
Honokowai	Water System Improvements, offsite storage		-	4,000,000
Villages of Leialii Ph1B	Residential Subdivision Increment 1	75	8,000,000	-
Waikapu	Pu'unani Homestead	161	6,000,000	-
Keokea-Waiohuli	Keokea-Waiohuli, Phase 2B Site Improvements	75	-	12,500,000
Kahikinui	Kahikinui Roadways		1,000,000	
<b>MOLOKAI</b>				
Hoolehua	Naiwa Agriculture Lots Site Improvements	58	9,500,000	
<b>OAHU</b>				
Nanakuli	Voice of America, Ph I Infrastructure	253	10,000,000	-



## Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Time: 1:00 PM

Date: Peleluali 19, 2021

Location: Via Videoconference

Testimony submitted by the listed organizations

### RE: **COMMENTS on SB1321, Relating to Gaming**

E ka Luna Ho‘omaluku Shimabukuro, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omaluku Keohokalole, a me nā Kenekoa ‘ē a‘e o kēia Kōmike, aloha!

We, the listed organizations, submit this joint testimony to provide **COMMENTS** on SB1321, which geared to provide a revenue source for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to develop land and lots to fulfill the needs of the current waitlist.

While we may hold different stances on the issue of gaming, we stand united in calling for the fulfillment of the vision of Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole to see native Hawaiians housed and on their land. July 9, 2021 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. 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. A conservative estimate of infrastructure costs alone to develop 28,000 lots, not accounting for new land acquisition is over \$4.5 billion.

**There is an absolute need to find a long-term solution to address the chronic underfunding of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.** The proposal before you would generate potential revenue that is greater than the Department’s total annual revenue receipts from all commercial lands combined. Given the unprecedented and historic budget shortfall as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we ask that the discussions engendered by this measure continue.

With this testimony, our organizations collectively offer comments on SB1321. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



# HAWAII TEAMSTERS & ALLIED WORKERS LOCAL 996

**LATE**

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

[Local996@hawaiiunion.com](mailto:Local996@hawaiiunion.com)

1817 Hart Street  
Honolulu, HI 96819-3205

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

February 11, 2021

1:00 pm

*Via Videoconference*

Hawaii Legislature

Senate

Hawaiian Affairs Committee

Re: Support for SB1321 – Relating to Gaming

**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

Dear Chairperson, Maile Shimabukuro and Vice-Chair Jarrett Keohokalole and members:

The Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers Local 996 SUPPORTS SB1321. 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. ***This bill is about housing for Native Hawaiians.***

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



# HAWAII TEAMSTERS & ALLIED WORKERS LOCAL 996

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

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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.

Fraternally,

Wayne K. S. Kaululaau  
President/Principal Executive Officer

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**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 10:25:29 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

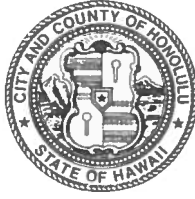
<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pauline N. Namuo	Testifying for Hawaiian Homes Commission	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this proposal.

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 11, 2021

The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Shimabukuro and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 1321, 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 Senate Bill No. 1321, 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 Senate Bill No. 1321, Relating to Gaming, and thanks you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Ballard", written over a horizontal line.

Susan Ballard  
Chief of Police

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip Johnson", written in a cursive style.

Phillip Johnson, Major  
Narcotics/Vice Division



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 MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, CHAIR**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**  
**Thirty-First State Legislature**  
**Regular Session of 2021**  
**State of Hawai`i**

February 11, 2021

**RE: S.B. 1321; RELATING TO GAMING.**

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in strong opposition to S.B. 1321.

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 show a clear correlation between casinos and increased crime and societal ills among their surrounding community. For example, Macao—one of the cities that S.B. 1321 specifically points to as an inspiration for this bill<sup>1</sup>—experienced a 52.6% increase in reported crimes between 2002 and 2008 (following the liberalization of casino licensing in 2002), from 9,088 to 13,864<sup>2</sup>, and experienced a 26.6% increase in the number of high school drop-outs in the same period, from 1,886 to 2,388<sup>3</sup>. 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.<sup>4</sup> This was based on seven areas of social impact<sup>5</sup>, and was said to be a conservative figure, expected to rise further in subsequent years.

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<sup>1</sup> See House Bill 359 (2021), p. 2, ln. 20. Available online at [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2021/Bills/HB359\\_.pdf](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2021/Bills/HB359_.pdf); last accessed February 4, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*, at 72.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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:

While this prospect may seem staggering, even the opening of a single casino has been shown to have a substantial negative impact on public safety and welfare. A nationwide study in 2004 found a sharp increase in crime after the opening of any new casino, with a relatively low effect shortly after the casino opens, which grows over time.<sup>6</sup> Overall, the study calculated that approximately 8% of crime in “casino counties” was attributable to the casino, resulting in an average social cost of approximately \$75 per adult. Another study indicated that—nationwide—the opening of a new Indian-owned casino resulted in a 10% increase in violent crime, auto thefts, larceny & bankruptcies in the area.<sup>7</sup> Notably, crime in the surrounding communities also increased, suggesting an overall increase in aggregate crime, rather than just switching from one community to the next.<sup>8</sup>

Locally, 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 a casino were built here, pursuant to S.B. 1321.<sup>9</sup> “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.”<sup>10</sup> 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.<sup>11</sup>

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.”<sup>12</sup> Moreover, indigenous women are particularly susceptible to victimization, and already

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

<sup>5</sup> *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.

<sup>6</sup> Stitt, B. & Nichols, Mark & Giacomassi, David, “Does the Presence of Casinos Increase Crime? An Examination of Casino and Control Communities. *Crime & Delinquency*,” *CRIME DELINQUEN*. 49. 253-284 (2003); *citing* Grinols, Earl L. and David B. Mustard. 2004. *Casinos, Crime, and Community Costs*. University of Illinois and University of Georgia working paper. Available online at:

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/254571090\\_Does\\_the\\_Presence\\_of\\_Casinos\\_Increase\\_Crime\\_An\\_Examination\\_of\\_Casino\\_and\\_Control\\_Communities](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/254571090_Does_the_Presence_of_Casinos_Increase_Crime_An_Examination_of_Casino_and_Control_Communities); last accessed February 10, 2021. That study was based on an analysis of 3,165 counties across the United States, using county-level crime data on the 7 FBI Index 1 offenses (robbery, aggravated assault, rape, murder, larceny, burglary, and auto theft) from 1977 to 1996.

<sup>7</sup> Kearney, Melissa Schettini; Brookings Institution; “The Economic Winners and Losers of Legalized Gambling,” pp. 6-7, internal references omitted (February 2005). Available online at: <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/200502kearney.pdf>; last accessed February 9, 2021.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> Hawai‘i 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](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.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*, at page 3.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*, at page 4.

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*, at page 4. Internal references omitted.

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.<sup>13</sup>

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.<sup>14</sup>

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 S.B. 1321. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

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<sup>13</sup> *Id.*, at pages 5-6.

<sup>14</sup> *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.

# 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

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 4:21:56 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Teresa L Nakama	Testifying for BIFA	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Teresa L. Nakama strongly oppose SB1321... Do not mistake our Aloha and Kindness to be gambled away with all the negative social impacts it will have in our communities on all Islands. Do not destroy the very essence of our traditions and lifestyle that we have had for generations and will teach the next generations to come. This issue has been fought in the past especially by our churches and social entities that deal with the below poverty line. Gambling is not winning and it is all about losing wages and hard earnings and it will further impact our social humanitarian agency that will be impacted with all the negative issues----worsen the drug situation, human trafficking, further increase our houseless situations and not to mention the influx of world mafia. Please oppose this bill strongly...

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 3:41:51 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito	Testifying for Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	No

Comments:

We are in support of a way to generate the necessary revenue to help build more homes for native Hawaiians who qualify through DHHL.



# IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

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February 11, 2021 @ 1 pm

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Via Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: SB1321 – Relating to Gaming

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Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Senate Committee,

We **SUPPORT** SB1321. **This bill is fundamentally about housing Native Hawaiians.** 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 homelessness. 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





# 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 SENATE  
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
State Capitol, Videoconference  
Thursday, February 11, 2021; 1:00 p.m.

### STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 1321 RELATING TO GAMING

The ILWU Local 142 **supports** S.B. 1321, 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 the need to help expand and diversify our economy that has been severely 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. As a state, we need to look at new and creative ideas to establish good-paying jobs, improve our economy and generate revenue that does not negatively impact our lower-income families.

The single integrated casino and resort on Hawaiian home lands will do just that. It 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 who desperately need homes.

We believe this measure warrants further discussion and recommend passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Submitted Online:

**HEARING:** Thursday, February 11, 2021

**TO:** SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

**FROM:** Eva Andrade, President

**RE:** Opposition to SB 1321 Relating to Gaming

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii, representing a network of various Christian Churches and denominations. We oppose SB 1321 that would grant a forty-year gaming license for a single integrated resort property on Hawaiian homelands designated for commercial use on the island of Oahu excluding lands west of Ko Olina, establishes Hawaii Gaming Commission, imposes a wagering tax on gross gaming revenue and creates the State Gaming Fund.

We strongly believe that the millions of dollars potentially generated by any casino may very well bear an inestimable human cost. And that is a human cost the people of Hawaii cannot afford. The proponents of legalized gambling in the islands' chain argue that the casino industry could add over millions of dollars in new revenue each year. That seems like a good venue because each year across the mainland, people visit casinos with hopes to making easy money. Of course, this pales in comparison to the over billions generated annually via the tourism trade.

We believe that the societal harms that could very well come from legalizing gambling in Hawaii are serious:

- An increase in problem and pathological gambling, which leads to higher levels of crime, embezzlement, personal bankruptcy, child abuse, sex trafficking, domestic violence, divorce, suicide, etc.
- Harm to local communities and businesses because casinos siphon money out of the economy and provide no valuable product or service in return while typically cannibalizing local businesses; and
- The potential growth of corrupting influences on local and state government.

Our sister organization, the North Carolina Family Policy Center, reported that the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is one of the largest political donors in North Carolina.<sup>i</sup> In a state like ours, the potential for political influencers like these to have a stronghold, is staggering.

A very recent report entitled “Gender Impact Statement<sup>ii</sup>” conducted by the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women also highlighted several concerns with the establishment of a casino. According to the report summary:

- “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, domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault and sex trafficking;
- “The State’s anti-sex trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic violence infrastructure is threadbare, faces significant budget cuts, and would struggle to adequately address an increase in gender-based violence;
- “Prevention measures would likely face a structural headwind because sex trafficking reduction requires demand reduction, which is unlikely to be undertaken because it would require intervention with gambling customers who generate revenue. Thus, the resort-casino could create a vicious cycle that disincentives sex buyer demand reduction, incentives arrests of sexually exploited women, and maintains gender-based violence and economic instability for women, thereby placing women in a downward spiral;
- “Gambling tourism is an investment in the preexisting, low wage and service-oriented economy that quickly collapsed during the COVID-19 pandemic...”

Hawaii remains only 1 of 2 states to have no form of legalized gambling, and we believe that is the way it should remain. Establishing one casino is a door, that once opened, can never be closed. In the words of the late Senator Daniel Inouye “It starts that way. 'Just on the ship. Bingo. That's all we want.' Get your foot in the door, and that's it, the beginning of the end.<sup>iii</sup>”

We strongly ask that you vote no on this bill and keep Hawaii the way it should be - a place where people come to enjoy the traditions handed down by the ancient Hawaiians and enjoy the beauty of a place like no other place in the world.

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<sup>i</sup> <http://pulse.ncpolicywatch.org/2019/03/07/campaign-finance-watchdog-calls-for-investigation-of-chokees-soaring-political-donations-connections-to-gambling-legislation/> (accessed 02/03/21)

<sup>ii</sup> [https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/1.26.21-r2.1.21-GIS-FINAL\\_DHHL-Casino.pdf](https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/1.26.21-r2.1.21-GIS-FINAL_DHHL-Casino.pdf) (accessed 02/03/21)

<sup>iii</sup> <http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2002/Jan/11/ln/ln02a.html> (accessed 02/06/21)





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

Patrick K. Loo  
President

Gwen K. Rulona  
Secretary Treasurer

February 8, 2021

Hawaii Legislature  
Senate - Hawaiian Affairs Committee

RE: Support for SB 1321 - Relation to Gaming

Dear Chair Maile Shimabukuro and Vice-Chair Jarrett Keohokalole and Members,

UFCW 480 **SUPPORTS** SB 1321. 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. *This bill is about housing for Native Hawaiians.*

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 risk. 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

“A Union Preparing Today for the Needs of Tomorrow”

**Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna**  
*committed to the well-being of Hawai'i for the next generations to come*  
kupuna4moopuna@gmail.com



**STOP LEGAL THIEVERY!**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021 Time 1:00 P.M. Place: Via Videoconference

**Testimony of Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna**

SB 1321 – RELATING TO GAMING. **STRONG OPPOSITION**

We, Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna, a group of kūpuna Hawaiian homestead farmers committed to the well-being of Hawai'i for the next generations to come, **strongly oppose SB 1321.**

As beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA), born and raised on the homestead, we know first hand the challenges facing the Hawaiian Homes Commission, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), and the beneficiaries on the land and on the waitlist. Adding the ills of gambling to the already-challenged homestead program in the face of beneficiary opposition goes against the intent of the HHCA.

And why does the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands need to establish a casino to build houses? Does the Department of Education need to open an Excalibur to build gyms? Does the University of Hawai'i need to operate a Luxor to build facilities? No other state agency needs to consider gambling as a source of building revenue; DHHL need not as well.

Instead, DHHL must 1) collect overdue operational monies owed by the state as mandated by the State Constitution and upheld by the courts 2) overhaul general leases to maximize benefit to include airports and harbors 3) stop disposing the majority of HHCA lands to non-beneficiaries to the detriment of beneficiaries on the waitlist.

**Time to FOLD on SB 1321.**

***Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono!***



**February 9, 2021**

To: **Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Chair**  
**Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair & Members of the**  
**Committee on Hawaiian Affairs**

From: **Kali Watson**  
**President/CEO**  
**Hawaiian Community Development Board**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

Re: **Hearing on SB 1321**  
**Relating to Gaming on DHHL**  
February 11, 2021 at 1:00 pm  
Auditorium, State Capitol

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

Dear Chairperson Shimabukuro & Vice Chair Keohokalole of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **SB 1321** relating to Gaming on DHHL lands.

DHHL's new initiative is designed to generate critically needed funding for its many programs. The proposed legislation suggests a Kapolei integrated resort development on DHHL lands that may include casino gambling and possibly a golf course, aquariums, theme parks, sporting events and convention facilities.

While DHHL Chairman, I had the opportunities to visit many Indian and Maori gaming facilities throughout the mainland and in New Zealand. I can say with certainty that these revenue producing enterprises were and continue to be instrumental in helping these indigenous groups move forward in many respects both economically, socially, culturally and in health. This is not a new concept. While previously considered by the Hawaii legislature and rejected, the concept has actually been tried and been very successful all over the world in helping many indigenous groups prosper. With only two states in the United States without gambling, it's time for Hawaii to join the majority. But to do it in a way that truly helps its indigenous people, by allowing DHHL to use its vacant land in Kapolei in a more productive manner. It's time to think outside the box and look to creative approaches. Past approaches have not worked.

The proposed legislation is well-written, well thought out and provides many safeguards including a Hawaii gaming commission and legislative oversight. But more importantly, it provides that DHHL with private funding and allows it to solicit needed private expertise working with the Department to make the project a reality, which are all necessary. It will clearly provide significant mixed business development, along with many business opportunities and jobs for native Hawaiians. But most important, it will provide critical funding for DHHL's housing/homesteading programs. With over 28,000 people on the waiting lists, and a third of our homeless being Hawaiians, and 34.5% of HPD forced incidents involving Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in 2019, it's time to get serious about real, and viable solutions.

President  
Richard Soo

Secretary/Treasurer  
Jackie Burke

Board Members  
Linda Ahue  
Duane Hewlen  
Puni Kekauoha  
Alfred "Bobby" Willing  
Helen O'Connor

President/CEO  
Kali Watson

Senior VP  
Patti Barbee

The State, which has a fiduciary duty to native Hawaiians and the DHHL program under our State constitution, has failed miserably to move the program forward, especially as to its biggest need – affordable housing for its beneficiaries. In the past, and more so in these pandemic times, the State has not and will not be able to provide sufficient funding to truly make a difference in significantly reducing DHHL’s waiting lists. Even with Act 14 and its \$600 million settlement, it made only a small dent in the waiting lists that continue to grow even more so. And Act 14 has come to an end and future funding looks bleak. So, rather than relying and hoping for legislative funding, let DHHL generate its own private funding through this tested and successful approach. Support this DHHL initiative. Only then can it effectively develop more of its over 200,000 acres throughout the State for needed housing, farming and pastoral uses by DHHL beneficiaries.

Hawaii is strategically located within the middle of the Pacific, which is both good and bad. While tourism has been one of the primary economic engines for the state, its continued viability and attractiveness to tourists are uncertain. With newer jets that can now easily fly pass Hawaii, and more attractive and less costly tourist destinations being developed, the beauty and uniqueness of Hawaii can only go so far. Gambling is a definite draw for many mainlanders, Japanese and Chinese tourists. Let’s take advantage of this, especially when it may generate substantial funding for DHHL and the State.

This approach if successful will definitely help DHHL and its beneficiaries. Even if you disagree with gambling, a serious discussion and consideration during these challenging times with an ongoing pandemic which has decimated our tourist industry and forced so many businesses to close down, and with massive state/county budget shortages being anticipated, it is necessary and appropriate to allow DHHL to use its lands in a more productive manner. If done right, the Kapolei integrated resort development on DHHL lands will definitely be a good thing not only for the program, but for the State as well.

Hawaiian Community Development Board is a nonprofit focusing primarily on helping beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1921, but also works with non-beneficiaries.

I urge you to please pass measure **SB 1321**.

Pupuka I Holomua (United in order to progress),



Kali Watson  
President/CEO  
Hawaiian Community  
Development Board (HCDB)



February 8, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Hawaii State Capitol, Videoconference

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Subject: **Senate Bill 1321, RELATING TO GAMING**  
Report Title: Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation

Dear Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing in **strong opposition** of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, I know the negative impact gambling will have on the people of Hawai'i, our communities, and our families. Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing. Gambling creates no new wealth. Gambling creates an unacceptable outcome—in order for the government to win, its citizens must lose. Gamblers are mostly likely to be local residents, so the money they spend on gambling displaces other local expenditures. Sometimes, these displaced expenditures are necessities like food, shelter, and clothing.

There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens.

Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

Sincerely,

Solinu'u Savusa  
solijs@yahoo.com  
94-100 Mui Pl, C106  
Waipahu, HI 96797



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 5:47:29 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Francine Su'a-Filo	Testifying for Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	Oppose	No

Comments:

TO: Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Jarret Keohokalole and members of OHA,

I am writing this both as testimony both as a caring individual and as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. I am in STRONG OPPOSITION of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359.

Legalizing gambling will definitely have a negative impact on our beloved state of Hawaii, our communities and especially our families. in order for the state to gain income, that means families need to lose something. More than likely, it will be our local families that will be impacted rather than outside visitors. Hawaii considers Las Vegas its "Ninth Island" which is telling of how many locals fly there and "deposit" so much. This can only impact their families negatively when losses are tallied which affect quality and the mandatory things of life. Along wtih gambling, there will be an increase in crime which will affect the quality of life for all.

Our future generations are impacted by this crucial decsion. I strong urge your opposition to SB1321 and all legislation regarding gambling establishments.

Mahalo,

Francine Su'a-FIlo

98-351 Koauka Loop C-705

(808) 205-8388/mililanilee@gmail.com



Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

*Pō‘ahā, Pepeluali 11, 2021*

*Via Wikiō*

*Ke Kapikala Moku‘āina*

415 South Beretānia Street

Re: SB 1321 - Relating to Gaming

*Aloha Luna Ho‘omalu Maile Shimabukuro, Hope Luna Ho‘omalu Jarrett Keohokalole and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:*

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs provides **COMMENTS** on this measure that proposes the authorization for casino gaming at a single site on Hawaiian home lands for the purpose of providing economic benefit to beneficiaries of the Hawaiian home lands trust.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, since its origins more than 100 years ago, advocates for the Hawaiian Homes Commission, the programs it administers, and for sufficient resources to be made available to it in order to serve the beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust. Our long-standing track record of this advocacy is evident in resolutions we’ve adopted at our annual conventions. Most recently:

- In 2008, at its 49th annual convention, the Association adopted resolutions 08-26 and 08-29 whereby the Association supports the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands in achieving financial self-sufficiency and diversifying sources of funding; and
- In 2012, at its 53rd annual convention, the Association adopted resolution 12-7 whereby the Association urges the Governor and the Hawai‘i State Legislature to appropriate sufficient sums to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and resolution 12-18 whereby the Association reaffirmed its support of the Native Hawaiian public and private Alii trusts, including the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

The Association urges a long-term solution to address the chronic underfunding of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, the need for diversified funding sources for the trust, and the lack of any other plan in recent history that fully addresses the over 28,000 Native Hawaiians on the waitlist. As we celebrate the centennial of the enactment of the Hawaiian Home Commissions Act championed by HRH Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianaʻole our founder, let us set our sights on *how* we can fulfill the state’s obligation to return native Hawaiians to the land.

The Association does not have a position on gaming. We, do however, support diverse methods that provide funding to the trust that benefit Native Hawaiians, in alignment with the sentiments of Her Majesty Queen Liliuʻokalani:

**“I am not defending lotteries. They are not native productions of my country, but introduced into our “heathen” land by so-called Christians, from a Christian nation, who have erected monuments, universities, and legislative halls by that method. I am simply explaining what this bill intended, because, by the reports sent to their correspondents in the United States, the missionary party represented me as a grand vender of lottery tickets, by which I was to become rich and powerful; whereas the scheme, be it good or bad, would not have been to my individual profit, but to that of my native people.”** (emphasis added)

CHAPTER XXXIX THE “CRIMES I AM CHARGED WITHAL.” *Hawaii’s Story by Hawaii’s Queen* by Liliuokalani, Queen of Hawaii, 1898.

The civic club movement was founded in 1918 by Congressional Delegate Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianaʻole with the creation of the Hawaiian Civic Club; the Association was formally organized in 1959 and has grown to a confederation of over sixty (60) Hawaiian Civic Clubs located throughout the State of Hawai‘i and the United States. The Association is the oldest Hawaiian community-based grassroots organization. The Association is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors; advocates for improved welfare of Native Hawaiians in culture, health, economic development, education, social welfare, and nationhood; and perpetuates and preserves language, history, music, dance and other Native Hawaiian cultural traditions.

*Mahalo* for allowing us to share our *mana* ʻo.

*Me ka ʻoia ʻi ʻo,*



Hailama Farden

*Pelekikena*

***ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN  
CIVIC CLUBS  
A RESOLUTION***

08-29

**URGING THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS  
TO SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME  
LANDS IN DIVERSIFYING ITS FUNDING SOURCES**

WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920 was passed by the U.S. Congress at Prince Kūhiō's urging, with the support of the Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu, to revitalize the native Hawaiian community by returning them to the land; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i agreed to accept responsibility for the Act and to faithfully carry out its mission as part of the Statehood compact with the United States; and

WHEREAS, it has been the practice of the department to keep its homestead homes affordable by carrying the cost of the infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, drainage, utilities which now averages \$125,000 per house lot), by offering a menu of homeowner benefits (including low-interest loans, loan guarantees, down payment assistance, self-help housing, homeownership counseling), and by asserting its land use authority over Hawaiian home lands and water rights to reduce development costs; and

WHEREAS, it has been estimated that the department will need in excess of \$1.5 BILLION to meet the homeownership needs of those native Hawaiian families most in need, that is, at or below 80% of median family income; and

WHEREAS, the department receives \$8.5 million per year in federal housing block grant funds and those funds are cut annually and only restored with strong intervention by Hawai'i's Congressional delegation; and

WHEREAS, the department receives \$30 million per year through the Act 14, SpSLH 1995, settlement with the State of Hawai'i for a twenty year period which will end in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the department has set aside less than one percent of its landholdings for income purposes and has significantly increased its own revenues to \$12 million annually from this base; and

WHEREAS, the department generates revenues within a competitive environment and relies on the special status of Hawaiian home lands as trust lands with its land use exemptions, water reservation rights, and ability to extend general leasing terms; and

WHEREAS, the need for a substantial amount of funding every year to settle beneficiaries on Hawaiian home lands in significant numbers makes it necessary and essential for the department to expand and maximize its funds from a variety of sources; and

WHEREAS, there is no one source of funding, whether Federal, State, or the department itself, that can satisfy this need;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention on Nukoli`i, Kaua`i, Hawai`i, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October 2008, supports the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands in diversifying sources of funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs support the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands seeking Hawai`i's Congressional delegation continued support to increase funding from a wider variety of Federal program sources, seeking State Legislative support in providing sufficient funds as authorized under Article XII of the State Constitution making the department better able to finance its homesteading projects by protecting its land use exemptions, water rights, trust fund status, and seeking authority to extend the length of general leases to 99 years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Hawai`i's Congressional Delegation, the Governor of the State of Hawai`i, the Hawaiian Homes Commission, the President of the Hawai`i State Senate, and the Speaker of the Hawai`i State House of Representatives.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of October 2008, at the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at Nukoli`i, Kaua`i, Hawai`i

*Keimomi Huan*

President

# ***ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS***

## ***A RESOLUTION***

12 - 8

### **REAFFIRMING SUPPORT OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ALII TRUSTS BY THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS**

WHEREAS, in English Common Law a trust is defined as tangible or intangible property held to benefit others; and

WHEREAS, with much foresight, understanding and love for their people, Hawaii's Alii created private trusts from their estates to benefit the Native Hawaiian people in fundamental conditions of life; and

WHEREAS, King Lunalilo left his estate to care for Hawaiian elderly, Princess Pauahi's trust is for educational purposes, Kamehameha III and Queen Emma created a trust addressing the health of Hawaiians and Queen Liliuokalani left a trust to care for orphaned and half orphaned Hawaiian children; and

WHEREAS, despite the betrayals and overthrow of the Kingdom, and although he had no estate to share, in keeping with alii tradition, the legacy of Prince Kuhio as Delegate to Congress in 1920 was the creation of the Hawaiian Home Lands, providing a portion of ceded lands for Hawaiians of thirty two percent blood quantum; however, the blood quantum requirement was amended to fifty percent blood quantum by unfriendly members of Congress and remains at fifty percent today; and

WHEREAS, when Hawaii became a State of the Union in 1959, one of the conditions of the Admissions Act, was that the State had to accept the public trust obligations of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act under its State Constitution, including the fifty percent blood quantum requirement as defined in Section 5(f) of the Admissions Act; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, in acknowledgement of Hawaiians as Hawaii's native people, another public trust was created when the Office of Hawaiian Affairs(OHA) was constitutionally and statutorily confirmed using the same blood quantum requirements as defined in the Admissions Act whose beneficiaries are also defined in Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 10-2 as native Hawaiians and Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature agreed to provide a twenty percent portion of revenues generated on ceded lands to OHA for the provision of programs, projects and advocacy for the betterment of conditions of the Hawaiian and native Hawaiian people; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature acknowledged that native Hawaiians are identified only as those of fifty percent blood quantum, and provides a limited sum of general funds of the State for operational, administrative and other expenses for Native Hawaiians, or those of less than fifty percent blood quantum; and

WHEREAS, the alii and public trusts have been consistently challenged in court and will continue to be challenged by hostile persons who believe they should share in the trust benefits and/or that Hawaiians are not deserving of such largesse; and

WHEREAS, suits brought against the alii and public trusts have been extremely costly and created much ill will, and the trusts have had to be constantly vigilant to fend off such attacks and even the possibility thereof; and

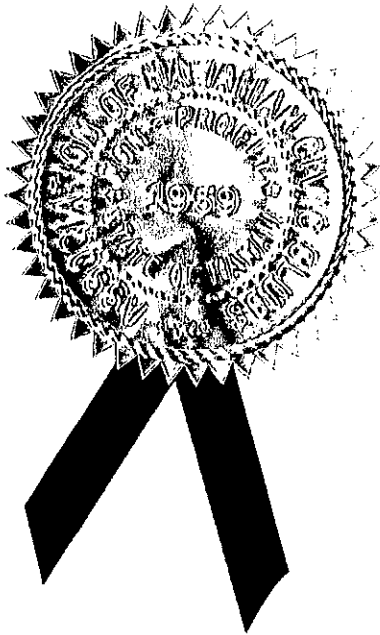
WHEREAS, in keeping with Prince Kuhio's intent when he and a group of prominent Hawaiians founded the first civic club in 1918 to support the Hawaiian Homes legislation and protect vestiges of the Kingdom, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs has strongly supported rules and requirements set by the trustees of the alii and public trusts at the legislature, in the Congress, in the public and in the courts; and

WHEREAS, on those few occasions when there has been disagreement on issues we have worked with trustees, commissioners and administrations to resolve things amicably "among the family" to preserve Hawaiian solidarity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the membership of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, meeting at convention in Washington, D.C. this 20<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2012, Reaffirms support of the private ali'i and public trusts, while reserving the right to make meaningful inquiries and/or to engage in constructive dialogue as needed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Kamehameha Schools, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Lunalilo Estate, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Queen Liliuokalani Estate, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the aforesaid Chairpersons are requested to share copies of this resolution with their respective Trustees and Commissioners in anticipation of a creative discussion to protect the Trusts and benefits for qualified beneficiaries.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of October 2012, at the 53rd Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Washington; D.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sulee L.K.O. Stroud", written over a horizontal line.

Soulee L.K.O. Stroud, President



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 8:43:56 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
eldred K Kalehua	Testifying for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a Group Leader for the Addiction Recovery Program for the Hilo Hawaii Stake with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints I'm in opposition to this bill. I have seen peoples lives being strongly disrupted to the addiction of gambling and cheating to cover up their shortfalls.

February 8, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Hawaii State Capitol, Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Subject: Senate Bill 1321, RELATING TO GAMING  
Report Title: Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation

Dear Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing in strong opposition of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, I know the negative impact gambling will have on the people of Hawai'i, our communities, and our families. My wife is also a member of the Navajo Nation. Currently, the Navajo Tribe owns and operates 4 casinos. In the beginning, the promise of quick financial benefits and rewards with a continuous cash flow seemed very enticing for the Navajo Nation. No one really could foresee the long-term consequences of having a place to gamble so close to home, but in time, the effects have become disheartening.

Addictions to alcohol and drugs already ravaged our people and gambling only created more miserable suffering for families, especially the youngest of them, our children. If you would like to see firsthand the appalling and unnecessary effects gambling can have to a family, a community, and our State of Hawai'i, I invite you to visit the Navajo Nation, or any home of those caught in the grasps of gambling, to see directly with that perspective. Strong families are the foundation of strong communities. Gambling doesn't help us achieve either of these things.

Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing. Gambling creates no new wealth. Gambling creates an unacceptable outcome—in order for the government to win, its citizens must lose. Gamblers are mostly likely to be local residents, so the money they spend on gambling displaces other local expenditures. Sometimes, these displaced expenditures are necessities like food, shelter, and clothing.

There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens.

Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

I plead with you that you would consider any stance in opposition to SB 1321 and its companion bill HB359.

Sincerely,

**Taran Chun**

111 Ke Ala Ola Road

Honolulu, HI 96817

(801) 707-7232

tarankchun@gmail.com

February 8, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Hawaii State Capitol, Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Subject: Senate Bill 1321, RELATING TO GAMING  
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Addictions to alcohol and drugs already ravaged our people and gambling only created more miserable suffering for families, especially the youngest of them, our children. If you would like to see firsthand the appalling and unnecessary effects gambling can have to a family, a community, and our State of Hawai'i, I invite you to visit the Navajo Nation, or any home of those caught in the grasps of gambling, to see directly with that perspective. Strong families are the foundation of strong communities. Gambling doesn't help us achieve either of these things.

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There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens.

Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

I plead with you that you would consider any stance in opposition to SB 1321 and its companion bill HB359.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nizhoni Chun', written in a cursive style.

**Nizhoni Chun**

111 Ke Ala Ola Road

Honolulu, HI 96817

(801) 928-9521

nizhonichun@gmail.com

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:26:59 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amanda K. DuPont	Testifying for Hawaii American Mothers	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am very much against legalized gambling in our state and feel that the cultural and moral damage to our society would far outweigh any financial benefits.



# Global Market Advisors

## Gaming as an Economic Engine for Hawaii

### Testimony in support of SB 1321

On behalf of Global Market Advisors, I want to thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today in support of SB 1321 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 and takes it further than has been contemplated in the past.

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

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#### 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.





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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

While the better option would be to pass the bill and proceed forward by legalizing this form of entertainment, this esteemed body and the House at a minimum should explore the opportunities offered by gaming, exploring the economic and social aspects. This would involve creating a study committee, evaluating the options for gaming and understanding what it can provide to the state in terms of income, as well as understanding any dynamics that may need to be put in place to support any harmful effects from gaming.

The opportunity to set long term policy is here, and this discussion should serve as a catalyst to find answers in the short term to establish the longer-term policy to support native Hawaiians and the state overall with a new stream of revenue.

Brendan Bussmann  
Partner, Director of Government Affairs  
Global Market Advisors  
[bdb@globalmarketadvisors.com](mailto:bdb@globalmarketadvisors.com)  
+1 402.432.1149



1481 South King St #448  
Honolulu, HI 96814

151 North Carolina Ave SE  
Washington DC 20020  
info@hawaiianhomesteads.org



**Robin Puanani Danner**, Chairwoman, Kauai  
**Sybil Lopez**, Vice Chairwoman, Molokai  
**Kekoa Enomoto**, Councilwoman, Maui/Lanai  
**Richard Soo**, Councilman, Oahu  
**Ron Kodani**, Councilman, Hawaii Island  
**Faisha Solomon**, Administrator

Date: February 11, 2021

To: Honorable Members of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee

Fr: Robin Puanani Danner, SCHHA Chairwoman

Re: Testimony in Absolute Opposition of SB1321 – A State Govt Casino on Hawaiian Home Lands

This legislation authorizes the State of Hawaii, charged with issuing land for homes, farms, ranches and mercantile establishments to native Hawaiians, as a condition of Statehood, to instead use our land for a casino. The SCHHA stands in opposition for the following reasons:

- 1. State Compact with Congress.** First and foremost, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), is NOT a native Hawaiian organization – it is a State agency, created in 1961 to administer our federal land trust established by the U.S. Congress in 1920. DHHL is the lead State agency for the entire State government to fulfill the promises made in the Admissions Act. Indeed, the U.S. Congress expected and relied upon the “new” State to fully fund its agency’s operations and the delivery of the program through State funds, primarily because the Congress transferred 1.8 million acres at no cost and no compensation, now called ceded lands to create a successful State government in service to its citizens, including native Hawaiians. This is also made clear in the State of Hawaii Constitution itself.

Thus, it would be an absolute breach of the State’s duty, to now, 62 years later, take our trust lands to build itself a casino, and equally egregious, to substitute the promise of State government in 1959 with a false narrative that its agency must generate funds with our land. DHHL, nor the Department of Education, nor the Department of Agriculture, or any other State agency is required to generate revenues to exist or to deliver on their respective missions, much less through a casino.

Funding State agencies, including DHHL is the purview and kuleana of the State Legislature from General Funds, from GO Bonds and the like – to not only oversee the successful operation of its agencies in meeting mission, but to determine its capacity to spend funding, as well as to determine its annual funding levels prudent to perform its primary function, in the case of DHHL - issue trust lands to native Hawaiians to live, to farm, to ranch and to do business.

There are some in the public, and in the State Legislature, that are under the misguided notion that the State’s agency, DHHL, must leave 28,000 of us on the waitlist, in order to lease out our trust lands to generate revenues to sustain its DHHL agency. This is a completely false narrative perpetuated by the State and perpetrated on native Hawaiians.

Your SB1321 actually states, falsely, that the State “must find alternative means of revenues”. In testimony by State DHHL officials, it was stated that a casino is the “only” way to meet our needs. These are both false statements. DHHL must improve its performance and increase its access to relevant and existing sources of revenue.

- 2. Agency Capacity to Spend Legislative Appropriations.** The SCHHA is one of very few, if any, citizen organization’s that has spent several years understanding your DHHL agency’s capacity to perform its duties, its budget, our trust fund accounts that it manages, as well as its ability to spend funds efficiently, appropriately and in a timely manner.

*Founded in 1987, the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations (SCHHA) is the oldest and largest governing homestead association registered with the Department of Interior, exercising sovereignty on the trust lands established under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920.*

In 2016, SCHHA launched a DHHL Budgetary Project, to analyze the submissions by DHHL to the Governor and Legislature, to ascertain the soundness of its budget requests. In that same year, the U.S. Congress reduced its annual appropriation of \$13M in NAHASDA dollars down to \$2M annually, because DHHL had a backlog of \$60M over several years in unspent funds - an inability to spend down funds timely. An inability to spend \$13M a year. That is not a revenue or funding problem, its capacity and performance.

It was clear based on the exorbitant funding requests coming from DHHL to the Governor and to the Legislature, that its officials were merely calculating a mathematical equation of “need” and completely ignoring prudent budgetary considerations such as its own capacity to actually spend what it was requesting, as well as what a small State like Hawaii could absorb in the type of spending and the geographical locations (ie, neighbor islands, labor pools, available contractors, etc). Moreover, the budget requests seem to be blind to common practices of public funding leverage, relying solely on State government sources, and also ignoring the successful practices of other federal land trusts of collaborating directly with the Native people and organizations for which these lands trusts exist, in our case, us, native Hawaiians and federally defined Hawaiian Homestead Associations.

Our findings in 2016, and again in 2018, determined that sufficient funding to DHHL to operate (general funds) and to clear the waitlist (primarily CIP funds to develop lots or condominium approaches where acceptable), was not a calculation solely based on “need” as continuously represented by DHHL, but rather a formula of *Need to Meet the Purpose of the HHCA + DHHL Capacity & Performance + Capacity of the Economy by Island to Absorb CIP Projects*. The SCHHA came to the same conclusion that the U.S. Congress did - the limiting factor to sound and increased funding by the Legislature to meet needs, is *DHHL Capacity & Performance*.

SCHHA recommended in the last two biennium budgets for DHHL to be funded at \$19M - \$26M in general funds annually for its operations, \$25M in steady allocations of CIP capital each year and made suggestions to reform and make improvements to build its capacity and performance in order to increase those levels. The Governor, and the Legislature has largely funded its DHHL agency at or close to those levels, which are far beyond the years prior to 2016. Mahalo to the Nelson Case and the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation (NHLC) for representing native Hawaiian beneficiaries in identifying an operational funding level of \$28M.

In 2018, SCHHA endeavored to assess the prudence of the appropriated funding levels it had recommended, and the Legislature appropriated, particularly for DHHL operational funding to ascertain a strong justification for increases. We requested a simple “budget to actual” financial report, common in comparing the amount by line item appropriated against funds actually expended. DHHL refused to provide the data, so SCHHA utilized Freedom of Information laws to obtain the necessary financial data pieces to build a proper “budget to actual” report. Our analysis confirmed unfortunately, that DHHL had yet to improve its capacity and performance - it failed to expend all of the funds appropriated by the Legislature. Each year, we request a “budget to actual” report, both to DHHL, and to the Senate Chair of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee. We have yet to receive this most basic, yet powerful fiscal data. We want to advocate for additional funding, but have not been able to, given the inability of DHHL to spend what is currently allocated.

On November 23, 2020, DHHL issued its annual Report on Non-General Funds – essentially, a report on the trust funds and special funds it is a fiduciary to manage on our behalf as HHCA beneficiaries, funds that do not come from the Legislature, funds that do not include any general funds or GO bonds appropriated by the Legislature. SCHHA studied the 46-page report, and our policy team compiled a one-page summary which we have attached to this testimony.

DHHL has in its care, over \$319M in non-general funds as of the end of FY2020. Of these funds, over

\$150M from Act 14 monies, specifically for CIP, lot development, infrastructure – projects that put Hawaii to work, and native Hawaiians on our land. On average, DHHL has only been able to spend \$5.5M annually over the last 4 years based on DHHL’s own November 2020 report. Again, the Congress halted NAHASDA because DHHL could not spend \$13M a year, the agency is unable to produce a straight forward “budget to actual” on the funds it has been appropriated by the Legislature.

Honorable members, there is no evidence, yet, that DHHL will be able to spend the \$30M it projects to receive from a casino. The challenge is not revenue, not more funding – it is agency functionality. A casino is not the answer, reform of this agency is, so that it can reach higher levels. It is fixable.

- 3. Agency Performance.** The primary reason the Legislature had not funded DHHL at any significant level in the prior decade, was at the direct request of DHHL itself. The “Lingle Doctrine” executed during the Lingle Administration, launched the plan at DHHL to reduce any State Legislative funding to near zero, and instead to aggressively generate revenue by leasing our trust lands to sustain DHHL operations. As you know, Beneficiaries sued DHHL via the Nelson Case, and over the last two biennia, the Legislature has adequately funded DHHL, based on its capacity and performance. The mindset of continuing to issue our lands for revenue generation however has continued.

The reality that the State’s own DHHL agency is directly responsible for its own lack of legislative funding, then used our own trust funds to litigate against receiving legislative funding over many years, and when the courts ruled that sufficient funding must be requested, turned on and blamed the Legislature – was and is irresponsible at best. The disfunction is sobering, but it is the State government’s disfunction, not ours, as native Hawaiians. This is exactly the reason the SCHHA embarked on a tedious project to put forward a Beneficiary’s Budget Request directly to the Governor and the Legislature.

Consider that while this agency blamed the Legislature for insufficient funding, launched a campaign, even threatened to sue the Legislature, it was cut by the federal government, over \$44M over the last 5 years, in free NAHASDA housing dollars because it could not spend it down. That is not \$44M lost on DHHL, its \$44M that native Hawaiians desperately need for vertical housing units, to address the crisis of homelessness, of economic opportunity. Yes, that \$44M is needed, just as literally hundreds of millions of dollars are needed to address the waitlist – but we simply do not currently have an agency with capacity, nor adequate performance numbers, nor basic reporting frameworks, nor any strategies to leverage private capital or partner with its own beneficiaries. These are the corner stones of a good government that can deploy capital. Until the Legislature deals with this disfunction, administration after administration, the level of “need” is irrelevant because your agency cannot deploy it efficiently.

Consider that this agency has literally, hundreds of boarded up homes in its possession across the State, where it has evicted native Hawaiians, placing them back on the waitlist, and causing irreparable damage to the equity and property value of these homes, instead of adopting common sense troubled loan and real-estate owned (REO) methodologies. You have an agency that wrongly believes it must redline the entire community of native Hawaiians by limiting access to capital because it “guarantees” loans, not understanding that it is in the lowest risk situation possible – it has homes, located in the State of Hawaii, where home values rarely fall, as its collateral. Its frankly stunning. Its also fixable, with reforms by the Legislature.

We do not take any joy in these harsh realities. Nor do we critique without providing recommended solutions, year after year. You have an agency that does not want to work with the expertise of HHCA beneficiaries and organizations, does not want to leverage all sources of capital. It operates in the practices of Hawaii’s past – plantation paternalism. Its not just the current administration, or the last administration, it is an agency culture of many administrations. And. Its fixable. As HHCA beneficiaries, we are very much a part of the State’s solution in meeting its promises in 1959.

4. **Proper Sources of Funding.** It has been stated by State officials that “a casino is the only option”. Its hard to tolerate such words, whether spoken about DHHL, or any other agency of the State. We cannot even imagine HHFDC, a housing agency, or the Department of Agriculture, a farming agency, or DBEDT, a business agency, saying those words with any credibility.

Yet, DHHL is an agency charged with issuing land for housing, issuing land for farming, issuing land for mercantile businesses – and was provided land 62 years ago, Hawaiian land to issue to into Hawaiian hands. The casino scheme, purports to generate a mere \$30M annually. Yet with little to no cost reforms, the Governor and the State Legislature can expect at a minimum, the following proper sources of funding:

- a. **Return of NAHASDA funds** – with reforms and improved performance, we expect between \$13M and \$20M annually to return. Over half way to the \$30M casino goal. These funds do not require repayment, and are eligible for not only subdivision infrastructure costs, but also direct subsidy vertical costs, as well as programmatic purposes like home retention services. SCHHA advocates in Washington DC, consistently for the return of NAHASDA, and a common question is “how has DHHL reformed, to have confidence that backlogs will not return?”.
- b. **Increases to GO Bonds** – currently funded at a modest level of \$25M, with reforms, especially as Hawaii seeks to recover from the pandemic, this level can be increased to \$40M annually, well over the \$30M casino goal. Frankly, our state needs GO Bond/CIP spending, often used to jump start economic recoveries, creating construction jobs, union jobs, and increases to income tax revenues. Our trust lands are the perfect location to invest public works capital.
- c. **Revenue Bonds** – DHHL has the authority to issue revenue bonds, a powerful tool when available capital is low, or perceived to be low. Currently, our trust fund account receives on average annually, upwards of \$22M in lease revenues. Depending on market conditions, several hundred million toward infrastructure costs can be accessed, without leasing a single additional acre to non-Beneficiaries.
- d. **Act 14 Capital** – Our trust fund of remaining Act 14 capital totals over \$150M, that with reforms at the agency to build its capacity, can easily increase spend downs on average of \$10M annually over the average \$5.5M in Act 14 expenditures reported over the last 4 years. That is a steady level over the next 15 years to add to the funding sources needed to make serious progress.
- e. **New Market Tax Credits** – Annually, rural areas of the country are deploying upwards of \$7B annually in NMTC, a federal program in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year, supported by both parties in Washington. Too little is being done to position our rural areas of the State to tap into these federal tax credits, which can be used for any purpose except casinos and liquor stores (generally speaking).
- f. **Biden Infrastructure Investments** – The country is witnessing relief investments due to the pandemic at record levels. The new Biden administration has made very public, its intent to focus on major infrastructure funding across the nation, exactly the kind of funds an agency like DHHL and our trust lands are excellent targets for.
- g. **Non-State Capital Investment Sources** – The lack of understanding of just mortgage capital markets at the agency, much less the myriad of sources around agriculture, business and rental housing, has caused an unnecessary capital desert on our trust lands. With reforms, hundreds of millions of dollars in capital can and will flow, not necessarily to DHHL, but directly into homestead economies in all counties.

These are but a handful of very real, existing, and proper sources of capital that far out weigh the folly of a \$30M a year casino. The agency simply must focus on the work, not excuses. And the work, is issuing land to native Hawaiians – completely doable.

The foundational source of capital remains the same – prudent Legislative appropriations through justifiable annual general funds for administration/operations and a stable level of CIP, from which

*Founded in 1987, the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations (SCHHA) is the oldest and largest governing homestead association registered with the Department of Interior, exercising sovereignty on the trust lands established under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920*

leveraged sources of capital can follow. Our trust funds can then do what Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaʻole intended in creating our trust accounts directly in the HHCA statute.

In closing, your DHHL agency does not need a casino, it needs Legislative and Executive reforms to build greater capacity to perform, to build accountability and transparency, to engage with HHCA beneficiary organizations, all necessary to leverage and attract capital markets.

The SCHHA remains in support of DHHL improving its functionality, its management of our lands and our trust funds. We stand ready to assist in any way possible.

While we have articulated the reasons for our opposition to SB1321, we strongly support Representative Eli's three reform Bills (HB1122, HB1123, HB1124), that have no real cost impact to the State if enacted. These bills together, with the embrace of the State's agency and oversight by the Legislature, will improve in significant ways, the success of the overall State government in administering our Hawaiian Home Land trust.

Finally, our SCHHA kupuna have weathered decades of disappointment in the State of Hawaii's performance. Thousands have literally died on the State's waitlist for a homestead lot. The potential of a casino on our land has generated more despair and distress than almost any other failure at the agency in recent decades.

This testimony does not address the fears and valid concerns of these kupuna, as others have articulated so well. We will say that casino gaming anywhere in Hawaii, poses unique challenges as the only island State of the 50 States, creating the environment for sex trafficking and other ills common with this type of "business" even more dangerous than in other States. We are a gateway in the middle of the Pacific, a convenient transportation hub to the Pacific Rim and beyond, to the West Coast and beyond that is frightening to even consider.

Sometimes, money is not the problem, capacity is. Sometimes, certain industries, no matter the promise of job creation, are simply not suitable for a location.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**About SCHHA.** The *Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations (SCHHA)*, founded in 1987, is the oldest and largest HHCA Beneficiary Organization, representing the interests of nearly 10,000 native Hawaiian lessees and 28,000 families on the waitlist. SCHHA is governed by a council elected to 4-year terms serving over 42 homestead areas in the Mokupuni of Kauai, Oahu, Molokai, Maui/Lanai and Hawaii Island. SCHHA leaders are experts on the HHCA, federal land trust management, finance, affordable housing, economic development and job creation.

The SCHHA incorporated 501c3s, the Homestead Community Development Corporation & Housing Authority in 2009, and Hawaiian Lending & Investments in 2019 (a community loan fund). Each of these HHCA beneficiary controlled and governed community organizations are dedicated to affordable housing, economic development, job creation, and access to capital on the homesteads.

Attachment: One-Page Non-General Fund Report FY2020



Compilation of DHHL Report to Neal Miyahira, Administrator - Dated 11/23/20 of Non-General Fund Information

Fund/Account Name	Program	Type	Approp Acct	HHCA or Legal Authority	Cash Balance	Unencumbered Balance	Avg Annual Revenue	Source of Revenue
Hwn Home <u>Loan Fund</u>	HHL 602	Revolving	S-302-1	213(b)	3,324,514	3,324,514	245,639	Principle Repays from Loans Made
Hwn Home <u>General Loan Fund</u>	HHL 602	Revolving	S-323-1	213(c)	47,328,850	47,328,850	7,294,878	Principle Repays from Loans Made
Hwn Home <u>Receipts Fund</u>	HHL 602	Trust Fund	T-916-1	213(g)	818,397	818,397	5,994,705	Interest Repays from Loans Made
Hwn Home <u>Administration Account</u>	HHL 602	Special	S-325-1	213(f)	21,829,114	18,833,415	22,111,172	Leasing of "Avail Lands"
Hwn Home <u>Administration Account</u>	HHL 602	Special	S-305-1	DHHL Created	(15,000,000)	(15,000,000)		Leasing of "Avail Lands"
Hwn Home <u>Admin Acct - Protocol</u>	HHL 602	Special	S-398-1	Budget Proviso	8,369	8,369		Leasing of "Avail Lands"
Hwn Home <u>Operating Fund</u>	HHL 602	Trust Fund	T-905-1	213(e)	4,181,146	2,645,880		Int Repays from Loan Fund/Water Systems/Other/Transfers
Hwn Home <u>Operating Fund</u>	HHL 602	Trust Fund	T-915-1	213(e)	62,372,348	8,185,011	4,888,744	Int Repays from Loan Fund/Water Systems/Other/Transfers
<u>Native Hawaiian Rehabilitation Fund</u>	HHL 602	Trust Fund	T-924-1	213(i)	6,557,992	5,666,850	462,694	30% Sugar Land Receipts
Hwn Home <u>Trust Fund</u>	HHL 602	Trust Fund	T-917-1	213(h)	11,798,833	11,798,833		Reserve Allocations for FHA/VA Insured Loans
Hwn Home <u>Land Trust Fund-Act 14</u>	HHL 602	Trust Fund	T-902-1	213.6	150,719,468	142,898,207		Act 14 Balance from Legislature for Infrastructure/Other
<u>DHHL Revenue Bond Fund</u>	HHL 602	Special	S-350-1	213.5	21,116,426	20,466,853	2,343,947	Revenue for Bond Debt Svc (1991/2009 Rev Bonds/OHA \$\$)
<u>DHHL Revenue Bond Fund</u>	HHL 602	Special	T-991-1	213(h)	1,807,946	1,807,946	762,972	Revenue for Bond Debt Svc (1991/2009 Rev Bonds/OHA \$\$)
<u>Security Deposits</u>	HHL 602	Trust Acct	T-901-1	DHHL Created	2,804,845	2,804,845	124,616	Sec Deposits/Homestead Benefit \$\$ (ie, Hilo, Kapolei)
<b>Grand Totals</b>					<b>319,668,248</b>	<b>251,587,970</b>		

**Significant Data Points From Non-General Funds Report:**

1. **\$319.6M** in Cash in Trust & Special Funds - Does NOT Include GO Bonds or General Funds from Legislature
2. **\$47.3M** Available to Make Home, Farm, Ranch, Mercantile Loans (has no farm/ranch/mercantile loan program)
3. **\$62.3M** Available in Operating Fund, with a \$54.1M encumbered in FY2020
4. **\$6.5M** Available in NHRF for Beneficiary Well-Being
5. **\$150.7M** in Act 14 CIP Funds Sitting - Only Spent \$22.2M Over 4 Year Period (Average Annual Totals Only \$5.5M)
6. **\$21M** Balance in Bond Fund with Avg Annual Income Covers Avg Annual Debt Svc
7. Over **4 Year Period** DHHL Collected **\$88M** in Lease Revenues, Spent **\$37.7M**, Moved **\$43M** to Ops, Moved **\$10M** to Bond Fund

**Simple Conclusions (there are many more and relevant questions to be answered):**

1. Annual Legislative Appropriations Match Agency Capacity - Should Continue at \$20M GF & \$25M in GO Bonds Annually - MUST Require "Budget to Actual" Financial Reports Annually
2. Agency Struggles to Spend Available Trust Funds to Build Out Lots Plus Status of GF/GO Bond Unknown - MUST Require Narrative Report on Expenditures and Legislative Reforms
3. Agency Appears to Spend 43% of Lease Revenue on Admin (a violation of Nelson), Not Building Out Lots, - MUST Reform Agency, Prohibit Trust Funds spent on Admin Outside of Legislature View
4. Agency Does Not Treat Trust/Special Funds with Fiduciary Care (Which Belong to Beneficiaries) - MUST Require Comprehensive Fiscal Reporting & Legislative Reforms
5. NHRF Funds Should Be Leveraged with Private Capital for Homestead Association Projects/Capacity - The Purpose of NHRF
6. Trust/Special Funds Not Being Leveraged with Private Capital - Plus a Massive Offering to Restructure All Delinquent Loans is Prudent Immediately & Add Farm/Ranch Loans
7. Agency Can Not, Should Not Be Tasked with a Casino, Is Not High Performing with What It IS Tasked to Do - Money is NOT the Agency's Challenge, Capacity Is

**SB1321**  
**LIMITED CASINO GAMING; SINGLE INTEGRATED RESORT; APPROPRIATION**  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

February 11, 2021

1:00 PM

Videoconference

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The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA), a member-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to enhance the cultural, economic, political, and community development of Native Hawaiians, offers the following **COMMENTS** concerning SB1321, which authorizes limited casino gaming in the form of a single integrated resort property on Hawaiian home lands in order to address the dire financial state of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

First and foremost, CNHA would like to emphasize that the State of Hawai'i has the trust obligation to fulfill the mandate of the 1920 Hawaiian Homes Commission Act "to rehabilitate native Hawaiians on lands given the status of Hawaiian home lands." In accordance with the Act, its mission was intended to be carried out through an extensive homesteading program, which at its very core, sought to house native Hawaiians on Hawaiian home lands. The State of Hawai'i has not effectively carried out its trust obligations to the native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Act, with over 28,000 beneficiaries and their families members still waiting for housing – and with a sizeable number of beneficiaries who have passed away, while on the Department's waitlist.

While casino gaming introduces the prospect of a rapid injection of revenue into the Department, the fact that both the Native Hawaiian community and the greater community of Hawai'i remain divided over the issue, is evidence of the dire need for further research into the effects of establishing a casino and enabling gambling and its potential impacts on the people, families, and culture of these islands. CNHA is reminded that 'a'oha pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi, that not all knowledge is contained within a single school, and perhaps it is in the best interest of the State to explore alternative forms of revenue generation and opportunities, for which there are countless.



CNHA understands that the entire State is suffering from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has exasperated a great many issues that are continuously faced by our resident population, and even more so, by our disadvantaged and vulnerable communities. With this in mind, CNHA offers cautions against well-intended plans that if executed, may result in the creation of increased systemic problems, greater community divide, and further political exhaustion.

We are at a crucial turning point, where inspiration and innovation may serve as hope for a much better and much more prosperous future. The people of Hawai'i have the capacity, the intelligence, the creativity, the talent, and the aloha to bring forward new ideas; to explore and establish new economic sectors and opportunities; and to do so without risk of great detriment to another. We just need the chance to show what we can do.

Finally, CNHA again emphasizes the need for further research into the impacts of casino gaming with added attention to the scope of effects, both positive and negative, as they relate to the State's fulfillment of its trust obligations to Native Hawaiians and the health and well-being of the Native Hawaiian community.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Respectfully,

J. Kūhiō Lewis  
President & CEO  
Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE,  
ORNAMENTAL AND REINFORCING IRON WORKERS

**LATE**

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

**LOCAL UNION NUMBER 625**

94-497 UKEE STREET • WAIPAHU, HAWAII 96797

**T.G. Paris**  
President Emeritus

February 11, 2021 – 1:00 pm

*Via Videoconference*

House Economic Development Committee

Re: Support for SB1321 – Relating to Gaming

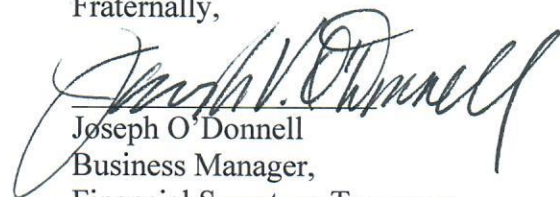
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Dear Chair Maile Shimabukuro and Vice-Chair Jarrett Keohokalole and committee members:

The Iron Workers Local Union 625, AFL-CIO **SUPPORTS** SB1321. 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





**LATE**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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*President*

International Brotherhood  
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Local 1186

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Ironworkers Local 625

**VAUGHN CHONG**

United Union of Roofers,  
Waterproofers &  
Allied Workers  
Local 221

**RYDEN VALMOJA**

District Council 50  
Painters & Allied Trades  
Local 1791  
Carpet, Linoleum & Soft Tile  
Local 1926  
Drywall, Tapers & Finishers  
Local 1944  
Glaziers, Architectural Metal  
& Glassworkers Local 1889

February 11, 2021

Hawaii State Legislature  
Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee  
1:00 pm Via Videoconference

**Re: Support for SB1321 – Relating to Gaming**

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Keohokalole, and Committee members:

The Hawaii Building & Construction Trades Council (HBCTC) SUPPORTS SB1321. 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), establishes a Hawaii Gaming Commission, would impose a wagering tax on gross gaming revenue, creates a State Gaming Fund, and appropriates funds. This bill is about housing for Native Hawaiians.

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. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Gino Soquena

Executive Director

Hawai'i Building & Construction Trades Council

735 Bishop Street, Suite 412, Honolulu, HI 96813

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 10:02:16 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rose Mejia	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**STRONGLY OPPOSE SB1321, Relating to Gaming**

To the Honorable Chair Senator Maile Shimabukuro, The Honorable Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and to all the Senators who are Members of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

I am **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to **SB1321**.

It is widely known, and statistics clearly show that Gambling has a negative impact on our society. Hawaii is the Aloha State and gambling will NOT benefit us here in Hawaii.

The social problems definitely outweigh and “pros” of gambling. **In Vegas, they have the highest rates of divorce, suicide and domestic violence. They also lead the nation in high school drop outs.**

Gambling will directly or indirectly negatively affect every family in Hawaii. When families are hurting, it affects our entire state of Hawaii. I urge you to **Vote NO to SB1321** and keep Gambling out of Hawaii!

Sincerely,

*Rose Mejia*



*Ko`olau Foundation*

P. O. Box 4749

Kane`ohe, HI 96744

[malamapono744@aol.com](mailto:malamapono744@aol.com) / [koolaufoundation@gmail.com](mailto:koolaufoundation@gmail.com)

February 10, 2021

To: Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
& Members, Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

From: Mahealani Cypher  
Ko`olau Foundation

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 1321 – Relating to Gaming

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Committee Members:

In support of the efforts by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to raise sufficient funds for development of homesteads for the Hawaiian people, the Ko`olau Foundation supports S.B. 1321, which would allow DHHL to establish a gaming venue on lands they have designated for commercial use in Kapolei.

We appreciate and understand the concerns raised by others who oppose this measure. However, while we share concerns about potential adverse social impacts, it has become clear over the past several decades that the State of Hawai`i is unable or unwilling to provide adequate funding to satisfy the long list of homestead applications by beneficiaries on the wait list for half a century. This lack of adequate funding is even more evident in this time of dire economic hardship – it has become even less likely that neither the State of Hawai`i nor the U.S. government is likely to be forthcoming with the needed funding any time soon.

While we support this bill, we urge that, if passed, a portion of the revenue derived from such a new venture be set aside and committed to addressing any adverse social impacts that may be anticipated or encountered. Further, we urge that funding also be allocated to meet DHHL's secondary obligation to preserve the Hawaiian culture.

Mahalo for this opportunity to offer our mana`o.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 8:31:07 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I think that this bill leverages the current budget crisis, created by our response the COVID-19, as a means to sell out the legacy of the Hawaiian people.



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 10:57:49 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Regina Gregory	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Home lands should not be used for a resort.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 11:02:25 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl B.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

OPPOSE!

This is like we see all the time here with developments, telescopes etc. "It's just one, it will be ok and help the economy and people". Well, we have seen historically how that has worked out for the people of these islands. Listen to the people, all of them, not just the one kanaka that is found to be the "token" supporter. Casinos, gambling are not needed on these islands. The additional unwelcome parts of gambling are already rampant here, sex-trafficking for one. Just stop now.

This bill is a reminder of the continued disrespect for when folks say no, yet it keeps coming back. It's like if one bullies enough, keep at it , people will give in. We see this too often here.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 4:45:26 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kapohuolahaina Moniz Pa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill will only increase crime and gambling addiction.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 4:58:54 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melvin Mcaulton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, I oppose any Gaming except for Lottery.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 5:12:54 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tanya K.D. Alana	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a successor to Hawaiian Homelands, I OPPOSE SB1321. By allowing a Casino in Hawai'i will only bring more poverty, crime, human trafficking, and broken families. Also, trying to say that this casino will help Native Hawaiians is a flat out lie and a facade. Even if the profit was to be split amongst all Native Hawaiians monthly, that is just another slap in the face amounting under \$100 per Native Hawaiian. Finally, the land that this casino would be placed on could easily be used to build homes for Native Hawaiians. If infrastructure can be used to build a casino, then infrastructure can be used to build homes. NO CASINO! A'OLE CASINO!

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 5:52:13 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It is a fact that gambling leads not only to addictive and destructive behavior, but also attracts a criminal element of drugs, sex trafficking, and prostitution. I urge you to kill this bill.

Alice Abellanida

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 6:56:31 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sara Perry	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

No gambling in HI, and especially none on DHHL property. Strongly oppose.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 7:39:49 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jo-Anne Aiwohi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Opposing to gaming in Hawaii - Keep gambling and gaming in Las Vegas, Reno and any other place but Hawaii.

Gaming would ruin our state and culture. It would increase crime, drugs and many other illegal activities.



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 7:40:55 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jessica dos Santos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support gambling in Hawai'i. There are simply too many devastating negatives to ignore. This is not the kind of Hawai'i the people want.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 8:33:48 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sanoë Marfil	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Sanoë Marfil and I resident of Nanakuli, living on aina pulapula, blessed to raise my 'ohana. I am submitting this testimony to express my very strong opposition for SB1321 as I believe the casino will have a negative impact on the kapolei community and all that surronds it.

Research has indicated casinos and gaming bring addiction, abuse, crime and theft. It also increases drug use and houselessness. I have seen first hand the streets of Las Vegas, California and most recently Hamilton, New Zealand.

Mahalo for your time and consideration and please oppose SB1321.

Mahalo,

Sanoë Marfil

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 9:09:38 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Renee Dieperink	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There is no room for gambling in our state. I am 100% against it.

I OPPOSE THIS BILL!

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 12:21:55 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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!

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 1:18:26 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ana Kahoopii	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

A'ole to granting a 40-year lease on Hawaiian Homelands for a state-run casino. Not a single lawmaker supporting this bill 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 senators want 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.

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 DHHL has the audacity to present such a degenerate plan to our community.

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 of Hawaii really want 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."

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 6:28:48 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Raul Nohea Goodness	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB1321 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

- Raul Nohea Goodness

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:38:32 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kamalani Keliikuli	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

There is no need for a casino we should be establishing either homes or businesses that will help the Hawaiian people to strive financially and as an entrepreneurship. We have already seen how the pandemic affected all businesses including casinos. We need to stray away from the thought of maintaining a tourism economy and diversify ourselves



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 10:01:36 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rayne Kauhi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Absolutely No Casinos.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 10:32:27 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alex Kauhi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

A'OLE CASINO ON HAWAIIAN LAND.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 10:45:17 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gordon B. Lindsey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB1321 for the following reasons: This bill if passed, will cause a definate population boom throughout the Hawaiian Islands. Organized crime will follow and our prisons will not be able to handle additional offenders and place a huge burden on our law enforcement officers.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 2:00:57 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Monique DeSimone	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

A casino is the last thing this island needs. Instead of looking for a quick, easy money, the state should be investing in sustainable solutions that build community resiliency, instead of just creating another tourist driven crutch. Additionally, the safety of women, children, and LGBTQ+ are at risk, as casinos often serve as sex trafficking hubs. No amount of money is worth the violence this will inflict on the community.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 5:03:47 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 5:26:59 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lynne wood	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

NO CASINOS! Just have state lottery scratchers.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 6:06:50 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

As a Native Hawaiian, I oppose Senate Bill 1321 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 SB1321 does. My 'ohana and I oppose Senate Bill 1321.

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*



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:03:45 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jared Hai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a Registered Native Hawaiian for Hawaiian Homestead lands, I support this bill. It will assist DHHL with necessary income to provide for its goals.

Thank you!

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:43:44 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joanna Maile Pokipala Resurrection	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, I oppose this bill.

Mahalo

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:45:55 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:58:07 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sheadon Freitas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Sheadon Makuali'ikalaniwai Haleman' -Freitas, Native Hawaiian Student of Hawai'i do not support the bill SB 1321. I do not support the building of any game room or casino on Hawaiian Homes Lands. I believe that the the Hawaiian Homes Land Association is currently not providing homes to the thousand of native Hawaiians and that should be the main priority, not trying to make profit off of these lands. Understandably that the state is trying to make money, Im sure they are able to find economic growth else where. Casinos will bring more drugs, money laundering, and problems to the state.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 10:28:26 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ramona Hussey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB1321. Hawaiian Homelands should never be used for commercial activity, and especially not for such an activity as gambling. Even 5 minutes of research will show how many social, economic, and criminal problems arise in communities which permit gambling casinos. Why would you permit that as a use of Hawaiian lands? There are many other ways to raise revenue for DHHL and for the State. I urge you to vote against this bill.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 11:22:27 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathryn MacKenzie	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Shimabukura,

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

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 7:05:45 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cecilia Mukai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to SB 1321 on gaming. The problems gambling creates offsets the benefits that it is supposed to provide. The Hawaiian people have enough problems without having the added assault of dealing with addiction, individual poverty, and family disruptions that are well documented in the literature. We have all known of someone devastated by gambling.

I urge you to defeat SB 1321 for the future of Hawaii and our Hawaiian families.



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 8:08:34 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leonard Mukai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to this bill or any bill that would pollute our beautiful state with gambling. It is a proven gateway to addictions, organized crime, broken families and other evils. For the sake of our children, grandchildren, and generations to come do not allow gambling in Hawaii.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 9:02:52 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Miyahira	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We can't afford the social and economic burdens caused by gambling.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 9:45:08 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Regina Peterson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

i oppose this bill!!!

TO: All State Senators

FROM:

Native Hawaiian DHHL and OHA Beneficiary for Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment

A'OLE Casino on DHHL land.

Please OPPOSE SB1321.

Please OPPOSE all Senate Bills regarding Casinos on DHHL Lands.

Aloha e Senators,

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 SB1321, and all Senate 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

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 11:17:32 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kanoe Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a constituent and Hawaiian Homelands lessee, I strongly oppose SB 1321 and I urge you not to pass this. DHHL lands can be much better used for it's purpose - to build homes for Native Hawaiians. Please oppose SB 1321. Mahalo.

Kanoe Medeiros

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(BCC: all relevant committee members)

Aloha mai e Representative or Senator,

As a Native Hawaiian, I oppose House Bill 359 and Senate Bill 1321 because they do not contribute to the "further rehabilitation of the Hawaiian race.." and are not socially responsible. As such, I am asking for your commitment to oppose the respective bills. Casinos in general and this proposed casino resort 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 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 resort would be socially responsible. I am confident that the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Dept of Hawaiian Homelands, and your respective legislative committees can provide a stronger, more creative and positive solution to increase revenue and rehabilitate the Hawaiian race. I am confident that they/you have the power to support a *better* solution that will not involve putting Hawaiian lives, rights, and livelihoods on the line the way the destructive HB359 and SB1321 do.

I oppose House Bill 359 and Senate Bill 1321 and am asking for your assistance in opposing these respective bills as well.

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*

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 12:52:31 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Steven Thomas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose any form of legalized gambling in Hawaii



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 1:02:11 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
jamie white	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Casino in Hawaii will open up doors for more crime in Hawaii and Organized crime. It will hurt the Hawaiian culture more than ever and overwhelm the legal system. It will open up the idea for more Casinos and we will become less of an Aloha state. The fact that it is on Homestead land used for commercial is a slap in the face towards Hawaiians who are awaiting land, died waiting for land, generations having to deal with poverty and unable to use land for sustainability.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 1:59:21 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cindy freitas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

February5, 2021

SB1321

Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation

Aloha,

My name is Cindy Freitas and I'm a Native Hawaiian descended of the native inhabitants of Hawai'i prior to 1778 and born and raised in Hawai'i.

I am also a practitioner who still practice the cultural traditional customary practices that was instill in me by my grandparents at a young age from mauka (MOUNTAIN TO SEA) to makai in many areas.

I Opposed for the following reasons;

1. There should not be any Gaming permit submit, until the government take care of there city...DHHL is a perfect example with a list of WAIT LIST APPLICATION .
2. HRS 711-1107 means DESECRATION (b) A place of worship or burial. Therefore if there is an area that these CASINO need to be, it should not be in an area were a there is a place of worship or burial AREA.
3. Therefore there should be an independent ANALYSTS should be done.
4. Therefore the rightful holders, practitioner, kanaka Maoli is put on the table with a discussion should be heard ABOUT THIS ISSUES.

Mahalo

Cindy Freitas



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 5:26:37 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lyndsey Quiban	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing this testimony because I am concerned about the longterm and detrimental effects that a casino would cause to the Hawaiian people, especially when it concerns the safety and well-being of Hawaiian women and children. The sneaky tactics being used to push forward this bill without the proper research, collaboration, or transparency with the Hawaiian community is reprehensible. Is the safety of our people worth that little? Studies have shown the direct correlation between gambling and the increasd violence towards women, children and sex-trafficking. This casino isn't going to be a magic bullet that's going to fix the ongoing issues with creating homes for the people. Throwing money at us isn't going to fix the underlying issues that Hawaiians are facing and it's disgusting to see that we continue to believe that pimping out this land and its people is the only way to help. DHHL - you need to do better. This is not the way.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 5:43:19 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

I strongly oppose SB1321. A casino is not the answer to our revenue problems, no matter what the funds are intended for. Numerous reputable studies have documented the severe societal costs associated with casinos and the widespread encouragement of gambling. From human trafficking increases, to dramatically increased healthcare costs, whatever revenue could be generated from a casino would come at a cost to Hawai'i's budget, and its people, that would be far greater. And on top of this, casino ventures tend to benefit a very small select group of individuals while doing the most damage in underserved communities like that of Kanaka Maoli. In other words, it is not just likely, but all but assured, that a casino would harm the very group of people DHHL is supposed to be serving. Instead, the state should dedicate more revenue from the value of ceded lands to DHHL, OHA and other Hawaiian-serving institutions and support efforts at self-determination. Ultimately, that is the only solution that will truly empower Native Hawaiians without risking the health and wellbeing of the public.

Mahalo,

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 6:24:12 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ariel Colburn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha 'oukou,

I am born and raised on the west side of O'ahu. I am also a Masters of Social Work student. I think it is important to recognize that the side of the island, there are a lot of local families. The culture of Hawai'i and safety of the residents should be a priority and taken into consideration. Many of my families and friends travel to Las Vegas i'm not to gamble but to live somewhere that is more affordable. Casinos are not the right solution. Although the casino may bring more finances in to the department of Hawaiian homes, I kindly urge you to think about the adverse effects that this proposal could bring to Hawai'i if it goes through. For many years Hawaiians have not been heard, and I think at the end of the day, we deserve to be heard and listened to. Casinos will bring an increase of violence and fear to the communities. Also, as a young woman, I already fear walking around the mall if I am alone. I cannot imagine how heightened my fear would be if there would be a casino here near my home.

So I ask you these questions: Are you being of service to Hawaiians if you go through with this bill? How will this bill affect the rates of sex trafficking? How will this bill affect rates of violence in local communities? How will this bill affect the female population? How will this bill better the game room situations and drug situations in Hawai'i?

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 7:29:23 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
jocelyn arboleda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Because your focus should be on Hawaiian residents being house less. The 2nd state with the largest homeless population and most of them being people of color. It's a disservice to add additional tourist attractions while continuing to withhold housing for NATIVE HAWAIIANS. You rather promise GUESTS activities then house your own residents.

Aloha welina,

My name is 'Alihilani Katoa and this testimony is in opposition to bill SB1321. This bill proposes to "Grant a forty-year gaming license or a single integrated resort property on Hawaiian home lands designated for commercial use on the island of Oahu excluding lands west of Ko Olina." The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands sole purpose and function, is to do just that. Provide Native Hawaiians with Homes on their own Land. Not to entertain the commercialization and industrialization thereof.

According to bill SB1321 the reason that the ideology of a "gaming resort" arose was to recompense DHHL for financial deficiency and lack of funding for beneficiaries. Over 28,000 beneficiaries of Native Hawaiian descent are currently awaiting housing on their own land. It is stated that some shortcomings of funding is a direct result of the current COVID-19 pandemic. The solution proposed by said bill is to increase tourism, job opportunity, business, and tax excises. Native Hawaiians currently make up 10% of Hawai'i residents. The ratio of Native Hawaiians in Hawai'i as opposed to any other ethnic group is devastating. A direct result of everything that this bill will permit: 1. Mass industrialization of our land and women 2. Contact with foreigners, and 3. Diseases/illness that will be introduced to my native people.

The bill lists financial/economic "benefits" resulting in gaming casinos built in parts of America however, all the finances go towards government, federal, state, and local government. It does not state any proof of profits going directly to beneficiaries. It states that it creates job opportunities. How many of the 11,730 jobs actually employ Indigenous people on their land?

The solution to the economic shock of COVID-19 is not to put Native Hawaiian families at risk by increasing tourism. The solution to insufficient funding is not to start a project that will require even more funding. The direct impacts that this proposed casino will cause will lead to: A. Our state number of COVID-19 cases skyrocketing B. A significant increase in sex trafficking C. Increase of substance abuse and alcoholism.

There are many other ways that we can find a solution to this issue. Building a casino on Hawaiian Home Lands is not one of them. Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration. Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono.

Mahalo,  
'Alihilani Katoa  
O'ahu Resident



Aloha,

I am writing to ask your support in OBJECTING the proposed Casino and Gaming in West Oahu. West Oahu has immediate primary needs for more affordable housing that needs immediate 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 Las Vegas.

The overall focus here 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 needs - 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 will 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! Lets invest in solutions – not faulty solutions that at the end will create other problems. Vote NO Casinos for West Oahu!

Bless You All!

Local Pastor in the West Oahu Community – Pastor Fika Esau



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 6:23:33 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tina Lopez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I urge you to not pass this bill. Gambling is addictive. It can damage lives. We should consider our people first. If we increase revenue but hurt lives its not with it! Thank you for voting against this.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 8:02:44 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patricia Blair	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Gambling would be detrimental to the health of the people of Hawaii

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 9:43:20 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to SB1321.

I have lived in Las Vegas and worked in retail on the Las Vegas strip. In addition, I have family that live close to Native American reservation casinos in CA. The casinos (including Pechanga Resort & Casino in Southern CA) 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 casino lobbyists waving shiny objects and the promise of easy money. Our first step should be a complete and transparent audit of DHHL to make sure all Assets "have been" and are currently being used to the "full" benefit of the beneficiaries (this should include a thorough accounting of the assets held in DHHL trust).

We have the chance to address the needs of our community and must put in the work.

A casino is not the answer.

02/06/2021 My name is Daniel Tomita and I oppose SB1321. My wife and I have called the Big Island our home for the past 33 years, in Kona for the first seven years and now in Hilo since 1995. We voted in the 2020 elections. We urge you, our elected legislators to say No to any form of legalized gambling. Born and raised on Maui and living in the Islands for over sixty years, I am convinced that legalized gambling will destroy our island way of life forever.

Fifty years ago, I attended the University of Hawaii and developed a serious gambling addiction. I know firsthand that young adults will find it difficult to gamble in moderation. I uphold the right of every resident to choose whether to gamble or not. However, if they can't afford a plane ticket to fly to the other 48 states to gamble, they can't afford to gamble! If gambling is allowed here in Hawaii, people will use their paychecks and welfare checks to gamble and they will lose it all because the house always win! Here, families receive food stamps, subsidized housing stipends, medical and car insurance, subsidized school lunches for their children and monthly disability and assistance checks to help meet living costs. These are the very people who will gamble, hoping to "win the big one". And when they lose, it will create an epidemic of escalated desperation. They will pawn their precious belongings and when depleted resort to stealing. Desperate people are dangerous people who will steal from the helpless and victimize the elderly. Ask any police officer of the danger of desperate people driven to steal to support their addictions.

Here in Hilo, we have many elderly residents who live alone. They live in fear because of the real threat of home invasion, theft, and violence. We are subjected to scams almost daily! Violent crimes escalate once gambling is legal. The elderly will be targeted and social costs of fighting violent crime will soar. Medical costs will escalate because of the heightened fear causing illness, disease and death.

Make no mistake, once gambling is legalized, it will be a permanent fixture. Once we take the plunge, there will be no turning back. Some believe that shipboard, state lottery, bingo or limiting a few casinos can be controlled. Once legalized, there will be no turning back. The fragile "Aloha Spirit" will be a thing of the past as we will experience many of the social ills that gambling creates. A police officer once shared a rather insightful observation: You can

tell whether a community is growing or spiraling downward by the number of pawn shops it has. When people are desperate to support their drug or gambling addictions, they will pawn their valuables and accept 1/20th of their original value. They will do this when they are driven to desperation. Is that the future of Hawaii that you want to create? Because Hawaii is but one of two states that do not allow gambling, visitors to our islands spend their vacation dollars enjoying more wholesome forms of entertainment, which provide needed jobs that depend on tourism spending. And we continue to have repeat visitors year after year even willing to pay higher prices to vacation in Hawaii. We don't need gambling to attract these visitors. Once a visitor is enticed to spend their money in the casinos, other recreational pursuits will be minimized.

The lure of big money, winnings, visitors and locals bringing a lot of cash to gamble would increase prostitution. We already have a problem with AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases but I believe this too would escalate. Consider the scenario of a prostitute infecting his or her customer and the resultant epidemic when these "customers" return to their homes and engage in regular sexual activity with their own husbands or wives, spreading disease to greater pockets of our population. Think of the growing number of "innocent" victims and the resultant medical costs that will skyrocket medical insurance premiums for the rest of our population to bear the cost of treating these AIDS and STD patients. Everyone will have to bear these higher medical costs, making Hawaii even more expensive to live. Hawaii is already known for its high cost of living. Consider the health care industry as well where nurses and doctors (always a shortage here) treating a growing population of these infected patients and the real danger of themselves becoming infected and infecting their own spouses. Hawaii has been a model of the private sector offering health insurance to its employees but its overall costs of doing business in Hawaii will be further taxed as they provide higher costs of health insurance.

Once gambling becomes legal, Mob control of the gambling industry will quickly follow! With the influx of organized crime, gangsters will flock to the islands to protect the financial interests of the mob and violent crime such as

assault and murder will increase, further taxing police protection. If the attraction of big money can be had in terms of payoffs to “look the other way”, police and political corruption will soon follow. In the past year, two of our police officers were killed in a domestic disturbance involving drugs. Our police force already see an increase of drug trafficking. Police corruption will lead to mistrust. When a police officer cannot trust their fellow officers, their effectiveness while on patrol will be compromised.

Do not be lured by the deception that legalized gambling will underwrite government spending. Really, a better solution for funding education is to ensure the DOE heads to stop squandering tax payer dollars and reduce bureaucratic inefficiency and waste! Please lead the charge to find other sources of income and decrease spending in 2021. This is what Hawaii needs from their political leaders! Please show courageous leadership and vote NO to legalized gambling!



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 10:35:23 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I write in opposition to SB 1321. 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. Instituting 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 reaasonble ways to address the needs of the Hawaiian community, but gambling should not be one of the options.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ellen Godbey Carson, Honolulu, Hawaii

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 10:45:34 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dr. Sydney Laukea	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Absolutely NO to this bill. Stop the insanity.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 10:49:40 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Henrietta Paris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators:

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

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 10:51:21 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melvin Paris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators:

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

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 1:17:41 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Thomas Robertson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My family and I strongly oppose the building of a casino on our beautiful island. Nothing about the project will benefit the people of Hawaii and this will only continue to force us to rely on tourism for our livelihood.

February 11, 2021  
1:00 pm  
*Via Videoconference*

Hawaii Legislature  
Senate  
Hawaiian Affairs Committee

Re: Support for SB1321 – Relating to Gaming

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Dear Chair Maile Shimabukuro and Vice-Chair Jarrett Keohokalole and members:

Aloha Kakou,

My name is Justin Puaoi and I am a Native Hawaiian, I am also a member at the International Brotherhood of Electrical workers or the IBEW. I see both sides of the spectrum not only as a Hawaiian but, also as a member of the IBEW. I understand there could be potential negative issues with building a casino here but managed right it could be overcome. I see the potential positives in this as well from short term with construction jobs to long term with maintaining the casino. You know with the IBEW we do have Casinos in Las Vegas and in other states that are part of us and we only positives things that have come out of building one and maintaining one. I see with the help of the labor community that who are in support of this measure, things could be more on the positive sides of things. This is about working together, working in Unity and working to make sure that the people of Hawaii especially the Native Hawaiians are taking cared of for years to come. With That I am in **FULL SUPPORT** of SB1321.

The bill for an act will grant a forty-year gaming license for a single integrated resort property on Hawaiian homelands 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. ***This bill is about housing for Native Hawaiians.***

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 Homelands (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.

Fraternally,

**Justin Puaoi**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 1:40:59 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Curtis Muraoka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

The best parallel to a DHHL casino in Kapolei is NOT Las Vegas, but rather Native American casinos.

A **National Bureau of Economic Research** study from 2003 summarized the positive impacts of the Native American gaming industry this way:

“Examining the effects of casinos after at least four years of operation, the authors find that positive changes include: young adults moving back to reservations, fueling an 11.5 percent population increase; adult employment increasing by 26 percent; and a 14 percent decline in the number of working poor. In counties with or near a casino, the employment-to-population ratio has increased and mortality has declined.”

<https://www.nber.org/digest/feb03/social-and-economic-impact-native-american-casinos>

As of 2011, there were 460 gambling operations run by 240 tribes, and the social impacts include much that is positive, including changing longstanding stereotypes of Native Americans as Ignoble Savages.

Likewise, the world has changed from Prince Kuhio's notions of Hawaiian and Part Hawaiian restoration via husbandry, farming and fishing. Yet the ultimate mission of DHHL remains: to restore the Hawaiian population. A casino would help elevate this effort into the 21st Century via economic empowerment, and such empowerment for Hawaiians seems a good idea to me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Curtis Muraoka



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 5:07:51 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rebecca J. Carlson	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

Gaming is harmful and addictive. It takes advantage of people's desire to get something of value for little or no effort. Those who fall prey to gaming usually do not understand the true statistical nature of the games, which only benefit the gaming institution in the long run. While gaming is often depicted in the media as something glamorous, as someone who has lived in Las Vegas I mostly observed it as something sad that was draining people's time and money away. Gaming does not belong on our islands. I strongly oppose this measure.

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and distinguished members of the committee,

I am writing in support of SB1321. We have arrived at a critical juncture which is a tipping point on whether or not Hawai'i can recover economically from the COVID pandemic. Though difficult decisions must be made, we can't afford to waste time worrying about the "What if...?" scenarios about an industry that doesn't exist at the moment. I would much rather focus on the possibilities on what can become. For different thought processes will drive different actions, and those actions will create different outcomes. Therefore, I envision a future where Hawai'i thrives!

Allowing for a casino will provide much needed job opportunities for people living on the Westside which means less distance and travel time spent in traffic, increased productivity in our daily lives which lead to more resources to invest on individual well-being and time with family, risk reduction by expanding Hawaii's industry portfolio which leads to a stronger and diverse economy, and perhaps the introduction of a new gaming curriculum within the UH system which would also help expand the billion-dollar esports industry (if I may be so bold to say that a professional esports/events arena would complement a casino very well).

Hawai'i is full of intelligent minds who can come up with creative ways to address the possible issues which may arise with a casino. Developing solutions makes much more sense to me rather than outright denying opportunity and growth. We don't need to become the next "Vegas". We just need to be the best at what Hawai'i can offer to local communities and the world. All while integrating cultural values during each step of the way.

Mahalo nui loa for your time!

Best of health and many blessings,

Jalem Correia

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 8:40:27 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Weber	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am submitting an opinion piece recently written by the governor of Nebraska regarding a proposal to allow gambling in Nebraska. His arguments opposing gambling are very relevant to Hawaii.

Gambling with Nebraska: A Losing Bet

By Governor Pete Ricketts

August 10, 2020

Over the years, Nebraska has decided against allowing casino gambling in the Good Life—and for good reason. Gambling can ruin families, hurt communities, and pile on new costs to the state. By keeping Nebraska casino-free, our state has minimized the social harms associated with problem gambling. In fact, research shows that Nebraska ranks as the fourth-least gambling-addicted state in America.

It's not just about the rankings. There's a real human cost to casinos. When thinking about casino gambling, it's important to remember that the house always wins. The allure of hitting the jackpot overshadows the more common reality of players going broke chasing the dream of winning it all. In 2017, Americans lost \$107 billion from all forms of legalized gambling.

These losses are a reflection of one of the sad realities of gambling: It can be a habit-forming and addictive activity. While some gamblers harmlessly lose a little cash, others have a harder time knowing when to stop. Compulsive gamblers get a "high" from gambling that rewires the neural circuitry of the brain much like an addictive

drug. As with drug abuse, gambling addiction leads to anti-social and self-destructive behaviors.

Even without casinos, Nebraska already experiences some of the negative impacts from gambling on our communities. The Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling offers counseling to individuals with gambling disorders and their families through its Gamblers Assistance Program (GAP). From July 1, 2018 to April 30, 2020, GAP provided long-term counseling to 280 Nebraskans. Surveys of these individuals reveal the financial distress and mental health challenges common to problem gamblers. Thirty percent of participants said they had considered suicide in the past year. For those who reported gambling debts, the average amount owed was over \$28,000. This nearly equaled the group's median annual income. Half of those receiving counseling services earned less than \$30,000 a year.

Financial crimes aren't the only negative effects of problem gambling. It shatters relationships and destroys families. Time and money spent gambling can wreck a marriage or lead to child neglect. The financial pressure of gambling losses can also motivate domestic violence or child abuse. Additionally, the stress of gambling debt may trigger anxiety, depression, and behavioral health disorders.

Problem gamblers also hurt our communities when they commit crimes like embezzlement, forgery, and theft to finance their addiction. For example, in 2012 a Nebraska State Senator pled guilty to illegally spending campaign funds at casinos in Kansas. In 2016 a Lincoln pharmacist was sentenced to nine years in prison after defrauding Nebraska's Medicaid program of \$14.4 million. He squandered the money playing craps and blackjack at casinos in Council Bluffs. Also in 2016, a bookkeeper at an Omaha travel agency was arrested for stealing \$1.2 million from her employer to cover gambling losses incurred at Iowa casinos.

Many try to argue that we need casino gambling because they say that it would be a financial windfall to the State with no strings attached. This kind of thinking is short-sighted. For every \$1 a community gains from casino gambling, it pays \$3 in social costs. These costs go toward regulating the casino industry and dealing with the many negative side effects of problem gambling, such as child abuse, spousal abuse, crime, family breakdown, and bankruptcy. Legalizing casinos to improve the state's budget situation makes about as much financial sense as playing the slots to get rich.

In light of the social costs, it's also unfair to argue that governments should allow casino gambling in order to generate tax revenues. Low-income Americans disproportionately struggle with problem gambling, and the net outcome of casino gambling is to transfer money from the poor to the rich. The Open Door Mission in Omaha serves many people who are impacted by gambling addictions. In self-disclosed surveys of the homeless people they serve, they have studied the impact of casino gambling. Before casinos came to Council Bluffs, about nine percent of the homeless people they serve came to them due to gambling. After the casinos, about 36 percent of the homeless people they serve disclose that they are experiencing homelessness due to gambling addictions.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 9:14:58 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

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 addiction and sex trafficking is a public health problem that will be exacerbated with this casino development. Studies have shown that casino gambling correlates with social deviations, such as 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 black, brown, and indigenous girls and women become targets of the industry to meet this increased demand. There is already a rampant problem that neither proposed regulations nor mitigation plans can address these social ills. Stopping this casino is one way to stop the proliferation of violence and suffering.

I urge all our elected leaders to oppose SB 1321. 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 the Hawaiian community.

Thank you for your time.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 11:02:07 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Legislators Please oppose SB1321.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 5:53:13 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lahela Hite	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian, and wife to a native Hawaiian (who has been on the DHHL waitlist for over a decade), mother of two, and attorney, I am strongly opposed to this measure. I believe that this measure is poorly reasoned and will only create more problems than it will solve. For lack of a better description, this measure is the proverbial "band-aid over a bullet hole". Consequently, it simply will not solve the crisis faced by DHHL. First, DHHL intends to take viable commercial lands -- lands which COULD have been used by n/Native Hawaiians for enterprise -- and devote it to a casino operation which will inevitably be run by a big, foreign business. The "trickle-down" economic benefit espoused by this bill (in the form of additional jobs, etc.) has been disproven on multiple occasions by economists. The benefits will go to the big, out-of-state enterprise which will inevitably run the casino itself. Second, the casino will only provide fodder for the illegal and irreputably businesses that naturally accompany casino operations (prostitution, forms of government corruption, etc.). Our law enforcement is simply not equipped to handle that, and will be placed at a significant disadvantage. This poses a greater risk for everyone on this island, and addressing it would require an investiture of the significant resources (which the state simply does not have), and an overhaul of multiple portions of the HRS as well as the budgets of Honolulu county AND the state. Third, the reasoning behind the measure is nothing more than logical fallacies. The measure seeks to compare n/Native Hawaiians with Indian Nations. The two are not the same. Period. Because they had "treaties" (even treaties which the U.S. Government breached and/or ignored), Indian Nations enjoy a unique ward/steward relationship with the Federal Government -- a status which n/Native Hawaiians do not yet have (largely due in part to the way in which annexation occurred). Fourth, the administration of government bodies which are intended to benefit n/Native Hawaiians has already seen legal challenges (e.g., Rice v. Cayetano). This will be no different. If you open this door to one enterprise, you have to open it to all, regardless of the intent to limit the opportunities to n/Native Hawaiians. Again, this is because of the lack of federally recognized status available to n/Native Hawaiians. I simply do not believe that this measure will have benefits that outweigh the risks. I strongly encourage the committee to defer the measure. As "sexy" as it may seem, it is too poorly reasoned and too poorly thought out. Better the committee confer with experts in n/Native Hawaiian Law (WSRSL has them readily available), and then seek to work with our federal legislatures sitting in congress, and attempt to secure a special status of n/Native Hawaiians. That would be a more



worthwhile investment of time, and be more beneficial to n/Native Hawaiians in the long run.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 7:21:37 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose. DHHL beneficiaries should decide this issue, it's their land.



February 11, 2021  
1:00 pm

Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair  
Senate

Via Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: SB1321 - RELATING TO GAMING

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Keohokalole and members of the Senate committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

The Prince Kūhiō Hawaiian Civic Club **SUPPORTS** SB1321. 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** SB1321.

Ke Aloha‘āina,



Anthony Makana Paris  
Pelekikena

[president@pkhcc.org](mailto:president@pkhcc.org)

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 10:27:27 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
EILEEN M WEBER	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

I oppose the bill to legalize gambling in Hawaii. Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing. It undermines the virtues of work and thrift and the desire to give honest effort in all we do. Those who participate in gambling soon discover the deception in the idea that they can give little or nothing and receive something of value in return. They find that they give up large amounts of money, their own honor, and the respect of family members and friends. Deceived and addicted, they often gamble with funds they should use for other purposes, such as meeting the basic needs of their families. Gamblers sometimes become so enslaved and so desperate to pay gambling debts that they turn to stealing, giving up their good name.

February 7, 2021

Honorable Senate President Ron Kouchi,

As a concerned citizen who lives on Hawaiian Home Lands in Anahola, Kauai, I respectfully submit this written testimony in opposition to SB 1321 which would grant a 40 year gaming license for a single integrated resort property on Hawaiian Home Lands on Oahu, establish a Hawaii Gaming Commission, impose a wagering tax on gross gaming revenue, and create a state gaming fund. I believe that legalized gambling in any form will have a negative impact on all of the people of Hawaii. Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing. It undermines the virtues of work and thrift and of giving honest effort in all that we do. I am concerned that legalized gambling in Hawaii will increase crime and create more social and financial problems for individuals and families. I recognize that our local economy has been devastated by the global COVID-19 pandemic and that the state is desperately seeking ways to raise revenue during these unprecedented times. Please consider other alternatives to close the state budget shortfall. The interest of monetary gain through legalized gambling does not outweigh selling our soul as a people, many of whom believe in honesty and just values and principles. Indeed, our state motto "*Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono- The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness*" could not be more true when it comes to a significant decision such as SB 1321. Please consider the impact this bill will have on current and future generations of people who call Hawai'i home.

Sincerely,

Kahele Keawe

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 2:04:17 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Noekealaokalehua Kahalepuna	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

Aloha my name is Noekealaokalehua KAHALEPUNA, born and raised on O'ahu and a native Hawaiian. I oppose this bill and make a plea to the senate to stop this bill in its tracks. Legalizing gambling will only pour troubles onto our communities. The very idea of gambling is getting something for nothing, how does that promote a good mindset or lifestyle? Gambling is the hope of instant gratification, but the reality of debt, addiction, and other unhonorable consequences. You must by now recognize that prostitution and drugs go hand in hand with gambling, I can only imagine the lifestyles that will rear it's ugly head if we allow gambling to be legalized. I urge the Senate to stop SB1321. Mahalo!

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 2:18:13 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amanda Cerda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Amanda, and I had the pleasure of growing up in Hawai'i for 8 years. (Having graduated from Kealakehe Highschool in 2009) I am writing to oppose the use of Hawaiian Homelands funding to build a Casino. As I am sure you are aware Hawai'i was Illegally overthrown on January 17, 1893 by American Businessmen who wanted to avoid the taxation of their goods, and not for the benefit of the Kanaka Maoli.

In 1921 the Federal Government decided to set aside 200k acres of land for the Kanaka Maoli under the Hawaiian Homelands Initiative. I believe it to be morally wrong, and foolish to misuse the funding of homes to build a Casino or Casino Resort. Too long have the people waited to own land on what is their birthright as Native Citizens. Hawaiian people have either been forced to leave their precious Hawai'i or have been made homeless by what is an absolutely inflated housing market. (By the way, people should be required to live in a home they buy for at least 4 years before they can rent it out. Free advice)

Too often are the native populations of our country brushed aside for profit and progress, but no more. We must take a stand for what is right and say NO to the misuse of funds that I meant to house the descendants of voyagers, fishers, warriors, storytellers, and kings and queens. We cannot standby and watch as pamphlets tout about the image of Hawaiian Culture are handed out at airports and travel depots as some kind of gimmick to attract tourists to the islands.

No, if we want to use the image and traditions of time passed then we must also treasure those still connected to it. We must continue to use the money for Hawaiian Homelands on Hawaiian homes. So our uncles, aunties, cousins, grandmas, grandpas, and the children yet still yet to come may have a chance to partake in their place of origin. So that they may still have connections to their roots.

As a descendant of Native Puerto Ricans, I can only express my dismay had how little information is left of the Taino people. How little I know about my own traditions and history. Something I greatly admire about Hawai'i is its continued commitment to honor its history.



On behalf of my friends, neighbors, aunties, and uncles I appeal to your better nature.  
Say NO to SB 1321.

Mahalo,  
Sincerely,  
Amanda.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 2:44:01 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chanda Tsing	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To our elected representatives that act as voice for our citizens, I share my opinion as I oppose Senate Bill 1321 relating to gaming.

Currently our economy suffers dramatically due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to assist so many to have a place to live and food to eat, thousands receive unemployment checks and stand in weekly food donation lines. There are many good people that depend on these services, but I have also seen many take advantage of these "freebies" without need. In our desperation to help those in need, our society is learning to get without work. This is not a good lesson to be taught, and will impact our future generation. Hawaiians are proud to share the lessons one can learn from a Kalo patch. The effort to produce is then rewarded with the harvest. There is no short cut. Gambling teaches the same poor work ethic, by giving nothing or very little we can get more. This idea will not bring up the strong, self-sustaining Hawaii we hope for. We must work for what we have, and we need to teach this by example.

If the state has the idea that taxes from gambling will boost our state economy or pay for public services they are wrong. States, such as New Jersey, had hoped lottery and casino gambling would do that very thing. 40 years later their citizens carry one of the highest tax burdens. Let us leave a better Hawaii for our children.

Gambling is selfish. Although I am not Native Hawaiian, I often hear Hawaiian words describing values and ideas. One such phrase, "Ma ka hana ka 'ike, ma ka 'imi ka loa'a" is an ideal we teach our children about responsibility. Now is your time to put this into practice, reminding all of Hawaii that it is through initiative that one acquires, not mere chance. Please oppose this bill.

Thank you,

A. Chanda Tsing

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 6:28:42 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Howard Wailana Kamaau Jr.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

As a Native Hawaiian beneficiary I opposed SB 1321 for the following reasons:

1. The negative impact on our residents, communities, and families.
2. Gambling does not excuse the State's fiduciary responsibility to the Department of Hawaiian Homes.

I believe gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing. This desire is spiritually destructive. It leads participants away from my Christain teachings of love and service and toward the selfishness of the adversary. It undermines the virtues of work and thrift and the desire to give an honest effort in all we do

Those who participate in gambling soon discover the deception in the idea that they can give little or nothing and receive something of value in return. They find that they give up large amounts of money, their own honor, and the respect of family members and friends. Deceived and addicted, they often gamble with funds they should use for other purposes, such as meeting the basic needs of their families. Gamblers sometimes become so enslave and so desperate to pay gambling debts that they turn to steal or other criminal activities. As such, they sacrifice their good name and character for a meaningless pursuit.

Therefore, I request your no vote on SB1321.

Mahalo for your time and consideration

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 8:26:41 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Arthur Hannemann	Testifying for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I Arthur Hannemann, a citizen of the United States of America and resident of Hawaii, father of seven and 23 grandchildren, and a devout member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Mormon, reject the idea to legalize gambling here in Hawaii, and invite all senators to please join us. We believe the legalization of Gambling will destroy the family, changing our family friendly state which will impact tourism negatively.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 8:57:56 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Junko Milberg	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm writing my testimony in opposed of SB 1321 on legalizing gambling in Hawaii. Gambling will have negative impact on the residents of Hawaii, families and communities. I strongly feel that legalizing gambling will bring more negative effective than positive. I personally have seen negative effect gambling have had in my own family. It will only destroy families and communities. The economic impact is not worth the negative impact of legalizing gambling. Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 9:16:22 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tara Rojas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

DHHL = Your ONLY obligation is to get Hawaiians onto their HOMELANDS, period.

Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands - not to build casinos nor to lease to non-Hawaiians nor to corporations nor to foreign entities.

Return the land to Hawaiians = DHHL.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 10:03:19 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Margaret Hannemann	Testifying for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I, Margaret Hannemann, am a citizen of the United States of American and am a resident of Hawaii.

I am against the legalization of gambling. I believe, if gambling is legalized, it will cheapen, lower our standard of living, and increase sex trafficking, prostitution, drugs, and other such things of negative likeness which will affect the family in a very negative way.

Sincerely,

Margaret Hanneman

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 1:45:14 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE SB-1321.

A government run casino is bad! A Hawaii State government run casino is a disaster waiting to happen...RAIL!

This will only cause damage to the Hawaiian people, the land, and the righteousness of the islands. Casinos rarely do long term good for the communities they are in and typically offer a short term solution to systemic financial problems. Historically casinos have been used to help indigenous people support and uphold their communities-but at what cost?

Brett Kulbis



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 8:44:35 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Steve LauLu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a resident of these beautiful islands of Hawaii I oppose bill SB1321 which would allow gambling with all of the evil that comes with it to be passed in the guise of making revenue for the state. The dire financial situation the state is in is a result of poor leadership and unnecessary overspending of revenues that are not there in the first place. Why do you spend money that you don't have instead of saving it for rainy days? This bill is just an excuse to legalize gambling in our state. Please think about what this means to our safety as residents when crime will run rampant because of the evil a casino attracts. TOTALLY OPPOSE TO THIS BILL. KILL BILL SB1321.

Respectfully,

Steve La'ulua

**Please OPPOSE all House and Senate Bills regarding Casinos on DHHL Lands.**

Aloha e Representatives and Senators,

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 SB1321, and all House and Senate 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

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 10:14:44 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nana-Honua Manuel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Illigal overthrow, illegal annexation, illegal Hawaiian Homes Commision Act utilizing stolen lands, illegal statehood vote, a'ole casino!

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 10:53:41 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jonathan Cardwell	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

I am opposed to SB1321 and to HB359. Although I am not a native Hawaiian, this bill affects everyone that both live and visit here. Gambling is a destructive force to individuals and families, and is not needed here in our state. I hope that our government can protect us from the allure and greed of harmful capitalist institutions such as gambling and lotteries. The additional tax revenue is not worth it.

TESTIMONY OF ORIANA LEAO BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN  
AFFAIRS ON FEBURARY 11, 2021 AT 1:00PM VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

**SB 1321 RELATING TO GAMING**

February 11, 2021

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Committee,

I strongly support this bill, which establishes a Hawaii Gaming Commission authorized to issue a single forty-year license for an integrated resort on Hawaiian Homelands designated for commercial use on the island of O‘ahu excluding lands west of Ko‘olina.

As a tax paying resident of Kapolei, as the daughter of a Hawaiian homestead beneficiary, and as a Kanaka Maoli woman with kuleana (responsibility) to this ‘āina (land) and its Indigenous people; I am pleased with the creative solution proposed by the Department of Hawaiian Homelands to address its extensive and growing waiting list as well as the needs of its two (2) other classes of beneficiaries - (1) current lessees and (2) qualifying native Hawaiians who are not currently on the waiting list.

As a condition of Statehood, the State also carries this responsibility to the native Hawaiian people to fulfill the mission of the DHHL. The inclusion and required proposal for a Hawaii Gaming Commission that would be appointed by Hawaii’s State Governor reflects the DHHL’s intention to maintain and mandate the integrity and accountability of the operations and benefits of a Limited Gaming Casino.

The limitation of having a single gaming casino, on a single parcel of land, on one island that is exclusive to a DHHL commercial use property would mitigate the potential of having numerous, unwanted, and widespread casinos across the islands and will likely provide the legal parameters to control illegal gambling venues in the islands as well as the current social ills that surround them – for which there are no current State rehabilitation programs.

This bill is a bold measure with infinite potential for job employment and job development, State economic revitalization, and never-before-seen revenues for the cash-strapped Department of Hawaiian Homelands. In the unfortunate event that SB 1321 is not passed by this Senate Committee and as a direct descendent of ‘Umialīloa, I will look forward to seeing the alternative solutions and plans the State will enact to provide the 5 billion dollars necessary to address the DHHL’s waiting list with respect to its Constitutional responsibility to provide housing and rehabilitation for native Hawaiians. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 12:28:11 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ashley Moffat	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. No one will profit from gambling in our beautiful hawaii, it will only hurt our Ohana in the long run.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 2:02:05 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
travis thomas mokiao	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am Kealii of Ewa, Oahu and while I am not a lawyer, I strongly oppose SB 1321. I do so as a kuleana land Kia'i and a kuleana land heir/kuleana intrest holder and One whom shares public land interest. I oppose this bill for moral and ethical reasons. It is wrong for the DHHL to even request that a casino be built on lands that are for the benefit of US NATIVE HAWAIIANS who qualify for the program by blood quantum let alone a 40 year lease to non-beneficiaries. I am sure by now the state of Hawaii is aware of the status on almost all of the states land titles.

Recent events have shown that the state of Hawaii shares interest and titles with almost all native Hawaiian descendants in state lands, public lands or crown lands, even DHHL lands have shared interest. Interest that was created by THE GREAT MAHELE OF 1848 which is upheld by international laws. When the state of Hawaii and DHHL Openly make decisions on behalf of US NATIVE HAWAIIANS and HAWAII NATIONALS without consultation with regards to Building on lands or using land or making revenue on lands that legally belong to the NATIVE HAWAIIANS/ HAWAII NATIONALS & US NATIVE HAWAIIANS. I believe the signal of this bill is a huge bash towards the US NATIVE HAWAIIAN & HAWAII NATIONALS and NATIVE HAWAIIAN communities that are striving to become more self sustainable verses HIGHLY relying on tourism for sustainability. I also believe that this bill may also be encroaching on numerous international laws between the state of Hawaii and the COUNTRY OF HAWAII. which has already been recognized by ACADEMIC. Dr. David Keanu Sai and others, dr. Keanu sai explains that Hawaii's legal status is of a military occupation With that being said we are all civilians in occupation and there may be humanitarian laws that may be violated if this BILL is passed, violated onto the KANAKA MAOLI/NATIVE HAWAIIAN & HAWAII NATIONALS. The United States congress annexation on a joint resolution of annexation questions the legitimacy of the United States acquiring Hawaii through a joint resolution rather than a treaty. Upon annexation, the republic of Hawaii transferred over 1.7 million acres of Hawaiian government/crown lands to the United States which is held by the state of Hawaii. The 1993 Apology Resolution by President Clinton was the United States officially apologizing and acknowledging that the republic of Hawaii illegally transferred lands and that the "Indigenous Hawaiians never directly relinquished their claims over there NATIONAL LANDS to the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."

This bill seems specifically targeted towards NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND HAWAIIAN NATIONALS by having this bill/sb go on this far. KANAKA MAOLI HAWAII NATIONALS

AND US NATIVE HAWAIIANS HAVE protected rights and interest in all public and private lands, crown lands, state lands, government lands, that the great mahele set into decree by HIS MAJESTY KING KAMEHAMEHA III kauikeauoli in 1848. yet HAWAIIAN NATIONALS have no means to stop the illegal misconduct of lands and are still not being consulted on development on lands that belong to the COUNTRY OF HAWAII

Constitution Declaration of rights: Art 4 states "all men shall have the right in an orderly and peaceably manner to assemble, TO CONSULT UPON COMMON GOODS, give instructions to their representatives and to petition the king of legislature for a redress of grievances" CONSTITUTION and LAWS 1852 by KING KAMEHAMEHA III, acknowledged in international law.

The aforementioned is why I strongly oppose SB1321. If this bill is passed, wouldn't you the representative be impeding on a oath as a United state representative in international law and be considered an act of war by restricting or tampering with the rights of NATIVE HAWAIIAN/HAWAIIAN NATIONALS & US NATIVE HAWAIIAN.



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 2:35:27 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Duke	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I as a Hawaiian Native & beneficiary on the DHHL list strongly oppose this Bill SB1321. A Casino will destroy the Hawaiian people. Casinos will bring organized crime, Drugs, Alcoholism, Prostitution, Hawaii is already facing organized crime with in our State & County & police force such as the Kealoha case involving the deputy Prosicuter Karen Kealoha the Honolulu police chief & 20% of the HL police force. What is needed is reform with in DHHL , Such as back pay from State & County & private entities leasing DHHL lands only paying \$1.00yr witch is not signified as a beneficiary on that list. Reform payment and being charged Market price per square feet.

Please investigate the \$600 mill that DHHL received in the 90s through a settlement between the State & DHHL . Receiving 30mil a year for the next 20yrs & the last 30 mil received in 2015 under DHHL director Hoaliku Drake... What happened to the \$600mil witch was Allocated to help build Infrastructure and Homes for beneficiaries.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 3:30:52 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wallace A Ishibashi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha

I am strongly opposed to SB1321 for many of the social problems that it will create for Hawaii. Having a newly appointed commission on gaming telling us what we can and can not do on our lands, just what is needed. Dump this false dreams in SB1321 Wake up you're having a nightmare.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 6:49:12 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
melvin masuda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a private citizen and a life-long resident of Hawaii, I oppose SB 1321 to create a casino

in Hawaii. The public safety and health of our Hawaii people will be threatened by the

ill effects and the "downsides" of a casino in the Islands. We should keep casinos where

they belong -- on the ninth Island of Las Vegas.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 7:32:22 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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 over 50 years including one proposed at Turtle Bay, experiencing a floating gambling operation next door to my apartment in Waikiki and living briefly in Nevada with its legal and illegal gambling and related crime. Mahalo for your dedication to the people of Hawaii.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 8:05:42 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alana Grace	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 8:12:26 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Delsa Moe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I am against the proposal of establishing a gaming casino in Hawaii for ANY reason. The negative and far-reaching consequences of gaming far outweigh any short-term benefits enjoyed by a few. This is a financial, economical and moral mistake.

Please do not pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Delsa Moe

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 8:49:53 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Forest Frizzell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

I stand in absolute solidarity with those that oppose this legislation. Casinos are not the right move. The crime, abuse, addiction that comes with gambling is not worth it. We have so many other viable alternatives. Energy, agriculture, technology are all industries that could and should be promoted, trained, and funded in our state.

Mahalo,

Forest

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 9:19:26 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Godfrey Akaka	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

I live on Hawaiian Homestead and I oppose SB 1321 and any form of gambling. This proposal is a form of corruption as the investor is the one making the money. Further, not all of the information was given regarding the study of Native Americans and their casinos. My son served a mission in New Mexico in a Navajo reservation. Many of the good people and families were plagued with alchahol, drugs, and gambling addictions. Many people after recieving their government checks in the mail, would gamble it away the day their checks were cashed. With gambling, someone always loses money due to the addictive lure. This is not pono. Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono. The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness. Not in wickedness. Because it is God in who we trust. In the name of Jesus CHrist, Amen.



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 9:21:21 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Samuel Erbe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SB 1321 - Relating to Gaming

To Whom it May Concern,

I am opposed to SB 1321 relating to gaming and gambling. The people of Hawaii do not support this bill. This will not help the people of Hawaii. Gambling will have a negative impact on the people of Hawaii, our communities, and our families. Please tally my name with those on your list that are against this two bill. Gambling is not the answer. Please vote against this bill.

Sam Erbe  
Concerned Citizen  
96760

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 9:35:29 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Terrance Crowley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Sirs.

As a resident of Panaewa, Hawaii (Hawaiian Homelands) and as a 24 year US Navy Retiree, I strongly oppose this bill to allow gambling in Hawaii.

I have seen 1st hand how allowing gambling destroys communities and families. Although it is stated that this will provide revenue to Hawaii, more times than not the evils that come with gambling far outweigh any benefits. Oftentimes, most of the money ends up in individuals hands and very little is ever seen by the community.

Allowing gambling also brings with it corruption and illegal activities. Why would we want to contaminate our lands with this type of evil? If someone wants to gamble, let them fly to the mainland and visit sites that are already operating. Let's not make it easy to be tempted to throw away our hard-earned money. Rather, let's teach others to use their money to better their families. I hope this testimony serves to sway you to do the right thing and vote against gambling in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Terrance Crowley

LCDR, USN (Ret).

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 9:49:12 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
JODEAN KM AKAKA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha my name I JoDean Akaka. I live on the island of Molokai Hoolehua Hawaiian Homestead Land. I oppose SB1321.I oppose gambling in any form including government sponsored lotteries. Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing. This desire is spiritually destructive. It leads participants away from the Savior's teachings of love and service and toward the selfishness of the adversary. It undermines the virtue of work and thrift and the desire to give honest effort in all we do. Those who participate in gambling soon discover the deception in the idea that they can give little or nothing and receive something of value in return. They find that they give up large amounts of money, their own honor, and the respect of family members and friends. Deceived and addicted, they often gamble with funds they should use for other purposes, such as meeting the basic needs of their families. Gamblers sometimes become so enslaved and so desperate to pay gambling debts that they turn to stealing, giving up their good name.

Sincerely,

JoDean Akaka

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 9:54:03 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaulanarose	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill (SB1321).

Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing. This desire leads people away from Jesus Christ's teachings of love and service and toward the selfishness of the adversary. Those who participate in gambling give up large amounts of money and the respect of family members and friends. Gambling is deceiving and addicting and gamblers often gamble with funds they should use for other purposes like the needs of their families. Gamblers sometimes become so enslaved and so desperate to pay gambling debts that they turn to stealing, lying, and sometimes drugs. All these reasonings lead to broken families and leaves children learning a lifestyle of broken homes and failed marriages.

I oppose this bill (SB1321)

Respectfully,

Kaulanarose Hoewa'a

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 10:48:29 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marlise Ahuna	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I believe the Senate Bill 1321 will have a negative effect on our community and the families within it. Gambling can bring a host of social problems into the community, and it disproportionately appeals to those with the most limited of funds. Especially now, with the devastating economic impact COVID has had on local families, we need to help our communities by working hard, supporting Hawaiian businesses, and providing services that will support families as they dig out of economic hardship. We need to help train and support our neighbors and communities to be wise stewards over their finances, not escape to the false hope of easy money purchased through gambling. Please vote NO on SB1321.

## **My Story About Gambling**

Many years ago, when I lived in Nevada, I volunteered as a Cub Scout leader. Each month, when we met at the den leader's home for a committee meeting, there seemed to be fewer pieces of furniture. First, the artwork was gone, then the couch, later the dining chairs. Finally, there was only a dining table, a footstool, and several rickety folding chairs. Strange.

One morning I got a surprise call that we would not be meeting because the Cub leader had gone to jail. We were stunned to find out the reason why. He had a gambling addiction. That explained the disappearing furniture.

As a long-time trusted supervisor at a large store, he stole and pawned returned merchandise to raise gambling money. When his employer caught on, he ended up in jail.

Because of all the lies and deception, his wife and family left. Gambling hurts everyone. It silently ruins lives.

We lost an exceptionally fun Cub leader, his family lost their father and husband, his employer lost a talented manager, and the community lost a contributing citizen.

Think carefully. Please don't bring this hidden fire to Hawaii.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:41:49 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I write in opposition to HB383. I strongly oppose bringing gambling into Hawaii or spending money on any commission or taskforce to govern gambling.

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. Instituting 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 reaasonble ways to address the needs of the Hawaiian community, but gambling should not be one of the options.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ellen Godbey Carson, Honolulu, Hawaii

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 9:38:30 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Blossom Feiteira	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Madame Chair and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

My name is Blossom Feiteira, Maui native and a Beneficiary of the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust. Mahalo for this opportunity to speak in support of SB 1321.

As a long time advocate on behalf of my fellow beneficiaries of the Trust, this legislation may be a solution to the long standing funding issues and challenges that has plagued the Department of Hawaiian Homelands since statehood. An endeavor such as this has been proven to be highly successful in addressing funding needs of the Native American communities on the continent when done correctly.

This bill calls for several steps to ensure that it is, in fact, done correctly. I ask for your support in moving this bill to the next step so that discussions and debates on the merits of this action can take place. I believe that with a fully informed beneficiary community, better decisions can be made on behalf of the current and future generations of beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust.

Once again, mahalo for your time and consideration in this matter.

Aloha,

Blissom Feiteira



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 10:08:58 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patty Kahanamoku-Teruya	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Speaking on behalf of myself Hawaiian Homestead Beneficiary and NOT as one of the Oahu Commissioner, on DHHL or Nanakuli-Mailii Neighborhood Board No. 36 in opposition to the Senate Bill 1321 Relating to Gaming.

Mahalo!

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 10:10:23 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a 16 year Kaimaina here on Oahu I would like to express my individual knowledge and experiences of the good that a gaming venue would do for the people of Oahu. It far outweighs all the "what ifs" and the rhetoric about mobsters and "slave trade". I have heard negative comments about the people and native people of Hawaii in particular, about their abilities to "handle" a gambling venue. Being part Native American I believe I can speak for the people and for myself from years of observation and the positive influences that a gaming venue would offer the native people and all people in the whole State of Hawaii in general. It would help with taxation (instead of taxing us to death for rail, stadium, gas taxes, etc), it would help with educational programs (it would open the door to a lottery here in the islands which is desperately needed). Those funds, like in the State of Georgia could be channeled specifically to education. After many years of getting the lottery into Georgia the revenue still goes to education. It is carefully monitored.

I am not an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation, as I was not born on the Qualla Boundary itself, but I have family there and they keep me very much informed on how things are with the Casinos. Many of my family have and do work for the Casino. In Cherokee, NC (they now have two casinos) Harrah's came in for five years to train the local people, they took their cut of course, then turned the facility fully and totally over to the Eastern Band/Cherokee Nation tribe to run. They are doing great managing the venue. The tribe has pulled in enough revenue for build better hospitals, which brings in better doctors, language speaking schools, dialysis clinics (there were none at all on the Boundary before the revenues from casinos) and stipends that go into each enrolled member's pocket from babies to death (trust fund if they are under 18 years of age).

As far as I know there was no "slave trade" started by mobsters, the Cherokee people were were trained, and have managed the casino well enough to buy back sacred land and increase the size of the Qualla Boundary and open another casino in another section of the Boundary called Snowbird, which is way back in the mountains and was so poverty stricken very few people could afford to live off the land there and survive. It is now a thriving community with good health care and education. Sometimes that's not all good as most people in Snowbird were so isolated they only spoke Indian. But the health and welfare of the people has improved so much it is at least giving them a chance to thrive and make their own decisions.

Most of the native people go to college now and many come back to the Boundary to give back to the people. All because someone had the guts to get a Casino entity in there to make up for short fall from Grants from the Feds and other small handouts from the BIA that were just barely enough to keep mental health, hospitals, and workshops open. No one was thriving. Dialysis patients had to drive an hour over snowy or foggy mountains to get to dialysis in Waynesville, NC.

Tribal Bingo began in 1990 and was so popular that talks began about opening a tribal casino. Harrah's opened in 1997 and was supported by overwhelming tribal vote. Before that many Cherokee people traveled to other venues close by and faraway just to gamble.

There are plenty of black market gambling parlors on this island in particular. As far as I know the State is not benefitting from any revenue from those establishments. So, it's not as if we are "saving the people" from gambling. Either here or in Vegas.

Why we insist that gambling doesn't exist here already, uncontrolled and untaxed is not realistic. There is plenty of gambling going on and going into individual pockets and not helping the people of Hawaii. Native or otherwise.

I thank you for reading this long testimony, and for considering your vote very seriously. It won't all go smoothly, but it will help our economy, our State issues from COVID, and most importantly the native people of this beautiful place.

Mahalo nui loa & Respectfully Submitted Testimony in favor of SB 1321.

Dana Jones 808-393-5043

February 8, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Hawaii State Capitol, Videoconference

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Subject: **Senate Bill 1321, RELATING TO GAMING**  
Report Title: Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation

Dear Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing in **strong opposition** of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, I know the negative impact gambling will have on the people of Hawai'i, our communities, and our families. Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing. Gambling creates no new wealth. Gambling creates an unacceptable outcome—in order for the government to win, its citizens must lose. Gamblers are mostly likely to be local residents, so the money they spend on gambling displaces other local expenditures. Sometimes, these displaced expenditures are necessities like food, shelter, and clothing.

There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens.

Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

Sincerely,

Your full name  
Your mailing address  
Your phone/email contact

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 10:26:18 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allen Cardines, Jr.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**Honorable Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs**

February 9, 2021

Re: Testimony to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs Relating to **SB1321**

My name is Allen Cardine, Jr.. Thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony in **opposition** to **SB1321**. The following points are just some of the reasons why I am in opposition.

**Gambling Is A Bad Bet: The ABCs of why**

1. Gambling and pornography have a lot in common: both exploit humans for a profit; both exploit human weakness and cause deep-rooted **ADDICTIONS**; both ruin marriages and families; both destroy children; both are run by people should know better, but instead choose to destroy others' lives to benefit themselves. You cannot predict who will become addicted to gambling – it's an equal opportunity predator.
2. Numerous reports have found gambling to be linked to increase **BANKRUPTCY**. SMR Research Corporation calls gambling "the single fastest growing driver of bankruptcy."
3. Gambling breeds **CRIME** and it is not a partisan issue. In states with legalized gambling, the gambling cartel has brought out all political parties, and are assuming positions of power within state and federal offices.
4. Gambling is **DESTRUCTIVE**. Gambling creates addicts, ruins marriages, destroys families, exploits children and the poor, bankrupts communities, raises crime, creates corruption, makes false promises, distorts reality, deceives the public and lies all the way to the bank. Greed, power, money and corruption are at the root of gambling operations.
5. Gambling is bad for the **ECONOMY**. Professor Earl Grinols calculates that the costs of gambling outweigh the benefits by a factor of more than 3:1. Gambling fails the cost benefit test, and taxpayers lose.
6. Gambling violates the principle of **FINANCIAL** stewardship to pay off your debt for good and build wealth.

I ask you to **oppose SB1321**.

Thanks for the opportunity to humbly and respectfully submit my testimony in **opposition**.

Aloha,

Allen Cardines, Jr.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 10:37:30 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dawn K. Sang	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

‘A‘ole au e kā• ko‘o iki ana i nĀ“ia pila ma kona ‘ano a pau loa. He mea ia e pau ai kā• ka Hawai‘i ea e ho‘olilo aku i ke aupuni nĀ• na e lapa‘au i ka ma‘i i ‘ili ma luna o kā• kou Hawai‘i ma kā• ‘Amelika ‘ano nohona, ka no‘ono‘o, me ka ‘imi ho‘okahi no ke kanaka ho‘okahi. E kā• pae ikaika ‘oukou i nĀ“ia pila, he puhi i ke ahi lapalapa o ke ea o ka honua.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 11:21:50 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gerald Taber	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hawaiian Affairs Committee  
Chair, Senator Maile Shimabukuro  
Vice Chair, Senator Jarrett Keohokalole  
Members:  
Senator Laura Acasio  
Senator Les Ihara Jr.  
Senator Kurt Fevella

RE: SB 1321 Legislative Proposal for  
40 yr Casino Gaming License on Hawaiian Home Lands

Aloha Hawaiian Affairs Committee, Chairman Shimabukuro & Vice Chair Keohokalole,

First and foremost, I send you, staff and all of your ohana  
a heartfelt Aloha and Hau'oli Lonoikamakahiki from  
Moku o Keawe, Hawaii Island from the Taber Ohana.  
Myself, my husband and our son,  
Manokalanipoemakanaokamalu Wailand Luke Taber

WHY I/WE OPPOSE CASINO GAMING ON HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS...

1. Gaming/Gambling in Hawaii is ILLEGAL
2. DHHL is tasked with putting Kanaka on lands #StopTheDyingList
3. DHHL Commissioners have not considered ALL LEGAL revenue generators
4. Gaming exclusively on Hawaiian Homelands opens Beneficiaries/Trust to potential liabilities by Non Beneficiary entities
5. DHHL does NOT have the expertise in creating Business Revenue Generators nor any Gaming experience, 100 years factual failure!
6. Revenue figures given by Deputy Gomes are Pre Pandemic revenue projections & established income stable communities
7. Gaming Casino revenue split for an EXCLUSIVE HAWAII CASINO RESORT is EGREGIOUS. No ownership, No shares, NO security for Beneficiaries



8. What expertise does the DHHL Chair, Deputy and Commissioners have in deciding on Gaming Entity awarded 40 year contract?
9. HOW many Hawaiians have been giving land/home awards in 2018? 2019? 2020? projected for 2021?
10. If the DHHL is DEFICIENT because of the State of Hawaii, Shouldn't the STATE of Hawaii be investigated?
11. Gaming Bill is the predecessor to Federal Recognition, which is NOT the Will of the Lahui
12. Beneficiaries shouldn't be burdoned with this during a pandemic, DHHL needs to work on getting lands, not customers for casino!

As a great granddaughter of Moloka'i homesteaders, Robert Momona & Julia (Kulia) Makaole Makaiwi, the Hawaiian Homelands program was more than an idea growing up. It was the representation of the Aloha that our Mo'i, our Ali'i had for us future generations, that's us. That's my great grandparents that worked the Homelands in Ho'olehua, through great hardship and we are still here because of that hard work, perserverance and Aloha.

They were also STAUNCH and DEVOTED Mormons who helped build the church on Molokai, ohana that established Iokepa (a Hawaiian settlement) in Utah and establish the first Mormon Temple in Laie on Oahu. Gambling was against the world of wisdom and something that my Great Grandparents would never support, even if it benefited Hawaiians to be in homes. Our Makaiwi Ohana built their ' home and many others in Ho'olehua, tilled many fields to ensure that farming was successful and beneficial to the passing of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act.

When I think of Hawaiian Homelands, it's a beautiful vision. Multi generational, self sustainable & economically strong communities thriving with healthy, strong and productive Hawaiians stimulating the economy and betterment of all, in Aloha. Casino revenue is not in this vision because it's only a producer of revenue, not healing.

There are many more revenue generators that we could utilize to raise funds to put Hawaiians in AFFORDABLE Homes that are currently legal. Hemp is one such product that is legal, supported by major industries and the uses are endless including cleaning tainted lands, food/nutritional sources and the best one? Housing materials! DHHL has the lands and OHA can kokua on the economic aspects to ensure ALL Hawaiians, little n and big N are given kokua.

I've resided in Las Vegas, Reno and my husband worked IT in Wendover Nevada for a major casino. I have relatives that work in casinos, are members of tribes that benefit from casinos and I have also visited casinos over the years. I've heard and seen many of the benefits that casinos bring to the tribes, but I've also seen and heard the many deficits as well. The biggest issues that must be addressed is

the delinquency of the State of Hawaii to the DHHL beneficiaries, the blood quantum issues that divide and subjugate our Lahui to further disenfranchisement of their identity as Kanaka and the threat of Federal Recognition, which eliminates the will of our Kupuna that signed the Kue Petitions.

WHO shall be the Quantifier on whether a Kanaka receives kokua from Casino profits? Will our people be DISENROLLED like many others tribes do today, for a myriad of reasons one of them being blood quantum? Is this the vision of Prince Kuhio? Is this the vision of our Ali'i or more importantly our Kupuna? A'ole, this is not our future as Kanaka, as Hawaiian people.

I've had an opportunity to read through the 58 page proposal and I can't tell you how much anxiety, grief and sadness this has renewed amongst our Lahui. There is alot of PTSD and Trauma that is being caused by this "proposal" without including the Lahui and Beneficiaries as we KNOW that our mo'opuna will bear the burden of the impact that Casino gaming will have.

I do NOT want my son to be a casino employee NOR supplement his life with a check benefit that further disenfranchises our Lahui, our Nation nor anyone else. We must be steadfast in creating revenue streams that are based in Pono, Lokahi and Aloha. Restorative industries, growing foods and producing goods for export, establishing Trade school and IT Tech certification centers, economic and retail spaces for our Lahui, certified kitchens for our Lahui to sell and export hemp/medical marijuana and ensuring that Mauna Kea Access road remains in the trust instead of the State.

As I sit in my hale in Kea'au, our Tutu Pele has let us all know that she is the Creator of lands,

so I hope that the Commissioners hear and feel her resounding A'ole to casinos. Please do not support this current proposal of a Casino in Kapolei, our Lahui and Beneficiaries

deserve the right to be heard and included in this or any venture regarding Hawaiian Homelands.

We need to work together, as a Lahui, Kakou, in order to Puka through any obstacles and ensure we are leaving a legacy of Aloha, not one fraught with disenfranchisement, heartbreak or further subjugation of our future generations.

As the great great granddaughter of HW Mano of Wailua Kauai & Mele Nahiolea Kaina Mano of Maui (patients at Kalawao) great granddaughter of first Homesteaders of Ho'olehua Robert Momona Makaiwi & Julia (Kulia) Makaole Makaiwi, granddaughter of Manuel F. Neves & Agnes Kaina Mano Kea Neves (Lost their home they built from Maunawili evictions) a beneficiary and (Devout Catholics/also wouldn't approve), granddaughter of Robert Lopaka Kahulanui Naipo & Eliza Kau Makaiwi Naipo, and most especially as the eldest daughter of DHHL Kauai

commissioner Dennis Luke Neves & Lynnette Kauai Naipo Neves, but more importantly I speak for our son Manokalanipoemakanaokamalu Wailand Luke (his papa's middle name which means LIGHT) Taber, who is also a Beneficiary and inheritor of my estate.

Although he is only 11 years old, he is the youngest mo'opuna of Commissioner Neves (4th Generation Neves) and like many young Kanaka that signed the Kue Petitions against the Annexation of Hawaii to the United States of America, he is VERY aware of what his Kuleana is to self & Ohana but also his Kupuna & Lahui. He resoundly says A'ole and asks his Papa Neves to NOT support this casino built on Hawaiian Homelands. He does not want to have housing or lands built with Casino revenues and again wishes his Papa Neves to DROP THE CASINO PROPOSAL on Hawaiian Homelands.

Our ohana are first homesteaders that were pivotal in the success and facilitation of the HHCA, so to see this happening, in our ohana names NEVES and MAKAIWI is devastating. ALL three of my Tutu did NOT receive their lands yet we now use Gaming as our Saving Grace for our Independence and building homes for Hawaiians? A'ole, NOT in our Tutu's names and NOT on the backs of our Kupuna that came before us, that ensured the 1920 HHCA program was approved for future generations. This is our Ohana Legacy, NOT GAMING!

A'ole, as the eldest daughter of Commissioner Neves I cannot nor will I support this endeavor, never and respectfully ask that the DHHL and their 150 staff members come up with something other than subjugation, other than desecration, other than pure spiritual, economic and emotional distress that this Casino/Gaming bill will bring to our Lahui.

This is NOT how we honor our Kupuna, and as a Beneficiary, as a daughter, granddaughter, great granddaughter and more importantly, as a mother, I cannot and will not support this casino venture and will ADVOCATE for it's defeat including the REMOVAL of ANY Commissioners that would agree, vote, support, advocate or prosethelitize this to our Lahui without full clarity and transparency, including a FULL VOTE from ALL BENEFICIARIES on the Waitlist AND their Beneficiaries as well.

Again, I submit this OPPOSITION LETTER TO CASINO ON HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS. I will also be sharing this to my social media public as well, and encourage them to send in letters of OPPOSITION to Casino/Gaming on Hawaiian Homelands.

Mahalo nui,  
May we always work, speak and strive to honor our Mo'i, Kupuna and Lahui with Aloha

TheresaLynnette Keohunani (NEVES) Taber  
Hawaiian Beneficiary

Manokalanipoemakanaokamalu Wailand Luke Taber  
Hawaiian Beneficiary

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 11:40:59 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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 add the following caveats;

- 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

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 12:34:05 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
george bezilla	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 12:44:13 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patricia Hubner	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

The long and tragic history of gambling shows that the most vulnerable lose the most and the promises of getting rich quick is an alluring siren's song that leads to wrecked lives and families. Shame! Shame!! Shame!!! on legislators for using Hawaiian Homelands to build casinos -- the casino owners get rich off of lands that should be used for families to have homes and for ensuring safe and healthy neighborhoods. I lived in NY state for years and the lotto was always touted as the great windfall for education - all of that money was supposed to go to education - but the sad state of public schools showed that the ill gotten gains from gambling goes into the pockets of crooks who know how to work the system. A system that depends on gambling is sewing the seeds of corruption, dependence and decay. I strongly oppose this bill.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 1:12:06 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
KIANA K BOURNE	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this Bill, SB1321. I believe Hawai`i is already going through so much as a community: Homelessness, drug/alcohol abuse, ACES and Trauma, etc. The last thing we need is gambling to add to all the trauma we as a community are still trying to overcome and heal through.

Let us find the means for programs who are Trauma Informed and programs that help our community to heal and cope with our trauma.

Thank you, Kiana B



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 1:16:49 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jacelyn Auna	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB1321.

The DHHL is doing exactly what the Americans did to our Hawaiian kingdom. Having the support of the Senate is just plain ridiculous. Keep the casino out of Hawai'i. You are robbing the Hawaiians from their rightful lands and robbing the money of the people of Hawai'i. Why should tax payer's money and other allotted funds go towards a casino that would not benefit the people of Hawai'i, especially the Hawaiians? What good will a Casino before the future generations? Why teach our Hawaiian children, our local children that gambling is okay? You're showing the gambling would become a way of life. WE DO NOT NEED A CASINO!

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 1:24:19 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Piilani Erbe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to HB 359 and SB 1321 both relating to gaming and gambling. The people of Hawaii do not support these two bills. This will not help the people of Hawaii. Gambling will have a negative impact on the people of Hawaii, our communities, and our families. Please tally my name with those on your list that are against these two bills. Gambling is not the answer. Please vote against these two bills.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 1:31:05 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brent Watson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to SB1321. It is addictive, without regard to one's citizenship, race, financial level, or religious affiliation. I believe it is a threat to the stability of communities by fostering get-rich-quick greed particularly by those who have little resources yet have the most to lose.

Please protect our communities from this cancer called gambling.

Mahalo,

Brent Watson

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 1:36:13 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Allison Mayeda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Have you thought about other problems that will arise from this? \$\$Money okay, how about human trafficking, fights, drugs . Please DO NOT pass this , we have enough negative things going on in Hawaii-so STOP. I cannot believe Hawaiian Homes would even consider this.

February 8, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Hawaii State Capitol, Videoconference

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Subject: **Senate Bill 1321, RELATING TO GAMING**  
Report Title: Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation

Dear Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing in **strong opposition** of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, I know the negative impact gambling will have on the people of Hawai'i, our communities, and our families. Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing. Gambling creates no new wealth. Gambling creates an unacceptable outcome—in order for the government to win, its citizens must lose. Gamblers are mostly likely to be local residents, so the money they spend on gambling displaces other local expenditures. Sometimes, these displaced expenditures are necessities like food, shelter, and clothing.

There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens.

Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

Sincerely,

Melvin Nakama

Your full name: Melvin Nakama  
Your mailing address: 98-941 Moanalua Rd #506  
Your phone/email contact: 808-223-5084

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 2:03:13 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Campbell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am testifying in opposition to the legalization of gambling in the State of Hawaii.

The legalization of gambling in the State of Hawaii should be fully opposed.

Hawaii is inherently a poor state. The Census Bureau reported 2019 individual median annual income at \$35,567 USD. The Census Bureau also reported median house values for 2019 at \$615,300 UDS with median mortgage payments of \$2,418 per month. In addition to this, 9.3% of Hawaii's population is already under the poverty line. And tens of thousands are already relying on financial support from social programs offered by the state.

The legalization of gambling will only continue to expand poverty for the general citizen by diverting individual and family financial resources into an avenue that is inherently guaranteed to cause financial loss. The gambling industry uses statistics and probabilities weighed in their favor in order to be a viable and profitable business model. Thus, over the course of time, the flow of financial resources is guaranteed in favor of the casino and away from the citizens of the state of Hawaii. It is not in the State's best interest to support institutions that inherently undermine the already tenuous financial stability of it's citizens.

A quick internet search of scholarly articles and white papers firmly establishes the great detriment gambling is on individuals, families, and societies. For the sake of being succinct, general topics include addiction, relationship conflict, financial hardship sometimes leading to bankruptcy, the loss of assets, deterioration of the family, the loss of self through extreme negative emotion, employment conflict, etc.

A quick increase of state revenue should never be at the expense of it's citizens' long term standard of living and mental health. Will the money taken away from "John" at the casino table then be used for social programs to help "John" tackle the addiction he develops at your casino tables? Will it be used to pay for lawyers as his wife divorces him? Will it be used for EBT as he loses his job due to the compulsive behaviors that casinos target, reinforce, and prey upon? Will that money be used to foster his children as his life completely spirals out of control into anger, depression, and self-loathing? Will it be used to pay his housing?

As they say, the ripple goes all the way to the shore.

This state already suffers enough from drug addictions and alcohol addictions. Please do not add another.

Please reject the bill. Do not allow gambling to become legalized in the State of Hawaii.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 2:12:46 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anuheia St. Laurent	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**I am testifying against/in opposition of SB1321** because it promotes addictive behavior, which will be extremely detrimental to our local communities and families. As a professional Counselor who has worked in the mental health field here in Hawai'i for over 15 years, including working with the severely mentally ill population and those with substance abuse addictions, I have seen the endless negative effects that addictions have on individuals and families. Gambling and lotteries promote the idea that individuals can/should benefit from little to no effort or hard work. It promotes entitlement, selfishness, greed, and individualism. It is incredibly hurtful to one's sense of right and wrong, self-esteem, ability to exercise self-discipline and engage in honest, respectful, hard work. Individuals with addictive behaviors, especially in relation to gambling and lotteries, often end up stealing, harming others to no avail, because of the enslavement to their addiction, to their need to fulfill debts and outstanding obligations, to their need to provide for their families. In an already suffering economy, where thousands of local families are already struggling to make ends meet, legalizing gambling and lotteries is a sure way to worsen the State's economy, increase crime rates, increase incarceration, increase homelessness, increase the number of applicants for welfare and food stamps, and increase the deficit of the State's already poorly managed budget, which will force us to continue taking away necessary funding from other existing and struggling programs and departments within the State of Hawai'i. Not to mention, it will surely divide and weaken families and communities, increase the amount of individuals who suffer from Mental Health issues and increase the severity of those who are already Mentally Ill. It will increase the number of individuals suffering from drug/alcohol abuse and dependence, experiencing poverty and/or homelessness, and are already revolving in and out of jails. In addition, legalized gambling in Hawai'i will further entice and attract those from out of State to move here, and be stuck here, sucking up more of the State's resources that are already inadequate for the existing population. Again, **I am testifying against/in opposition of SB1321** because it promotes addictive behavior, which will be extremely detrimental to our local communities and families.



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 2:23:46 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bonnie Petersen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am testifying this afternoon of February 9, 2021, to make my voice heard to say I oppose SB1321. This Bill seeks to bring gambling into our state and thus encourage the attitude of getting something for nothing, and discourages working honestly for what we need. Many times money needed by families is instead spent on gambling.

The belief that gambling is a way to finance worthwhile needs in our communities is shortsighted and the price paid by our citizenry can never be restored. This bill will forever change Hawaii and move us away from the grounding of ALOHA that now binds us together to help and care for each other in love.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Petersen

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 3:01:38 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chelsea Reuelman	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

I am testifying against gambling and saying "no" to senate bill 1321. From personal experience gambling has affected a family member and our family tremendously. Back in 2015-2016, there were several "gaming rooms" in Hilo as well as one in Kona. As we all know Las Vegas is the "9th island" and most locals here in Hawaii dream, save money, and make yearly trips to try to go to Vegas for vacation. It is the most popular vacation get away for the locals here in Hawaii. Well, I have a family member who was strong with that aspiring goal to go yearly if not multiple times a year. However, in Hawaii the cost of living is extremely high where majority of the locals live pay check to pay check. My family member wasn't able to go in a while due to funds but heard about this "game rooms" that were popular in Hilo and Kona where you are able to win money; real cash. Well, she started going and saw that it gave her the thrill as if she was in Vegas. Basically "gambling" money she didn't have. Eventually she started going twice a week then it became daily. Even "calling out", or going to work late due to loss of track of time while gambling. As the months went on other family members including myself saw how much of an impact this was on her. She stopped taking care of her health, she wasn't home to cook for her family, she wasn't eating, nor sleeping. It came to a point I often hoped and prayed that the "game rooms" would get raided, shut down, and people would get arrested so that this family member would no longer go. Eventually, this strong desire of "gambling" and bad habit turned her life upside down. Her vehicle that she used quite often got taken away, her bills were put on the back burner, she started asking family members for help financially to make ends meet. After having a family member loan her a car she continued going. Eventually, because of lack of sleep she fell asleep on the wheel going home. She was in a one car accident and had minor injuries. If this was not all, she did it again. Luckily, another one car accident with minor injuries. It's been about 4-5 years now since this all started and she still has not gained back the life she once lived comfortably. She now suffers from depression, still working pay check to pay check and still gambles but on an app on her cellphone. Prior, to the days of these gambling rooms she was responsible, family was her main priority, had her life together, lived pay check to pay check but made ends meet just right. I am afraid that if this bill passes, those who were vulnerable and in the same position as my family member will go down this path and eventually feel the negative impacts that this has on people in Hawaii. What is sad is that it affected her life long term and we will never know if she will come back from it. It is science when it comes to gambling. The release of Dopamine in our brains causes that "thrill" feeling similar to the effects of drugs. If this bill passes, it is bound to work that way where people will be addicted and their life and

responsibilities will be neglected. In Hawaii, we value "Ohana" gambling ruins and breaks apart Ohana. If we want to keep Hawaii's outstanding attributes this bill should not pass. Let's keep Las Vegas and gambling where it already is. Let's keep Hawaii and its one of a kind powerful and loving attributes alive today especially with the circumstances we are struggling with these days. Mahalo.

February 8, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Hawaii State Capitol, Videoconference

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Subject: **Senate Bill 1321, RELATING TO GAMING**  
Report Title: Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation

Dear Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing in **strong opposition** of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, I know the negative impact gambling will have on the people of Hawai'i, our communities, and our families. Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing. Gambling creates no new wealth. Gambling creates an unacceptable outcome—in order for the government to win, its citizens must lose. Gamblers are mostly likely to be local residents, so the money they spend on gambling displaces other local expenditures. Sometimes, these displaced expenditures are necessities like food, shelter, and clothing.

There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens.

Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Clark  
603 Beard Ave, Honolulu, HI 96818  
[Clarkjb91@gmail.com](mailto:Clarkjb91@gmail.com)  
816-838-5830

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 3:25:35 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Evelyn Cahoon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not bring the gambling/gaming culture into Hawaii. Child and sex trafficking are already a problem here, and this culture can attract those elements that feed and support these grave injustices. Vote no on SB1321.

February 9, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Hawaii State Capitol, Videoconference

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

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There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. What about faster foreclosures, pre-foreclosures, homes that have city filings against them for being inhabitable and making it easier for people to buy, fix up, improve the neighborhood and generate positive taxes for the city for example. Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens.

**Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.**

Sincerely,



Angela M Gree  
99-670 Aliipoe Dr.  
Aiea, HI 96701  
661-878-6355/Gregg.Angela@gmail.com

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 3:34:50 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Matthew DeMille	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha- As listed in a Handbook for my church whom I serve as a Bishop, "Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing. This desire is spiritually destructive. It leads participants away from the Savior's teachings of love and service and toward the selfishness of the adversary. It undermines the virtues of work and thrift and the desire to give honest effort in all we do".

I oppose this bill because I don't think it will have a positive impact on our community and will cause our residence to become addicted to something that will only hurt us. Please keep the islands as they are and let those who want to gamble their money to head to Vegas

mahalo!

Matt

February 8, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Hawaii State Capitol, Videoconference

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Subject: **Senate Bill 1321, RELATING TO GAMING**  
Report Title: Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation

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There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens.

Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

Sincerely,

Charles H Nunnelly  
1914 Porter Ave, Honolulu, Hi, 96818  
719-205-8190/heathnunnelly@gmail.com



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Aloha Senator Shimabukuro,

As a resident of Nanakuli and as a 16 year Kaimaina here on Oahu I would like to express my individual knowledge and experiences of the good that a gaming venue would do for the people of Oahu. It far outweighs all the "what ifs" and the rhetoric about mobsters and "slave trade". I have heard negative comments about the people and native people of Hawaii in particular, about their abilities to "handle" a gambling venue. Being part Native American I believe I can speak for the people and for myself from years of observation and the positive influences that a gaming venue would offer the native people and all people in the whole State of Hawaii in general. It would help with taxation (instead of taxing us to death for rail, stadium, gas taxes, etc), it would help with educational programs (it would open the door to a lottery here in the islands which is desperately needed). Those funds, like in the State of Georgia could be channeled specifically to education. After many years of getting the lottery into Georgia the revenue still goes to education. It is carefully monitored.

I am not an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation, as I was not born on the Qualla Boundary itself, but I have family there and they keep me very much informed on how things are with the Casinos. Many of my family have and do work for the Casino. In Cherokee, NC (they now have two casinos) Harrah's came in for five years to train the local people, they took their cut of course, then turned the facility fully and totally over to the Eastern Band/Cherokee Nation tribe to run. They are doing great managing the venue. The tribe has pulled in enough revenue for build better hospitals, which brings in better doctors, language speaking schools, dialysis clinics (there were none at all on the Boundary before the revenues from casinos) and stipends that go into each enrolled member's pocket from babies to death (trust fund if they are under 18 years of age).

As far as I know there was no "slave trade" started by mobsters, the Cherokee people were trained, and have managed the casino well enough to buy back sacred land and increase the size of the Qualla Boundary and open another casino in another section of the Boundary called Snowbird, which is way back in the mountains and was so poverty stricken very few people could afford to live off the land there and survive. It is now a thriving community with good health care and education. Sometimes that's not all good as most people in Snowbird were so isolated they only spoke Indian. But the health and welfare of the people has

improved so much it is at least giving them a chance to thrive and make their own decisions.

Most of the native people go to college now and many come back to the Boundary to give back to the people. All because someone had the guts to get a Casino entity in there to make up for short fall from Grants from the Feds and other small handouts from the BIA that were just barely enough to keep mental health, hospitals, and workshops open. No one was thriving. Dialysis patients had to drive an hour over snowy or foggy mountains to get to dialysis in Waynesville, NC.

Tribal Bingo began in 1990 and was so popular that talks began about opening a tribal casino. Harrah's opened in 1997 and was supported by overwhelming tribal vote. Before that many Cherokee people traveled to other venues close by and far away just to gamble.

There are plenty of black market gambling parlors on this island in particular. As far as I know the State is not benefitting from any revenue from those establishments. So, it's not as if we are "saving the people" from gambling. Either here or in Vegas.

Why we insist that gambling doesn't exist here already, uncontrolled and untaxed is not realistic. There is plenty of gambling going on and going into individual pockets and not helping the people of Hawaii. Native or otherwise.

I thank you for reading this long testimony, and for considering your vote very seriously. It won't all go smoothly, but it will help our economy, our State issues from COVID, and most importantly the native people of this beautiful place. I have entered testimony in the government site.

Mahalo nui loa & Respectfully Submitted Testimony in favor of SB 1321.

Dana Jones 808-393-5043

87-126 Helelua St. D302  
Waianae, HI 96792

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 4:00:52 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Duane Rowe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have lived in many areas on the mainland that formerly did not have legal gambling and later allowed limited gambling. This brought more homeless, joblessness, crime and many social problems. Any financial benefit to the state and county was offset by the increased need for police, increased crime, and homeless shelters. This was not a good move to enslave the people to gambling addiction. This will destroy the Aloha and sense of place Hawaii is known for.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 4:07:24 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keaton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

February 9, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

Location: Hawaii State Capitol, Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Subject: Senate Bill 1321, RELATING TO GAMING

Report Title: Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation

Dear Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing in strong opposition of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, I know the negative impact gambling will have on the people of Hawai'i, our communities, and our families. Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing.

Gambling creates no new wealth. Gambling creates an unacceptable outcome—in order for the government to win, its citizens must lose. Gamblers are mostly likely to be local residents, so the money they spend on gambling displaces other local expenditures. Sometimes, these displaced expenditures are necessities like food, shelter, and clothing.

There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens.

Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

Sincerely,

Keaton Taylor Nunnelly

1914 Porter Ave, HI, 96818

Keaton.t.nunnelly@gmail.com

February 9, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Hawaii State Capitol, Videoconference

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

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Report Title: Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation

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There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens.

Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

Sincerely,

Trenton Morrill  
3004 Anderson Ave. Honolulu, HI 96818  
morrill.trent@gmail.com

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 4:23:10 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ernest Keli	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**I Am Testifying Against/Opposed To SB1321 relating to 'Gaming'**. Gaming(or any other type of gambling), has had a negative effect on my family, friends and loved ones for as far back as I can remember. Gaming/Gambling has destroyed families due to its addiction...Gaming/Gambling Is Never The Answer For Individuals, Families & Communities. **Gaming/Gambling Is Not The Type Of Industry For Hawai'i!!!!**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 4:42:10 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Feadora NC Runnels	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I would like to voice my opposition to House Bill 359 and it's Companion Bill SB1321. While there are benefits to gambling such as the creation of jobs and using the profits for this or that. I feel that the negatives far outweigh the positives.

The societal impact of gambling is often overlooked as people focus on the economy. There are many studies out there that cite the rise in crimes such as theft, fraud, embezzlement, the rise of debt. The impact of personal financial loss on families, divorce, depression, and suicide. These will eventually in one way or another affect the economy in the long term. It is my belief that the long term effects on society, especially families outweighs the positive of these bills. I urge you to oppose them. Thank you



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 5:50:34 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Bond	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am against gambling for it has destroyed families because they use living expenses to make a bet in hope to be rich some day. Gambling gives individuals false hope while they go down into the black hole financially.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 6:46:56 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Saree Kalani	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I submit my testimony in opposition to SB1321. I believe that the passing of such a bill will cause more harm than good to the people, economy and to the State as a whole. I'm a firm believer in the value of hard work and hope you will work just as hard to keep this bill from being passed.

Mahalo

February 8, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Hawaii State Capitol, Videoconference

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Subject: **Senate Bill 1321, RELATING TO GAMING**  
Report Title: Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation

Dear Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing in **strong opposition** of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, I know the negative impact gambling will have on the people of Hawai'i, our communities, and our families. Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing. Gambling creates no new wealth. Gambling creates an unacceptable outcome—in order for the government to win, its citizens must lose. Gamblers are mostly likely to be local residents, so the money they spend on gambling displaces other local expenditures. Sometimes, these displaced expenditures are necessities like food, shelter, and clothing.

There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens.

Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

Sincerely,

Steven Raymond Wendel  
99-018 B Lohea Place  
Aiea, Hawaii 96701  
808-488-4800  
swendel@hawaii.rr.com

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:20:55 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Linda Smith	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

February 8, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

Location: Hawaii State Capitol, Videoconference

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Subject: **Senate Bill 1321, RELATING TO GAMING**

Report Title: Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation

Dear Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing in **strong opposition** of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, I know the negative impact gambling will have on the people of Hawai'i, our communities, and our families. Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing.

Gambling creates no new wealth. Gambling creates an unacceptable outcome—in order for the government to win, its citizens must lose. Gamblers are mostly likely to be local residents, so the money they spend on gambling displaces other local expenditures. Sometimes, these displaced expenditures are necessities like food, shelter, and clothing.

There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens.

Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

Regards and Aloha,

Linda Lee Smith

1111 Hala Drive, #312

Honolulu, HI 96817-2155

(808) 224-4799

dozensofredroses19@gmail.com

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:36:52 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jordan Jensen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing in strong opposition of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, I know the negative impact gambling will have on the people of Hawai'i, our communities, and our families. Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing. Gambling creates no new wealth. Gambling creates an unacceptable outcome—in order for the government to win, its citizens must lose. Gamblers are mostly likely to be local residents, so the money they spend on gambling displaces other local expenditures. Sometimes, these displaced expenditures are necessities like food, shelter, and clothing.

There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens.

Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

Sincerely,

Jordan kiaikemakaalanei Jensen  
2802 numana rd.  
Kiaike8890@gmail.com

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:39:02 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ariella Kamaleialohalani Jensen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

Location: Hawaii State Capitol, Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Subject: Senate Bill 1321, RELATING TO GAMING

Report Title: Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation

Dear Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing in strong opposition of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, I know the negative impact gambling will have on the people of Hawai'i, our communities, and our families. Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing. Gambling creates no new wealth. Gambling creates an unacceptable outcome—in order for the government to win, its citizens must lose. Gamblers are mostly likely to be local residents, so the money they spend on gambling displaces other local expenditures. Sometimes, these displaced expenditures are necessities like food, shelter, and clothing.

There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens.

Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

Sincerely,

Ariella Kamaleialohalani Jensen  
Arieorcarider@icloud.com  
(808)8240260



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:45:07 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
HOLLY KELII	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hi...

I have lived in Las Vegas and I have seen people gambling and returning their groceries because they lost the money they needed for other purposes. In Las Vegas, if you are late with your mortgage payments or rent by 5 days, you can be evicted.

I would worry about crime increasing because people get hooked on gambling and need to steal from their neighbors in order to meet their responsibilities.

I have seen where people who have won big money had to be escorted by security for protection back to their vehicles. Who is to say that someone won't follow the person and pull them over to rob them or do worse?

Gambling is NOT good for the economy, life style and crime rates in Hawaii

Thank you

Aloha

Holly Kelii

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:55:36 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Katherine Jensen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing in strong opposition of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359.

I feel gambling establishments support all sorts of unwanted negative activity (drugs, prostitution, alcohol induced fighting, smoking of all kinds of substances) and basically things against the family, the backbone of society. It invites unhealthy activity amongst community members and corruption of those involved. History has shown us gambling establishments did NOT help those living within the vicinity, and brought unwanted, unsavory persons to their areas.

Please add my life in opposition to your consideration. I hope you too will vote in opposition against gambling establishments and anything of similar legislation.

Mahalo,

Katherine Jensen

808.369.6563

kathy1515@me.com

HAWAII STATE SENATE  
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2021

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Chair: Maile S. L. Shimabukuro**

**Vice Chair: Jarrett Keohokalole**

DATE: Thursday, February 11, 2021

TIME: 1:00 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 312

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**COMMITTEE HEARING: SB 1321 RELATING TO GAMING (CASINO)**

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1321; 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 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion/442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry USAR (1964 to 1971) and 1<sup>st</sup>/502<sup>nd</sup> Ambl 101<sup>st</sup> Abn I Corps Vietnam (1969).

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 8:03:47 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pebbles K Valdez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

***I AM STRONGLY OPPOSED TO SB1321 RELATING TO GAMING!***

**This bill will have a negative impact on families, individuals and our community!**

**1) Hawaiian Homelands are to be used for the betterment of those of Hawaiian heritage. Before this bill was written this should have been sent to all those on the Hawaiian Homelands waitlist and those that have Hawaiian Homes; to vote on if Hawaiian Homelands should be utilized for this type of entertainment.**

**2) Before any Hawaiian Homelands are utilized for this type of entertainment, all those on the Hawaiian Homelands waitlist should have a home with the DHHL.**

**3) People of Hawaii are already struggling with having enough income to support their families prior to COVID and especially during this pandemic. Gaming/Gambling would put additional strain on our people and their families. Having this type of industry will only help to destroy more families that may already be dealing with addictions of other kinds and/or income troubles.**

**4) Temptations of Gaming/Gambling should not be readily available for already struggling families. The state will have to fund additional programs because people will gamble away their mortgage/rent /food money which will cause homelessness to rise, which unfortunately is already rising at an alarming rate. The economic impact of addiction will be detrimental to say the least.**

**I cannot stress how FAMILIES will be destroyed! The amount of children that will be left homeless or worse, sold into slavery or sex trafficking so their family members or even strangers can get cash to game/gamble is astronomical.**

**I AM OPPOSED TO SB1321!!! THIS IS NOT FOR OUR AINA, OUR HOME, OUR HAWAII!!!**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 8:29:02 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
john McDonald	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha to All,

I am submitting this statement opposing the legalization of gambling through the issuance of a permit to open and run a gambling establishment. I do not support any type of gambling as it has long term negative consequences for the individuals involved and their families.

1. Gambling has been shown to be addictive to a small but significant portion of the population exposed to it. This addiction is similar to substance addictions because the behavior causes the individual to become addicted to the chemicals produced by the body in the pleasure centers of the brain. This addiction is very difficult to break and often results in the loss of family, financial security, self respect and, in a small number of cases, life itself through suicide. If this bill is passed, the legislature will be responsible for the financial ruin, family dissolution, and loss of life associated with many families and individuals. Lives ruined and lost is not worth the potential benefits -- which are not clear cut and always less than anticipated.
2. The goal for the introduction of gambling in a State is almost always one of increasing money into State coffers. This increased revenue -- rationalized as a benefit for the poorer and indigent portions of the local population-- is often used to justify the negative impact of gambling on the local society. Gambling and its attendant evils coarsens the society at large in every way; bring with it increased theft, drugs, and prostitution. The moral impact on a culture is, both long and short term, one of degradation and decline. Do we really want this for Hawaii? Hawaii is a special place, blessed by God and favored by its location to be choice above all other lands. We need to uplift, edify and raise up our culture and people, not bring them down to the lowest common denominator of society.
3. The additional funds will benefit some, true; but in reality the net benefit of bringing gambling into a community is not a positive one. There are other methods of raising funds for the common good that do not carry with them the negative impact of gambling. We can help our less fortunate in other ways that do not have such deliterious side effects.



Because of the proven negative effects of gambling; both quantitative and subjective, and because prior experiences with gambling in many dozens of locations across the US and around the world have shown the long term degradation of society which accompanies gambling wherever it is allowed, I strongly urge that this legislative body, for the best good of the people of Hawaii, reject the introduction of gambling into the State and its precious culture. Let us preserve the Hawaiian culture in its original sanctity for the good of future generations.

Yours very sincerely,

John McDonald

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 8:35:13 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cain Kamano	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Subject: **Senate Bill 1321, RELATING TO GAMING**

Report Title: Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation

Dear Chair, Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing in **strong opposition** of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359.

While I know the negative impact gambling can have on the people of Hawai'i, our communities, and our families. As a native Hawaiian, who has called Hawaii my home all my life... I'm just here, to share my story... and my simple message.

When I was a freshman in High School (in the late 80's), my father ran a "sports betting house" and whether he hustled at pool or poker, gambling was a way of life. The worst of it came to a head when after one weekend of "chasing," he ended up owing \$50,000 to a "friend"... and that friend demanded payment. While my father never told us the threats he endured... I know it took a toll on him. Even though we were on food stamps, (because my father's girlfriend had three kids and we were all living under the same roof) I would consider us lower middle class. But I believe, no matter what class a person's in, \$50,000 wasn't easy to come by then... hell, it's not that easy to come by now. All I remember is the tremendous amount of stress, we as a family, were consistently under. Even though my father was able to secure loans, \$30,000 with a financial institution, and the rest through family, or friends, or pawn shops... for years I felt that financial burden lay waste to my father's goals, dreams, and our potential as a family.

And then, when I was 25 years old (in the late 90's), I started following in my Father's footsteps. As a man just starting his career, I had a \$42,000 annual income corporate job... but a \$50,000 a year habit. I stole, I cheated, I lied... I pawned my girlfriend's jewelry. I created credit cards under her parent's name and racked up (in 2 short months) \$10,000 of debt. I became a horrible father... I'd be gone for three days at a time... no one knowing if I was dead or alive. I affected dozens of lives in the worst ways and even with Gamblers Anonymous, it took me 15 years to finally rid myself of this terrible disease. And I'm just one man... and I KNOW I'M NOT ALONE! Passing a bill of

this magnitude is like unleashing a Pandora's Box... a present which seems valuable, but which in reality is a curse.

And let's not fool ourselves thinking, "Well, this is different, it'll be regulated, with rules, and laws." On the streets in China town, there are rules and "laws" that the "underbelly" of society follow... Just because there are standards and regulations, doesn't mean it's Pono. Just because other States have it, doesn't mean it's right for our Ohana. In my experience, gambling is a Zero-Sum game... Gambling creates no new wealth. Gambling creates no real winners... in order for the government to win, its citizens must lose.

Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

Sincerely,

Cain Kamano  
1748 B3 Maliu St.  
Honolulu, HI 96819  
808-348-7215 | cain\_kamano@hotmail.com

Leonard D. Ramos, Pro Se  
Barbara J. Ramos, Pro Se  
1036 Ala Oli Street  
Honolulu, HI 96818

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT  
STATE OF HAWAII

	)	Case No. 14-1-0900-04 (JHC)
	)	(Foreclosure)
CITIMORTGAGE, INC.	)	
	)	OPPOSITION TO SUMMARY JUDGMENT;
Plaintiff,	)	EXHIBIT(S),
	)	
V.	)	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE.
	)	
LEONARD D. RAMOS PRO SE, BARBARA,	)	
J. RAMOS, PRO SE	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	
_____	)	Judge: <u>Jeannette H. Castagnetti</u>

**OPPOSITION TO SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

COMES NOW, With Aloha, :Leonard-Dennis: Ramos; Secured Party, Creditor, Protected Person, WITH POWER OF ATTORNEY :Keline: Kahau and Authorized representative for the alleged Debtor/Defendant LEONARD DENNIS RAMOS (hereinafter “Defendant”), by special appearance, and in Propria Persona with this OPPOSITION TO SUMMARY JUDGMENT.

Defendant hereby denies each and every allegation stated therein Plaintiff and counter-claim plaintiff’s complaint(s) against Defendant Ramos and admit only allegation(s) that are exculpatory to and affirm Defendant Ramos as owner of property in question, on and for the official public record.

### **MANDATORY JUDICIAL NOTICE**

Movant is without counsel, is not schooled in the law and legal procedure, and is not admitted or licensed for practicing law, and therefore pleading(s) shall and must be read and construed liberally.

See Haines v Kerner 404 U.S. at 520 (1980); Bire v Estelle 660 F. 2d 592 (1981) National Labor Relations Board v Tri State Transport Corp. 649 F 2d 993(1984); U.S. v Michall R. Dougherty, 473 f 2d 1113; Frank X. Lo Sacco v Delua Young 564 A. 2d 610; and Robert F. Maloney,

See, Susan H. Maloney, 553 A, 2d 1169, also “Statements of counsel, in their briefs or their arguments are not sufficient for motion to dismiss or for summary judgment”. Trinsey v Pagliaro, D.C.Pa 1964, 229 F Supp.647.

“Statements of counsel in brief or in oral argument are not facts before the court” United States v. Lovasco U.S. 783, 97 S Ct. 2044, 52 L. Ed.2d 752.

Platsky v. C.I.A. 953 F.2d. 25. Additionally, pro se litigants are to be given reasonable opportunity to remedy the defects in their pleadings. Reynoldson v. Shillinger 907F .2d 124, 126 (10th Cir. 1990); See also Jaxon v. Circle K. Corp. 773 F.2d 1138, 1140 (10th Cir. 1985) (1)

NAACP v. Button (371 U.S. 415); United Mineworkers of America v. Gibbs (383 U.S. 715); and Johnson v. Avery 89 S. Ct. 747 (1969). Members of groups who are competent nonlawyers can assist

other members of the group achieve the goals of the group in court without being charged with "Unauthorized practice of law."

Brotherhood of Trainmen v. Virginia ex rel. Virginia State Bar (377 U.S. 1); Gideon v. Wainwright 372 U.S. 335; Argersinger v. Hamlin, Sheriff 407 U.S. 425. Litigants may be assisted by unlicensed layman during judicial proceedings.

Conley v. Gibson, 355 U.S. 41 at 48 (1957)

"Following the simple guide of rule 8(f) that all pleadings shall be so construed as to do substantial justice"... "The federal rules reject the approach that pleading is a game of skill in which one misstep by counsel may be decisive to the outcome and accept the principle that the purpose of pleading is to facilitate a proper decision on the merits." The court also cited Rule 8(f) FRCP, which holds that all pleadings shall be construed to do substantial justice.

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. v. REYES-TOLEDO, 428 P.3d 761 (2018)

Following the "simple guide" of FRCP Rule 8(f) that "all pleadings shall be so construed as to do substantial justice," the Court concluded the FRCP rejected the approach that "pleading is a game of skill in which one misstep by counsel may be decisive to the outcome and accept the principle that the purpose of pleading is to facilitate a proper decision on the merits."

Haines v. Kerner, 404 U.S. 519 (1972)

"Allegations such as those asserted by petitioner, however inartfully pleaded, are sufficient"... "which we hold to less stringent standards than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers."

Elmore v. McCammon (1986) 640 F. Supp. 905

"... the right to file a lawsuit pro se is one of the most important rights under the constitution and laws."

Jenkins v. McKeithen, 395 U.S. 411, 421 (1959); Picking v. Pennsylvania R. Co., 151 Fed 2nd 240; Pucket v. Cox, 456 2nd 233

Pro se pleadings are to be considered without regard to technicality; pro se litigants' pleadings are not to be held to the same high standards of perfection as lawyers.

Maty v. Grasselli Chemical Co., 303 U.S. 197 (1938)

"Pleadings are intended to serve as a means of arriving at fair and just settlements of controversies between litigants. They should not raise barriers which prevent the achievement of that end. Proper pleading is important, but its importance consists in its effectiveness as a means to accomplish the end of a just judgment."

Picking v. Pennsylvania Railway, 151 F.2d. 240, Third Circuit Court of Appeals

The plaintiff's civil rights pleading was 150 pages and described by a federal judge as "inept". Nevertheless, it was held "Where a plaintiff pleads pro se in a suit for protection of civil rights, the Court should endeavor to construe Plaintiff's Pleadings without regard to technicalities."

That the United States Supreme Court, in *Twining v. New Jersey*, 211 U.S. 78, 29 S. Ct. 14, 24, (1908), stated that "Due Process requires that the court which assumes to determine the rights of parties shall have jurisdiction."; citing *Old Wayne Mut. Life Assoc. V. McDonough*, 204 U. S. 8, 27 S. Ct. 236 (1907); *Scott v McNeal*, 154 U.S. 34, 14, S. Ct. 1108 (1894); *Pennoyer v. Neff*, 95 U.S. 714, 733 (1877).

Due Process is a requirement of the U.S. Constitution. Violation of the United States Constitution by a judge deprives that person from acting as a judge under the law. He/She is acting as a private person, and not in the capacity of being a judge (and, therefore, has no jurisdiction).

*Sherar v. Cullen*, 481 F. 2d 946 (1973). "There can be no sanction or penalty imposed upon one because of his exercise of Constitutional Rights."

*Gomillion v. Lightfoot*, 364 U.S. 155 (1966), cited also in *Smith v. Allwright*, 321 U.S. 649.644 "Constitutional 'rights' would be of little value if they could be indirectly denied."

*Marbury vs. Madison*, 5 US (2 Cranch) 137, 174, 176, (1803). "All laws which are repugnant to the Constitution are null and void."

## SUMMARY JUDGMENT STANDARD

Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, as made applicable to these proceedings through Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 7056, provides that summary judgment shall be granted “if the movant shows that there is no genuine dispute as to any material fact and the movant is entitled to a judgment as a matter of law.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a). A genuine issue of material fact exists if the evidence presented is such that a reasonable jury could find for the non-moving party. See *Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 257 (1986). The burden is on the moving party to establish the absence of a genuine issue of material fact. See *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 323 (1986); *Burnette v. Dow Chemical Company*, 849 F.2d 1269, 1273 (10th Cir. 1988). The burden then shifts to the nonmoving party to go beyond its pleadings to show, through affirmative evidence, that there is a genuine issue for trial. *Celotex*, 477 U.S. at 324. The nonmovant may not rely on allegations or denials in its pleadings, but instead an affirmative showing of evidence is required. *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 249-50. “[T]his court is required to view the facts in [the] light most favorable to the nonmoving party . . . .” *In re Gilder*, 225 B.R. 439, 448 (Bankr. E.D. Mo. 1998) (citation omitted). However, “an inference based upon a speculation or conjecture does not create a material factual dispute sufficient to defeat entry of summary judgment.” *Robertson v. Allied Signal, Inc.*, 914 F.2d 360, 382 n.12 (3d Cir. 1990).

### FRCP Rule 56. Summary Judgment

(a) Motion for Summary Judgment or Partial Summary Judgment. A party may move for summary judgment, identifying each claim or defense — or the part of each claim or defense — on which summary judgment is sought. The court shall grant summary judgment if the movant shows that there is no genuine dispute as to any material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. The court should state on the record the reasons for granting or denying the motion.

(c) Procedures.

(2) Objection That a Fact Is Not Supported by Admissible Evidence. **A party may object that the material cited to support or dispute a fact cannot be presented in a form that would be admissible in evidence.**



(3) Materials Not Cited. The court need consider only the cited materials, but it may consider other materials in the record.

(4) Affidavits or Declarations. **An affidavit or declaration used to support or oppose a motion must be made on personal knowledge, set out facts that would be admissible in evidence, and show that the affiant or declarant is competent to testify on the matters stated.**

(d) When Facts Are Unavailable to the Nonmovant. If a nonmovant shows by affidavit or declaration that, for specified reasons, it cannot present facts essential to justify its opposition, the court may:

(1) **defer considering the motion or deny it;**

(2) allow time to obtain affidavits or declarations or to take discovery; or

(3) **issue any other appropriate order.**

#### **HRCP Rule 56. SUMMARY JUDGMENT.**

(a) For claimant. A party seeking to recover upon a claim, counterclaim, or cross-claim or to obtain a declaratory judgment may move with or without supporting affidavits for a summary judgment in the party's favor upon all or any part thereof. A party seeking recovery under this rule may seek relief at any time after the expiration of 20 days from the commencement of the action or after service of a motion for summary judgment by the adverse party, provided, however, that a motion seeking relief under this rule shall be served and filed no less than 50 days before the date of the trial unless granted permission by the court and for good cause shown.

(b) For defending party. A party against whom a claim, counterclaim, or cross-claim is asserted or a declaratory judgment is sought may move with or without supporting affidavits for a summary judgment in the party's favor as to all or any part thereof, provided, however, that a motion seeking relief under this rule shall be filed and served no less than 50 days before the date of the trial unless granted permission by the court and for good cause shown.

(c) Motion and proceedings thereon. The motion shall be filed and served not less than 18 days before the date set for the hearing. The adverse party may file and serve opposing memorandum and/or affidavits not less than 8 days before the date set for the hearing. The moving party may file and serve a reply or affidavit not less than 3 days before the date set for the hearing. The judgment sought shall be rendered forthwith if the pleadings, depositions, answers to interrogatories, and admissions on file, together with the affidavits, if any, **show that there is no genuine issue as to any material fact** and that the moving party is entitled to a judgment as a matter of law. A summary judgment, interlocutory in character, may be rendered on the issue of liability alone although there is a genuine issue as to the amount of damages.

(d) Case not fully adjudicated on motion. If on motion under this rule judgment is not rendered upon the whole case or for all the relief asked and a trial is necessary, the court at the hearing of the motion, by examining the pleadings and the evidence before it and by interrogating counsel, **shall if practicable ascertain what material facts exist without substantial controversy and what material facts are actually and in good faith controverted.** It shall thereupon make an order specifying the facts that appear without substantial controversy, including the extent to which the amount of damages or other relief is not in controversy, and directing such further proceedings in the action as are just. Upon the trial of the action the facts so specified shall be deemed established, and the trial shall be conducted accordingly.

(e) Form of affidavits; further testimony; defense required. Supporting and opposing affidavits shall be made on personal knowledge, shall set forth such facts as would be admissible in evidence, and shall show affirmatively that the affiant is competent to testify to the matters stated therein. Sworn or certified copies of all papers or parts thereof referred to in an affidavit shall be attached thereto or served therewith. The court may permit affidavits to be supplemented or opposed by depositions, answers to interrogatories, or further affidavits. When a motion for summary judgment is made and supported as provided in this rule, **an adverse party may not rest upon the mere allegations or denials of the adverse party's pleading, but the adverse party's response, by affidavits or as otherwise provided in this rule, must set forth specific facts showing that there**

**is a genuine issue for trial.** If the adverse party does not so respond, summary judgment, if appropriate, shall be entered against the adverse party.

(f) When affidavits are unavailable. Should it appear from the affidavits of a party opposing the motion that the party cannot for reasons stated present by affidavit facts essential to justify the party's opposition, the court may refuse the application for judgment or may order a continuance to permit affidavits to be obtained or depositions to be taken or discovery to be had or **may make such other order as is just.**

### **REVIEW OF “FACTS” ALLEGED**

Upon review of the facts alleged, there seems to **show that there is a genuine issue as to a “material fact(s)”**. Pursuant to evidence produced forthwith by Plaintiff; in particular the “Assignment of Mortgage” show(s) particular irregularities that point towards a fabricated and illusory standing to pursue to foreclosure:

- **HRE 1002 REQUIREMENT OF ORIGINAL.** To prove the content of a writing, recording, or photograph, the original writing, recording, or photograph is required.
- Carpenter v. Longan, 83 U.S. 16 Wall. 271 (1872) **The note and mortgage are inseparable;** the former as essential, the latter as an incident. An assignment of the note carries the mortgage with it, while an assignment of the latter alone is a nullity.
- Bank of Am., N.A. v. Reyes-Toledo, 138 Haw. 134, 377 P.2d 1052, 2016 Haw. App. LEXIS 106 (Haw. Ct. App., Mar. 16, 2016) HOLDINGS: [1]-Granting plaintiff mortgagee summary judgment in a foreclosure erred because, despite its Haw. Rev. Stat. §490:3-205(b) blank indorsed note **when it sought summary judgment, there was a fact issue as to whether it held the note when the case was filed and thus had standing;** [2]-The Intermediate Court of Appeals erred in Bank of Am., N.A. v. Reyes-Toledo holding it had no jurisdiction over the dismissal of defendant homeowner's counterclaims because the trial court's judgment was a final appealable judgment.
- Trinsey v. Pagliaro 229 F.Supp. 64 7 D.C.Pa. 1964. Statements of counsel in their briefs or argument while enlightening to the Court are not sufficient for purposes of granting a motion to dismiss or summary judgment.

## ARGUMENT I

As described in the SECURITIZATION ANALYSIS REPORT attached as Exhibit "A", "**The Mortgage and the Note have taken two distinctly different paths. The Mortgage was never transferred.**" The \$625,500.00 note may have been however pooled, sold, transferred with other loans and mortgages and this pool of loans and mortgages in this security offering of \$547,000,284." Additionally, there is no attorney-affidavit or a supporting affidavit supplied by Citi-bank or the alleged holder FHB.

Assignment of Mortgage to CitiMortgage, Inc. Signed by Stephanie M. Goekner for Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. without disclosure of employment in working for Assignee.

On September 21, 2012, an Assignment of Mortgage to CitiMortgage was recorded in the Official Records, Honolulu County as instrument number 8299357. Document was signed by Stephanie M. Goeckner as Assistant Secretary for Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. **without disclosure of her true employment in working for Assignee** (CITI), not Assignor (MERS). Assignment made approximately 4 years after loan origination. As such, this should be considered as a document of impropriety that clouds property title unless rescinded.

On August 26, 2014, an Assignment of Mortgage to GreenTree Servicing LLC was recorded in the Official Records, Honolulu County as instrument number 9003186. Document was signed by Matthew Saylor for CitiMortgage. Assignment made approximately 6 years after loan origination. As such, this should be considered as a document of impropriety that clouds property title unless rescinded.

'ASSIGNMENT OF MORTGAGE RECORDED 9/21/12


Stephanie M. Goeckner, assigned the Mortgage by signing for Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. This is an indication that Stephanie M. Goeckner attempted to assign the mortgage for the benefit of the Assignee without Assignor involvement. This position of unilateral transfer is further strengthened by "FOR VALUE RECEIVED" is stated as compensation for a mortgage with original principal of \$625,500.00.

Stephani Goekner as stated in her self-input ZoomInfo professional networking website profile. She makes no mention of her employment by or involvement with MERS. As an employee of CITI as opposed to Nominee MERS Goekners assignment is invalid and void therefore cannot be considered.

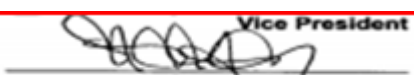
As provided by the loan SECURITIZATION ANALYSIS REPORT on pages 13, 15, and 16, we see many variations of alleged signatures by “Stephanie Goeckner”, indicating that the signature provided in Defendant Ramos “Assignment” is a robo-signed forgery or otherwise a void sham.

Signed On 08/09/2012

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Just Mortgage, Inc.

  
By: Stephanie M. Goeckner  
Assistant Secretary



  
Vice President  
Stephanie Goeckner  
Vice President

  
By: Stephanie M. Goeckner  
Name: Stephanie M. Goeckner  
Title: Vice President

The Assignment of Mortgage relied on MERS to be the transferor of the lien. Fannie Mae states the risks of continuing to rely upon MERS, a company it partly owns, to carry out foreclosure actions. As we see in this case, instead of actual MERS employees conducting a foreclosure with due diligence, it is up to Fannie Mae to choose a servicing agent, such as CITIMORTGAGE, INC. The original lender JUST MORTGAGE, INC. did not assign the loan as would normally be required under the Hawaii Uniform Commercial Code and there is no way to verify allonge date of April 21, 2008 see HSBC Bank USA v. Moore NO. CAAP-17-0000478 (Haw. Ct. App. Apr. 20, 2018). Whatever Fannie Mae may think, rightful foreclosure cannot take place with Assignee employees or agent signing for MERS without also disclosing their true role.

Plaintiff Citibank claimed proof and contentions regarding the Assignment of Mortgage is defective, robo-signed forgery is void and requires denial of Motion for Summary Judgment.

- There is no valid Assignment of Mortgage binding Plaintiff to Defendant’s Mortgage.
  - The “Assignment of Mortgage” document that binds Plaintiff to Defendant’s Mortgage has been found and proven to be a robo-signed forgery.
  - Pursuant to 1914 Hawaii Supreme Court case: Palau v. Helemano Land Co., “A forged deed is void and passes no title”, similarly a Forged “Assignment of Mortgage” passes no interest in the subject-matter of the suit nor proper title to institute the suit.
  - Forgery is a Criminal offense under HRS 708-850.
- Defendant argues that the transfers are void because the note and mortgage were in trust, the purported transfers are based on forged documents. Therefore, the purported transfers are void and invalid.
- The purported assignment of mortgage did not transfer Defendant’s Original Promissory Note and Mortgage together to plaintiff and Allonge to Note is Blank not endorsed specifically to Plaintiff as per HRS §490 1-201. (See HSBC Bank USA v. Moore NO. CAAP-17-0000478 (Haw. Ct. App. Apr. 20, 2018))
- Defendant’s original promissory note was never physically or legally acquired by the Plaintiff Citibank by “virtue” of assignment of mortgage.
- Plaintiff never paid U.S. Currency for the claimed acquisition of Defendant’s Note.
- Defendant argues that MERS was never the Mortgagee but only an agent for the Mortgagee which was “JUST MORTGAGE INC.”, “Whose address is P.O. Box 2026, Flint, MI, 48501-2026”.
  - Note: alleged Assignment executed 8/9/2012 and recorded into the Bureau of Conveyances as document no. 8299357 on 9/21/2012, Since MERS’ Agency no longer exists since 2008, therefore, there is no valid assignment of mortgage by MERS to the Plaintiff.
- Defendant’s promissory note was not endorsed payable to MERS, Nominee or Plaintiff.
- Mortgage does not give MERS the right to assign the mortgage; it only supposedly had legal title to secure to the lender repayment of the loan. There was never any payment due nor made to MERS. Therefore, MERS had no right to assign the mortgage.

- In *MERS v. Saunders*, 2 A.3d 289, MERS acts only as the nominee and has the right only to record the mortgage as the mortgagee of the record. According to that Court, a “nominee” is defined as “a person designated to act in place of another usually in a very limited way or a party who holds bare legal title for the benefit of others or who receives and distributed funds for the benefit of others:” MERS @ p.295.
  - Additionally, JUST MORTGAGE, INC., ceased to exist, the agency or authority of MERS to transfer the mortgage likewise ceased with it.
- With consideration to a void Assignment of Mortgage as it pertains to a robo-signed forgery, consider *Palau v. Helemano Land Co.*, 22 Haw. 357, 361 (Haw. Terr. 1914) and *U.S. Bank N.A. v. Mattos*, 137 Haw. 209, 367 P.3d 703 (App. 2016), a forgery is void and cannot be considered and defendant has a right to challenge this third party contract as it is void.

**Plaintiff has failed to meet its initial burden of establishing its standing.**

The Hawaii Supreme Court has repeatedly explained:

The burden is on the party moving for summary judgement (moving party) to show the absence of any genuine issue as to all material facts, which, under applicable principles of substantive law, entitles the moving party to judgement as a matter of law. This burden has two components.

First, the moving party has the burden of producing support for its claim that: (1) no genuine issue of material fact exists with respect to the essential elements of the claim or defense which the motion seeks to establish or which the motion questions; and (2) based on the undisputed facts, it is entitled to summary judgement as a matter of law. Only when the moving party satisfies its initial burden of production does the burden shift to the non-moving party to respond to the motion for summary judgement and demonstrate specific facts, as opposed to general allegations, that present a genuine issue worthy of trial

French v. Hawaii Pizza Hut, Inc., 105 Hawaii 462, 470, 99 P.3d 1046, 1054 (2004) (emphasis in original omitted; format altered) (quoting GECC Fin. Corp. v. Jaffarian, 79 Hawaii 516, 521, 904 P.2d 530, 535 (App. 1995)).

As explained below, Plaintiff Citibank did not meet its prima facie burden of demonstrating that it was the holder of the subject promissory note at the time its complaint was filed.

Recently, in Bank of America v. Reyes-Toledo, 139 Hawaii 361, 390 P.3d 1248 (2017), the Hawaii Supreme Court held that a plaintiff seeking summary judgment in a foreclosure action like the instant has a prima facie burden of establishing its standing. In particular, the Court held that in order to establish its standing, a Plaintiff has the burden of establishing that it was the holder of the promissory note at the time the Plaintiff filed its complaint. In vacating the circuit court's foreclosure judgment, the Hawaii Supreme Court explained:

“Both the ICA and the circuit court appear to have determined that Bank of America was entitled to enforce the Note as the holder at the time Bank of America moved for summary judgment. As the moving party, it was Bank of America's burden to demonstrate there was no genuine issue as to any material fact with respect to the essential elements of a foreclosure action. See French v. Haw. Pizza Hut, Inc. 105 Hawai'i 462, 470, 99 P.3d 1046, 1054 (2004). Here, there is no evidence in the record, either through the Note itself, Egan Declaration, or the other documents attached to the motion for summary judgment, showing that the blank endorsement on the Note occurred prior to the initiation of the suit. Consequently, there is a genuine issue as to whether Bank of America was entitled to foreclose when it commenced the proceeding. Thus, viewing the facts and inferences in the light most favorable to Homeowner, there is a genuine issue of material fact as to whether Bank of America held the Note at the time it filed the complaint. Accordingly, Bank of America failed to meet its burden of demonstrating that it was entitled to judgment as a matter of law, and the circuit court erred in granting Bank of America's motion for summary Judgment.”

Here, just like in Reyes-Toledo, Plaintiff has presented the Court with what it asserts is a copy of the note in this case, which purports to contain a blank endorsement. Thus, in order to have



standing to pursue, Plaintiff must have been in possession of the endorsed note at the time it filed its Complaint, on April 11<sup>th</sup> 2014

**PLAINTIFF’S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT ON THE PROMISSORY NOTE IS  
DEFECTIVE AND SHOULD BE DENIED**

Similarly, while considering the standard provided above and applied to Cross-Claim Plaintiff First Hawaiian Bank:

- HRE 1002 REQUIREMENT OF ORIGINAL.
- Carpenter v. Longan, 83 U.S. 16 Wall. 271 (1872)
- Bank of Am., N.A. v. Reyes-Toledo, 138 Haw. 134, 377 P.2d 1052, 2016 Haw. App. LEXIS 106 (Haw. Ct. App., Mar. 16, 2016).

Defendant Ramos, requested to view the original “wet ink” note in question as referenced by FHB. On the date of the inspection although recognizing and considering the United States Supreme court standard in Carpenter v. Longan (Mortgage and Note are inseparable), there was no Original mortgage attached to the alleged Original Note at the time of the inspection. Questioning the validity of the copy supplied in cross-claim Plaintiff’s complaint against Defendant Ramos. Although we are to take the contents of a certified copy as the original we can all acknowledge that a certified copy is not an original and does not afford one the same rights entitling enforcement of the Mortgage at the time of filing the complaint.

Pursuant to Kipahulu Susar Co. v. Nakila 20 Haw. 620 \*; 1911 Haw- LEXIS 69 \*\*, Regardless of Plaintiff Citibank or Cross-Claim Plaintiff allegedly claiming possession the Original “Note”, the Statute of limitations of enforcement of that instrument has expired with it. With-out a valid Mortgage to extend the enforcement of the note to a 30 (thirty) year term, the enforcement of the note itself is inapplicable.

Void ab initio is also void nuc pro tunc.

## CONCLUSION

Essentially, A Summary Judgement should be granted in a case where a moving party is standing alone, uncontested before a merit-able court of proper jurisdiction, unchallenged and uncontroverted with overwhelming and undeniable actual factual evidence that any common person could examine with an unbiased opinion and logically conclude in favor of that moving party. However, this not such a case. There being not enough evidence to support such allegations presented by Plaintiff Citibank and counter-claim Plaintiff FHB either by declaration, affidavit, or sworn statement Plaintiff's MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT should be denied.

DATED: May , 2019

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leonard Ramos; Secured Party, Creditor,  
Without Prejudice, All Rights Reserved, HRS §490:1-308.

# **EXHIBIT “A”**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT  
STATE OF HAWAII

CITIMORTGAGE, INC. )  
 ) Case No. 14-1-0900-04 (JHC)  
 ) (Foreclosure)  
 )  
 ) CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE  
 )  
 Plaintiff, )  
 )  
 )  
 V. )  
 )  
 )  
 LEONARD D. RAMOS PRO SE, BARBARA, )  
 J. RAMOS, PRO SE )  
 )  
 )  
 Defendant. )  
 )  
 )  
 ) Judge: Jeannette H. Castagnetti

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that the aforementioned documents will be duly served upon the following by the manner indicated, promptly upon filing:

FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO: **WATANABE ING LLP**  
A Limited Liability Law Partnership  
JONATHAN W. Y. LAI 6504-0  
DAVID Y. NAKASHIMA 8372-0  
JOHN E. DUBIEL 10876-0  
First Hawaiian Center 999, Suite 1250  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Attorneys for Plaintiff FIRST HAWAIIAN BANK

DATED: May , 2019

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leonard Ramos, Secured Party, Creditor,  
Without Prejudice, All Rights Reserved, HRS §490:1-308.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 9:16:00 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Reid O Millerberg	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha - I am relatively new to the island. I have lived here for two and a half years. When I first arrived, I was pleasantly surprised to find out that gambling was not allowed. I moved from Utah which also does not allow gambling. I believe we are the only two states that don't allow it. Isn't that great that we have set that high standard here in beautiful Hawaii. There are so many studies that demonstrate the negative consequences of gambling. I won't go into detail other than to say the only reason other states have allowed it is one thing and one thing only and that is money. Let us not cave-in and allow all the negatives to infiltrate our amazing island and wonderful culture that sets us apart from any other state. Let us continue to set ourselves apart as a leader instead of a follower. I appreciate your consideration.

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

RE: SB 1321

THURSDAY, FEBURARY 11, 2021

Aloha,

Respective Senators for the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

My name is Matilda Antone and I am opposing this Senate Bill 1321 “Relating to gaming In Hawaii.” Native Hawaiian families are already facing hardship economically, although the building of this casino may produce more jobs to the local people of Hawaii, it will also bring a lot more harm to communities in Hawaii. Yes, Our Native Hawaiian families are in need of their Hawaiian Homelands but to what cost!

This proposal of a Casino in Hawaii does not support the health and well-being of our Native Hawaiian families and children, Casino are predatory and a bad influence on our future generations “our keiki.” Let’s not allow our local community to be bombarded with lies and promises to bring in more money to build Homes for Native Hawaiians on the wait list.

Allowing a Casino in Hawaii will only bring more societal problems and Hawaii already has one of the largest homeless issues. Casinos are known to attract negative outcomes, increased crime and exploitation such as drug addictions, gambling addiction, violence, domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assaults and sex trafficking and none of these seem to be of any benefit to our Native Hawaiian population.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Matilda Antone

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 9:35:27 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Walter H Kawaiaaea Jr	Testifying for Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha my name is Walter H Kawaiaaea Jr., a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints residing in the Aiea Area on the island of Oahu. I firmly appose SB1321 and ask for your support and voice my request to see that this proposed Bill does not pass the Senate or House.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 9:43:58 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stewart Bell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1321. Gambling is not a good source of increasing tax revenue no matter what the intended purpose or use. It will destroy the moral fabric of our community.



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 10:29:19 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kivette Akagi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Fevella and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing in strong opposition of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359. As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, I know the negative impact gambling will have on the people of Hawai'i, our communities, and our families. Gambling creates an unacceptable outcome—in order for the government to win, its citizens must lose. Gamblers are mostly likely to be local residents, so the money they spend on gambling displaces other local expenditures. Sometimes, these displaced expenditures are necessities like food, shelter, and clothing. There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens. Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

Sincerely,

Kivette Akagi

91-1032 Ama'ama Street, Ewa, HI, 96706

olalani21@gmail.com

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 10:50:13 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lavinia Tatofi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my written testimony. I stand in opposition of SB 1321. There are peer reviewed articles with studies that explain the detrimental effects gambling has on the poor socioeconomic populations. In Hawai'i, the vast majority that make up this population are the Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. Allowing this bill to pass will only bring destruction to Hawai'i and the people. Please, I urge you to oppose SB 1321.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 1:37:17 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marjorie Gorai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

February 8, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

Location: Hawaii State Capitol, Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Subject: Senate Bill 1321, RELATING TO GAMING

Report Title: Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation

Dear Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing in strong opposition of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, I know the negative impact gambling will have on the people of Hawai'i, our communities, and our families. Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing.

Gambling creates no new wealth. Gambling creates an unacceptable outcome—in order for the government to win, its citizens must lose. Gamblers are mostly likely to be local residents, so the money they spend on gambling displaces other local

expenditures. Sometimes, these displaced expenditures are necessities like food, shelter, and clothing.

There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens.

Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Gorai

1333A Ala Amoamo St.

Honolulu HI 96819

msmarj61@gmail.com

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 1:41:45 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kimberlee Tracy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Opposed SB1321

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 4:22:51 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Castro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose to casinos on Crown and Hawaiian Kingdom Government lands.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 5:34:55 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Aukai Delmendo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill to grant any gaming license for a casino on any Hawaiian homelands, shame on you folks who your Kupuna farmed the land and were good stewards, and now you young generation want to put gaming casinos on Hawaiian homestead before making more Hawaiian homestead land available for our Kanaka to build homes.

February 10, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Hawaii State Capitol, Videoconference

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Subject: **Senate Bill 1321, RELATING TO GAMING**  
Report Title: Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation

Dear Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing in **strong opposition** of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, I know the negative impact gambling will have on the people of Hawai'i, our communities, and our families. Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing. Gambling creates no new wealth. Gambling creates an unacceptable outcome—in order for the government to win, its citizens must lose. Gamblers are mostly likely to be local residents, so the money they spend on gambling displaces other local expenditures. Sometimes, these displaced expenditures are necessities like food, shelter, and clothing.

There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens.

Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Shitaoka

1480 Mahiole St.  
Honolulu, HI 96819  
(808) 833-7787  
jeffrey\_shitaoka@yahoo.com



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 7:36:06 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William Summerhays	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Senators, I am writing this testimony in opposition to SB1321. This bill undermines the virtues of work and thrift. It promotes "something for nothing" which is an attitude that is harmful to our community if embraced and even encouraged by our elected officials. This bill encourages a form of gambling and as mentioned earlier promotes the false idea that you can give little or nothing and receive something of value. This bill does not align with or promote honest hard work and using monies for the basic needs of our families. It is my hope that this bill will not be passed and I am writing this testimony to you to urge you to say NO to SB1321. Thank you.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 7:40:33 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Brown	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Representative Kidani,

I am writing to state my strong opposition to bills HB359 and SB1321 that address legalizing gambling in the State of Hawai'i.

I am opposed to gambling in any form.

The motivation for gambling is to get something for nothing, and is destructive to individuals and families.

It feeds selfishness and undermines values of work and thrift we work so hard to instill in our children.

The idea of giving little to get more in return flies in the face of what I have worked for over 30 years to teach my own children.

The risk of becoming addicted to gambling leads to desperation and debt, resulting in the loss of one's honor, respect of family members, not to mention wreaking havoc on family finances by draining precious resources to pay gambling debts, especially at a time of uncertainty and job loss due to the current worldwide pandemic.

Our family moved the Hawaii nearly 8 years ago. Our children graduated from Mililani High School, and have become responsible adults thanks to this community.

I urge my legislators to stand strong for families and individuals by voting NO! on bills HB359 and SB1321, and prevent the legalization of gambling from corrupting our island, our families, and our children.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Brown

95-1031 Ha'alohe Street

Mililani, HI 96789

February 10, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Hawaii State Capitol, Videoconference

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Subject: **Senate Bill 1321, RELATING TO GAMING**  
Report Title: Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation

Dear Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing in **strong opposition** of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, I know the negative impact gambling will have on the people of Hawai'i, our communities, and our families. Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing. Gambling creates no new wealth. Gambling creates an unacceptable outcome—in order for the government to win, its citizens must lose. Gamblers are mostly likely to be local residents, so the money they spend on gambling displaces other local expenditures. Sometimes, these displaced expenditures are necessities like food, shelter, and clothing.

There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens.

Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

Sincerely,

Errol G. Kaaa  
98-1389 Akaaka Street Aiea HI. 96701  
(808) 368-1831  
errol.kaaa808@gmail.com

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:06:13 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rosita S.Hatori	Testifying for Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints	Oppose	No

Comments:

most gamblers will be people with low income eventually using family income hoping to win eventually

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:07:04 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Angela Woods	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha

I oppose SB1321 which would bring gambling to Hawai'i.

Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing. It undermines the virtues of work and thrift and the desire to give honest effort in all we do. Deceived and addicted, people that gamble often gamble with funds they should use for other purposes, such as meeting the basic needs of their families. Gamblers sometimes become so enslaved and so desperate to pay gambling debts that they turn to stealing, giving up their good name. Gambling is also heavily tied to prostitution, drugs, and crime in general which will inevitably go up if we bring gambling to Hawai'i. Please do not corrupt our beautiful state.

Mahalo

Angela Woods

Honorable Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

February 10, 2021

Re: Testimony to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs Relating to **SB1321**

My name is Donna Fa'ainuinu. My husband and I live in Waipahu, my children and grandchildren live in Kapolei. Thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony in **opposition** to **SB1321**.

**Here are a few of my reasons why I am **opposed** to bill SB1321**

1. Gambling, corruption, and sex trafficking have a lot in common: both exploit humans for a profit; both exploit human weakness and cause deep-rooted **ADDICTIONS**; ruins marriages and families; destroy children; are run by people should know better. You cannot predict who will become addicted to gambling – it's an equal opportunity predator.
2. Numerous reports have found gambling to be linked to an increase in **BANKRUPTCY**. SMR Research Corporation calls gambling "the single fastest growing driver of bankruptcy."
3. **Gambling breeds CRIME** and it is not a partisan issue. In states with legalized gambling, the gambling cartel has brought out all political parties, and are assuming positions of power within state and federal offices.
4. Gambling is **DESTRUCTIVE**. I genuinely believe that legalizing gambling and having a lottery system will only breed an attitude of, "I can get rich quick". We all know that "Get Rich Quick" schemes do not work. Hawaii is known as a place where you can come and experience what is commonly known as, "The Aloha Spirit". Oahu, the gathering place, a place where one can find relaxation, great local food, Hawaiian entertainment, and friendly people. If we allow gambling to be part of our island's decor, we will destroy our culture. It is a known fact that gambling can breed major crime, exploitation, and sex-trafficking. Families will fall apart because gambling for many, just might become another addiction. Domestic violence is already a serious issue on Oahu and the outer islands. Many local people are currently experiencing what it is like to be in a failed marriage (relationship) in which one partner is self-destructive because of their addictions. Home not a place where love is key, it is a place of struggle, heartache, sadness, and pain. I believe gambling will only increase those statistics.
5. Gambling is **bad for the ECONOMY**. Professor Earl Grinols calculates that the costs of gambling outweigh the benefits by a factor of more than 3:1. Gambling fails the cost benefit test, and taxpayers lose. I believe that gambling will not generate enough money to deal with the increase of crime, sex-trafficking and domestic violence caused by legalized gambling.
6. **Gambling violates the principle of FINANCIAL stewardship** to pay off your debt for good and then build wealth.

I ask you to **oppose SB1321**.

**Please do not fall for the lie!** Legalized gambling and the lottery will not help our economy!

I seriously hope that you are not willing to gamble with the lives of the people of Hawaii. Do you really want gambling and the lottery to become part of the heritage we leave our children? I hope not!

Thanks for the opportunity to humbly and respectfully submit my testimony in **opposition**.

Aloha,

**Donna Fa'ainuinu**

**Emailed to:**

[senshimabukuro@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senshimabukuro@capitol.hawaii.gov)

[senkeohokalole@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senkeohokalole@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

[senacasio@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senacasio@capitol.hawaii.gov)

[senfevella@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senfevella@capitol.hawaii.gov)

[senihara@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senihara@capitol.hawaii.gov)

February 8, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Hawaii State Capitol, Videoconference

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Subject: **Senate Bill 1321, RELATING TO GAMING**  
Report Title: Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation

Dear Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing in **extremely strong opposition** of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I know the negative impact gambling will have on the people of Hawai`i, our communities, and our families. Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing. Gambling creates no new wealth. Gambling creates an unacceptable outcome—in order for the government to win, its citizens must lose. Gamblers are mostly likely to be local residents, so the money they spend on gambling displaces other local expenditures. Sometimes, these displaced expenditures are necessities like food, shelter, and clothing.

Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens. Encouraging gambling addictions is not an ethical course for government to take if it wants to uphold its constitutional responsibility. There are other ways to generate tax revenue that are better and healthier for our community.

Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation related to gambling establishments under consideration.

Sincerely,



Monisha Santiago  
98-382 Ka`ōnohi St Apt 2  
Aiea HI 96701  
808-348-6436  
mstaxsolutions@gmail.com



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:48:42 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
maya hoeft	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Legalizing gambling in Hawaii may seem like a good way to alleviate the financial problems brought on by Covid-19, and it may help temporarily, but it will bring a slew of social problems Hawaii is not ready nor equipped to face. I lived in Nevada for about a year and half recently, and was able to see first hand the impact gambling had on the community. As an addictive habit, it targets vulnerable groups especially, and we know that Hawaii already has many of those. All legalizing gambling will do is exacerbate the already too prevalent homeless population and those who suffer from addictions. I have seen gambling addictions tear families apart and leave people destitute. On paper it may look like a good source of additional income, but if there's one thing we've learned from this pandemic, it's that we can't rely on social activities or tourism to support the economy. The vast majority of the working class in Nevada was out of a job during this pandemic because casinos do not support Covid regulations.

To conclude, do not let Hawaii become another Las Vegas or another Reno. Do not sully Hawaii's beautiful aloha spirit with the degradation of gambling addiction and casino culture. It's not worth ruining the sanctuary we have for a short financial boost. We're much better off investing in literally anything else.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:59:49 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karen M Heinzen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Senator,

I am opposed to the bill SB1321 on gambling. It is my testimony that the building block of society is strong families. Money certainly has its place, but we have seen over and over, in history as well as in our day, how money has destroyed because of how it is used. The short term benefits, will not out weight the long term fall.

Our families, the ohanas living here will suffer. That needs to be understood. We may get more money, but we will have weaker families.... even broken families. You can read in several places on the internet, it is so easy to find, the hardships on families. There are financial hardships, impaired relationships, diminished emotional and physical health, family conflict, mistrust, communication breakdown and confusion about family roles and responsibilities. This will NOT HELP the families of Hawaii. In fact we will see an eventual breakdown.... our children will suffer. This plan to help financial crisis does not have a the foresight needed to strengthen the family and they are the people who will bring strength to our communities. We will suffer in the future if gambling is allowed, it has been shown over and over again.

Our past shows that strengthening the family will strengthen communities and that will strengthen our state. This is true. History shows it.

Please please do not look for a quick fix. People pulling together in sacrifice and community will build a stronger state, because it builds a stronger people. Please look ahead. There may be other ways that are not so quick to fix, but in the long run, will build stronger families.

Strengthen our families, strengthen our state

Please, please do not support and pass this bill for the sake of more money in pocket. Life's problems and social ills will not be solved by simply more money through gambling. Please study out the long terms affects.

With sincere concern,

Karen Heinzen



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:10:19 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anna Mae Mahealani Alcon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

Location: Hawaii State Capitol, Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

---

Subject: Senate Bill 1321, RELATING TO GAMING

Report Title: Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation

Dear Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

***I am writing in strong opposition of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359.***

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, I know the negative impact gambling will have on the people of Hawai'i, our communities, and our families. Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing.

Gambling creates no new wealth. Gambling creates an unacceptable outcome—in order for the government to win, its citizens must lose. Gamblers are mostly likely to be local residents, so the money they spend on gambling displaces other local expenditures. Sometimes, these displaced expenditures are necessities like food, shelter, and clothing.

There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens.

Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

Sincerely,

Anna Mae Mahealani Alcon

2173 Hillcrest St Honolulu Hi 96817

808.646.1382 | [mahealanialcon@gmail.com](mailto:mahealanialcon@gmail.com)

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:13:58 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kelson Alcon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

Location: Hawaii State Capitol, Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Subject: Senate Bill 1321, RELATING TO GAMING

Report Title: Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation

Dear Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing in strong opposition of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, I know the negative impact gambling will have on the people of Hawai'i, our communities, and our families. Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing.

Gambling creates no new wealth. Gambling creates an unacceptable outcome—in order for the government to win, its citizens must lose. Gamblers are mostly likely to be local residents, so the money they spend on gambling displaces other local expenditures. Sometimes, these displaced expenditures are necessities like food, shelter, and clothing.

There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens.

Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelson K. Alcon

2173 Hillcrest St Honolulu Hi 96817

808.213.1288 | keliialcon@gmail.com

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:43:34 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Colleen Ray	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am testifying against SB1321 which I believe will be detrimental to all Hawaii stands for. We are already suffering the negative impacts of the COVID virus and the resulting loss of incomes and jobs and morale in the islands. To introduce such a bill and to pass it will be the last blow to the dignity of all of us and cause a lasting effect long after the virus is under control. I have seen the effects of gambling on families and individuals and communities; we don't need such a danger here. Again, I strongly oppose SB1321 and hope that there will be other means to accomplish the goals of such a legislation.



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:43:58 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keely Rivera	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Senators,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 359/SB1321 regarding the legalization of gambling in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i is already plagued with common societal issues of alcoholism and drug abuse which has led to an increase in crime and violence in various communities. Gambling is associated with all of these issues (and more), and by legalizing gambling in the state, the senate in turn will be allowing an increase in alcoholism, drug abuse, crime, and violence. Has Hawai'i not seen enough in recent years with the increase of murders and violent acts due to these issues?

When voting on this bill, please think of what is most ethical and beneficial to the people of Hawai'i. If this bill is being introduced as a way for the state to overcome its debt due to the tourism shortage caused by COVID-19, this is not the way. Let's be smart about what we allow into our islands, please.

Sincerest regards,

Keely Rivera

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:53:49 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Malia Otto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Statistics and facts show that this dirty industry would not bring Hawai'i the benefits it touts.

Statistics and facts show that it would absolutely bring all the accompanying ills, such as increases in DUIs, child abuse, increases sex-trafficking, and more.

Why would anyone bring in an industry which scientific studies show would definitely cause an uptick in degeneracy?! Is there a quota of children's lives as a society we would be willing to sacrifice in order to justify the conscious decision to vote in favor of an industry guaranteed to grow spirit-destroying crimes on keiki? If so, how many would you personally be willing to put on the chopping-board? In my book, one innocent life directly effected by this would already be too many to justify making the decision responsibly or with any sense of humanity.

Experts have already guarantee an escalation. That means at least one more than presently, with research pointing confidently to far far more, were casinos to be allowed in Hawai'i.

So how can a person knowingly making a decision to support something which the smartest minds in the nation assure would infallibly bring irreparable harm?

I'll answer... the love of money over the love of others, otherwise known as a willingness to overlook our most vulnerable citizens.

This however would not be pono or aloha or any of the other cherished Hawaiian values your organization markets itself as fulfilling.

I would say don't gamble with the potential destruction casinos would bring on our most downtrodden children because it would be neither funny nor a gamble with some unforeseeable outcome. Instead to bring casinos in would be a surety to create a surge in yucky stuff, based on research and facts.

Granted, we are struggling in Hawaii. But the experts have spoken here locally (mention groups), and there is overwhelming statistics and facts available on the internet anyone willing to take the time can find easily, which present only one possible effect from this proposed cause.

Unfortunately, the presentation of this notion today before us is nothing more than an irresponsible risk-all bet that has no place in a healthier Hawaii that all our people deserve, not just some.

This bill has been spun as not a legalization of gambling but rather as something playful, 'gaming,' it's called by its author. Rest assured however that playing with Hawaii's future for our most vulnerable citizens, for the entertainment and leisure of powerful money-men is not a game. Experts have shown us with statistics and facts that this game is rigged.

The only conscionable thing to do is vote 'nay' on this issue, and not gamble with Hawai'i's future!

February 8, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Hawaii State Capitol, Videoconference

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Subject: **Senate Bill 1321, RELATING TO GAMING**  
Report Title: Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation

Dear Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing in **strong opposition** of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, I know the negative impact gambling will have on the people of Hawai'i, our communities, and our families. Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing. Gambling creates no new wealth. Gambling creates an unacceptable outcome—in order for the government to win, its citizens must lose. Gamblers are mostly likely to be local residents, so the money they spend on gambling displaces other local expenditures. Sometimes, these displaced expenditures are necessities like food, shelter, and clothing.

There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens.

Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

Sincerely,



Kristy Shitaoka  
1480 Mahiole Street  
Honolulu, HI 96819  
808-833-7787  
kristy.shitaoka@yahoo.com

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:16:20 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Connie Goff	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am submitting the following in opposition to SB1321.

On its face SB1321 seems to be focusing on boosting the economy and bringing money to our state. However, consideration needs to be given to what the long term effects of such a law would do to Hawaii and the people who live here.

These are desperate economic times. Gambling under these circumstances can lead to devastation to individuals and families and put a burden on society to care for those who have lost it all and cannot care for themselves and their families because of it.

This is not about money but about what false hope can do to the desperate. Hawaii is unique as "Ohana" is more than a word — it's a way of life. We need to protect that foremost and encourage self reliance and community rather than introducing an avenue to destroy it all.

Vote down SB1321.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:25:41 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mariana Monasi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There hasn't been sufficient community communciation and input on this and it's against aloha 'Ä• ina initiatives to foster and nurture people and land over money and capitalism.

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:32:14 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kulamanu Brown	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Senate,

I Kulamanu Brown and my ohana oppose bill SB1321 relating to Gaming. I Kulamanu Brown as well as my ohana Solomon Brown, Hezakai'a Brown, Kauionalani Russell, Mike Russell, Jahmarra Santos, Justin Santos, Lylamarie Talaroc-Kaniho and Dianarey Talaroc-Kaniho oppose this bill because we believe it will cause more corruption in Hawaii as well as our community. (Gangs drugs and sex trafficking). It is not family oriented where your young children are welcome or invited. so more broken families. More stealng of Hawaiian properties and more homelessness which leads to HATE!! Today families in Hawaii are already depending on Unemployment having hard times to find jobs as well as day care for our young families. This type of business will not encourage our youth as well as adults with addictive behaviors, IT will influence them to not do the right things. I say this of my own addictions!! We Love Hawaii, we love our people and we pray for all of you who make these decisions and put out this type of Bill. However we/I OPPOSE!!

Mahalo

Kulamanu Brown, Solomon Brown, Hezakai'a Brown, Kauionalani Russell, Mike Russell, Jahmarra Santos, Justin Santos, Lylamarie Talaroc- Kaniho, Dianarey Talaroc-Kaniho

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:00:46 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cherish Harp	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha to all,

I would like to thank you for allowing me to testify today. I greatly oppose Bill SB1321. I am a Kanaka Maoli of 32 years of age. Now, we know what addiction looks like, we know what homelessness looks like. Our people are suffering from neglect, drug addiction, and a means to no end to their desperate situations. Instead of proposing to use this casino as a way to bring in money and opportunities, you should be looking into housing for our homeless, feeding our families who cannot feed themselves by growing our own foods, putting an end to the selling of our lands to foreigners. This casino will benefit the foreigners and people of governmental power, not the people of Hawaii. This casino will surely bring in gang related activities, crime and murder, the theft of other people's property to feed their addiction, possible unlimited alcoholic beverages served as long as there is money going into the machines. This casino will only be creating alcoholics whose addiction to gambling will destroy themselves and their families and friends. This casino will only feed the addicted and we have seen that addicts will do anything to feed their next high. It is not in our interest, it will not alleviate our struggle but only to worsen it. Sex trafficking, prostitution, alcoholism, theft, money laundering, destruction of families, murder, corruption, the list goes on. This also could create corruption within law enforcement as we had seen with the Kealoha's who were high in position. These are the real opportunities you will be agreeing to bring into our beautiful home. Please I ask you all to oppose this Bill SB1321.

Mahalo,  
Cherish Harp



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:14:55 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Meghan Valletta	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

February 10, 2021

Dear Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing in strong opposition of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359.

Having grown up in California near Native American Casino Lands, I know there are negative effects the gambling industry brings. I saw it attract outsiders with poor intentions and undesirable behaviors. Groups of 18 year olds were known to go there over the weekends to gamble where it was legal and cause trouble. I'd hate for that to happen here. Not to mention gambling addictions and increased crime. I strongly believe gambling would have a negative impact on the people of Hawai'i, our communities, and our families.

Gambling also creates no new wealth. Gambling creates an unacceptable outcome—in order for the government to win, its citizens must lose.

There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. The Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens and our community.

I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

Sincerely,

Meghan Valletta

February 10, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Hawaii State Capitol, Videoconference

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Subject: **Senate Bill 1321, RELATING TO GAMING**  
Report Title: Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation

Dear Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing in **strong opposition** of SB 1321 and the companion bill HB359.

As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, I know the negative impact gambling will have on the people of Hawai'i, our communities, and our families. Gambling is motivated by a desire to get something for nothing. Gambling creates no new wealth. Gambling creates an unacceptable outcome—in order for the government to win, its citizens must lose. Gamblers are mostly likely to be local residents, so the money they spend on gambling displaces other local expenditures. Sometimes, these displaced expenditures are necessities like food, shelter, and clothing.

There are better and healthier ways to generate tax revenue than to encourage gambling addictions. Government's constitutional role is to protect its citizens.

Therefore, I strongly urge your opposition to SB 1321 and any other legislation, related to gambling establishments, under consideration.

Sincerely,

Brittany Morrill  
3004 Anderson Ave.  
Honolulu, HI 96818  
619.366.8779  
brittany.morrill@hotmail.com

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:34:38 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Safranski	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

DHHL property, residential or commercial, was meant to benefit Native Hawaiians.. if you can't provide homes because it's not residentially zoned, it would be better served as markets for Hawaiians to sell items and earn income or other ways that will benefit them and not the big pocketbooks involved in such an undertaking..

Casinos do not match with the intent of DHHL property to benefit the proper Hawaiian beneficiaries

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:37:19 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Supporting SB1321 -- With Some Changes/Relating to Gaming

Aloha Senators Shimabukuro and Keohokalole and Committee members:

I present this testimony in SUPPORT of SB1321, but with a few changes to hopefully benefit Hawaiian Homes beneficiaries and the general public at large. Although, I am not a Hawaiian Homes beneficiary, I have many cousins who are -- some have received their lots and others continue waiting on the 28,000-plus list. I recognized the "waiting list" as a serious problem that needed addressing almost 30 years ago -- thanks to Uncle Sonny Kaniho, Aunt Gladys Minchew, and Aunt Noelani Joy among others -- and began work with a small organization to encourage the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to make waitlisted beneficiaries a priority. While DHHL has since made great strides in terms of providing lots and homes for SO many beneficiaries since the early 1990s and the infamous Susan Faludi "Wall Street Journal" article, the COVID-19 pandemic has shriveled Hawai'i State coffers and the DHHL revenue stream as a result. Casino gaming and scratch off card/lottery participation make a great deal of sense as both DHHL and the State attempt to find funds to sustain the Hawaiian community and, indeed, ALL of us.

While many people cite the studies that point to increased crime, gambling/drug addiction, plus drug and sex trafficking associated with gaming, frankly speaking -- those problems have existed in Hawai'i for YEARS, because of the ILLEGAL gaming that runs rampant in this State. Everyday we hear about illegal gaming rooms raided by police in Kaka'ako, in Chinatown/downtown Honolulu, in Waipahu, and most recently this past week -- on Hawaiian Home lands in Waimanalo. In addition, a Jan. 2018 lecture entitled "How Las Vegas Became the 9th Island: Hawaiians and the California Hotel" at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas noted "every year 1 in 10 Hawaii citizens visit Las Vegas (some two or three times per year)" -- to gamble. So, it's pure foolishness to contemplate that gaming is "all foreign" to Hawai'i residents. The idea that the DHHL—or even the State—should continue to lose potential revenue streams to Las Vegas or other gaming destinations is just ludicrous.

SB1321 would, among other things: 1) grant a forty (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; 2) establishes a Hawaii

Gaming Commission; 3) imposes wagering tax on gross gaming revenue; and 4) creates State Gaming Fund – and appropriates funds to do the above.

I support creating a Hawaii Gaming Commission – not necessarily under the purview of the DHHL as this presents a conflict of interest, but instead placing this under the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) or some other State entity. As to locating this potential casino adjacent to Ka Makana Ali`i, this could be a workable site. Yet, now that the Makaha Resort re-development has halted due to COVID issues, would that location (via a land-swap perhaps) be a possible location for a regulated casino gaming operation? Finally – a 40-year gaming license seems a bit too liberal relative to first-time legalized gaming in Hawaii. Perhaps a 10-year renewable license (renewable for 10 or 20 years thereafter) could work – though more research is likely necessary as to what DHHL and potential gaming operations entities would find acceptable. Lastly – funds for DHHL developments should take the majority of these gaming proceeds, BUT perhaps at least a small percentage of gaming proceeds should also be allocated for addiction, education, and kupuna/child programs to benefit the public at large.

For all of the above reasons and in the interest of assisting Hawaiian Homes beneficiaries and, indeed, all of us recover financially from this COVID-19 pandemic, I respectfully urge you to please support SB1321 and pass this out of your committee. Mahalo again for this opportunity to present testimony SUPPORTING SB1321 – with changes.

February 11, 2021

Testimony of Homelani Schaedel

**Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs**

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokolole, Vice Chair

Re: SB 1321 RELATING TO GAMING

Grants forty-years 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. Appropriate funds.

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Keohokolole and members of the Committee,

For the past 100 years, native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Home Lands Commission of 1920, as amended and the Constitution of the State of Hawaii **have not been a priority** of our Federal and State governments.

**Hawaiian Homes Commission Act: Section 101.c**

In recognition of the solemn trust created by this Act, and the historical government to government relationship between the United States and Kingdom of Hawaii, **the United States and the State of Hawaii hereby acknowledge the trust established under this Act and affirm their fiduciary duty to faithfully administer the provisions of this Act on behalf of the native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the Act.**

**Constitution of the State of Hawaii: Article XII Section 1**

**The legislature shall make sufficient sums available for the following purposes: (1) development of home, agriculture, farm and ranch lots; (2) home, agriculture, aquaculture, farm and ranch loans; (3) rehabilitation projects to include, but not limited to, educational, economic, political, social and cultural processes by which the general welfare and conditions of native Hawaiians are thereby improved; (4) the administration and operating budget of the department of Hawaiian home lands; in furtherance of (1), (2), (3) and (4) herein, by appropriating the same in the manner provided by law.**

**Department of Hawaiian Home Lands**

**Purpose 1 - Development of Lots**

<b>Year</b>	<b>DHHL Sufficient Sums Budget Request</b>	<b>Legislature Approved</b>	<b>Difference</b>
2018	73,425,000	20,000,000	53,425,000
2019	88,975,000	20,000,000	68,975,000
2020	74,775,000	20,000,000	54,775,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>237,175,000</b>	<b>60,000,000</b>	<b>177,175,000</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>79,975,000</b>	<b>?</b>	

## 2021 Legislation – Request for Special Purpose Revenue Bonds

Bills	Business	Reg. Date	Amount
SB 757/HB 533	Le-Jardin Academy	08-02-71	25,000,000
SB 256/HB 688	Keahole Hotel & Suites, LLC	10-17-19	50,000,000
SB 963/SB 1412 HB 1289	HK Management, LLC Honokea Surf Village	07-08-16	95,000,000
SB 579/HB 689	House of Aloha Enterprises, LLC	10-29-20	100,000,000
SB 735/HB 869	Luana Kai A Life Plan Community	10-22-20	500,000,000
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>770,000,000</b>

Affordable housing has been a concern for more than 20 years! We are now in a housing crisis. Our State Budget has a deficit of over 4 billion dollars that will take more than 4 years to recover. How will this Legislature address our housing crisis for beneficiaries of the HHCA and the general public? **None of the above bills address our affordable housing crisis.** I realize must be heard by the Ways and Means Committee. I hope none are funded!

**How many of these types of bills over the past 20 years took precedence and was funded instead of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands request for sufficient funds?**

## 2021 Legislation – Bills Related To Gambling

Bills	Purpose	Type
SB 1321/HB 359	Hawaii Gaming Commission	Resort-Casino (DHHL)
HB 363	Hawaii Lottery & Gaming Corp.	Lottery
HB 383	State Poker Commission	Live Poker Rooms
HB 736	Sports Betting	Digital Sports
HB 772	Casino	Members Only-Waikiki

When DHHL took a bold step and announced their proposal for this Gaming Bill, my heart sank. My first thought was...we are desperate and they are taking desperate measures. How did we get so low on the list when we should be first? There are four other bills introduced with different forms of gambling.

**DHHL’s bill addresses affordable housing crisis for HHCA beneficiaries, none of the other bills addresses our affordable housing crisis for the general public.**

The concerns of addiction and social ills a casino will bring, is not lost on me. Some form of “organized” gambling takes place every day across our islands, and will continue whether or not this is bill is passed. Just this past Sunday, hundreds of thousands of dollars pass through hands betting on the Super Bowl and at chicken fights.

The act of gambling is a personal choice. I am a gambler, each time I place a wager or play a machine in Vegas, it is my personal choice and kuleana to manage.

The definition of gamble is “to take risky action in the hope of a desired result”. Although I am here today in my individual capacity, I am taking a risk as a homestead leader and advocate of the HHCA. I will be criticized by homestead leaders, and beneficiaries, including those in my homestead who are split in their support of this bill.

I am taking a risk and gambling that this bill may just be a long shot, although I’m sure committees have been instructed to defer this bill, or to amend it to do a study.

If I have any reservations, it is not whether this bill is a viable option. Right now I don’t see any options and NO ONE has found a solution of how DHHL is going to get sufficient funding to serve our HHCA beneficiaries. Even when funding was available, DHHL didn’t get what they requested.

No, my reservations are whether every legislator will acknowledge failure of your kuleana to our HHCA beneficiaries. Will you take a bold step and make a firm commitment that our HHCA beneficiaries will be your first priority? If this bill passes, will you ensure and protect the terms and conditions of this bill?

In my ohana we have a saying...show up, stand up, speak up, step up, or shut up...don’t grumble! To those who do not step up yet will criticize me, I will say...Where were you?

In all the years I presented testimony before various committees, by far, this is the most difficult. For reasons stated above, I support SB 1321 with reservations.



**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:50:33 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kapua Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

2/10/21

Aloha Senators,

I am testifying in Opposition to SB1321 as

DHHL should be putting KÄ• naka on Their Lands instead of continuing to Waste Precious Beneficiary Owned Lands and Resources on any more of these type of Illegal and Corrupt Money Making Projects and Ventures.

NO to any Casino or Gambling run by DHHL.

That would be seriously more detrimental to Beneficiaries than helpful.

Do The Pono Thing ...Start Fulfilling Your Real Kuleana...Put Hawaiians on Hawaiian Lands.

Enough is Enough! The Hewa needs to Stop! You cannot Claim to Support Mo'omeheu Hawai'i and Still Support a Disastrous

Hewa Casino in Hawai'i.

Worse yet is that DHHL will not be in Control of these monies anyway...

I urge you to Vote NO to SB1321.

Mahalo me ka 'o ia i'o,

Kapua Medeiros

808-489-1933

kapua40@gmail.com



Maile Shimabukuro, Chair  
Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
Hawaii Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Ray Cho, Ph.D.

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Written testimony in support of S.B.1321, Related to Gaming

To Chair Shimabukuro and Vice Chair Keohokalole,

My name is Ray Cho. I grew up in Hawaii, graduated from Kalani High School, and went on to earn my PhD in Hospitality from the University of Nevada Las Vegas. I am a postdoctoral researcher for the Center for Gambling Studies at the Rutgers School of Social Work. I lived in Las Vegas for 11 years and have studied gambling from multiple angles. In addition to my oral testimony, I am writing in SUPPORT of S.B.1321.

In my view, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands' (DHHL) proposal is a reasonable concept to consider. The arguments they have presented are consistent with the academic view that gambling, like alcohol, is a potentially hazardous form of consumption where conflicts emerge between economic interests and public health.<sup>1</sup> I recognize that gambling is a difficult and uncomfortable issue. However, as a person of science, the way that the opposition has drawn conclusions from studies distort the intentions of an otherwise sensible proposal by the DHHL. The opposition's misrepresentation of facts is not only a disservice to the authors of the studies they cite, but also, a gross underestimation of the intellectual capability of the community at large.

Included in this written testimony are 1) a critique of arguments used in opposition to H.B.359 (companion bill to S.B.1321), and 2) a suggestion for a friendly amendment to the S.B.1321, should the committee decide that it is best to approach the casino issue in a more informed way.

*[1] Critique of arguments made by those opposed to H.B.359.* The broad notion that studies show a clear correlation between casinos and increased crime and societal ills is an overgeneralization of a much more multifaceted and nuanced issue. To draw improper or incomplete conclusions from these studies is concerning. Here are some notable examples:

- Fong , Fong, & Li (2011) was used to argue the point that gambling leads to increases in social costs. Opposers of H.B.359 misrepresented the conclusions of the article. Fong, Fong, & Li (2011) acknowledge that Macau, where the study took place, is a unique case study in studying social cost increases. This is because today's Macau is "a result of the disruptive transition process from an underdeveloped, monopoly system to a modern, competitive environment with sound regulations and healthy rivalry." The author's note

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<sup>1</sup> Cowlshaw, S., & Thomas, S. L. (2018). Industry Interests in Gambling Research: Lessons Learned from other forms of Hazardous Consumption. *Addictive Behaviors*, 78, 101-106.

that regulatory enforcement during the pre-liberalized era was relatively weak and incomplete. Correspondingly, regulatory training, research and promotion were not funded to adequate levels. The authors also say that rises in the social costs of gambling were not necessarily a bad sign. Instead, this was viewed as an indicator that Macau was starting to tackle hidden social issues in a more direct and socially responsible manner.

- Increasing crime rates cited in Wan, Li, & Kong (2015) were cited to draw a link between gambling and crime. However, the authors included these statistics for purely descriptive purposes and those figures are not central to the research design. In that same article, the authors discuss how results are mixed when it comes to drawing a link between crime to gambling. There are other contextual factors that can lead to increases in crime and some studies have shown little to no increase.<sup>2,3</sup>
- Wu & Chen (2014) was cited by the opposition to highlight the negative social impacts of gambling. This study however, was actually designed to improve measurement of perceived social impacts among community members, not necessarily focused on the if those perceptions were positive or negative. Wu & Chen (2014) was responding to a well-established understanding that measuring the social costs of gambling is inherently challenging.<sup>4</sup>
- Those that opposed H.B.359 failed to provide context to the argument that an increased high school dropout rate is an adverse consequence of gambling (Wan, Li, & Kong, 2016). The study states that the decline was largely explained by certain employment opportunities in the gaming industry. Higher education levels are not required for relatively well-paid jobs in casinos, such as dealers. In a way, this is similar to Hawaii's job market, reflective of its dependence on tourism and hospitality services. This should be a valid concern in creating a diverse workforce. Wu & Chen (2014), which was cited by the opposition, provide an interesting discussion on how young people in Singapore and Macao can perceive the job market to be narrow, yet not feel anxious about it, because casino jobs can be sufficiently lucrative.
- Domestic violence is an important comorbidity of problem gambling to point out. Korman (2008) does highlight the correlation between problem gambling and intimate partner violence. Suomi et al. (2013) does illuminate the co-occurrence of problem gambling and family violence. However, both studies are cross-sectional in nature and like many other studies that have examined comorbidities, the importance of screening, intervention, and treatment are mentioned as being important for practitioners. Studies rarely, if ever, draw the conclusion that prohibiting gambling is the solution. This parallels the same stance as the National Council on Problem Gambling, America's most

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<sup>2</sup> Janes, P. L., & Collison, J. (2004). Community Leader Perceptions of the Social and Economic Impacts of Indian gaming. *UNLV Gaming Research & Review Journal*, 8(1), 2.

<sup>3</sup> Giacomassi, D., Nichols, M., & Stitt, B. G. (1999). Attitudes of Community Leaders in New Casino Jurisdictions Regarding Casino Gambling's Effects on Crime and Quality of Life. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 15(2), 123-147.

<sup>4</sup> Walker, D. M. (2007). Problems in quantifying the social costs and benefits of gambling. *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, 66(3), 609-645.

established organization on gambling issues, which does not take a position for or against legalized gambling, advocating solely for those affected by problem gambling.<sup>5</sup>

- The argument that gambling leads to increased sexual trafficking was naively supported by Wagner, et. al. (2016). Those who opposed H.B.359 pointed to this study as “national research”. Although the report was part of a larger study happening in multiple locations, data was only presented from one location: Las Vegas. To this point, the authors noted that, “the sexualized cultural climate of Las Vegas strongly contributes to the way the trade is manifest here.” The authors stated that differences between participants at other sites nationally may, in part, reflect cultural factors unique to those metropolitan areas.
- Opposers of the H.B.359 argued that the more economically disadvantaged a person is (i.e. Native Hawaiians), the more likely they are to gamble. This conclusion, drawn from the 2013 Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice report, is based on an unproven theory. Making matters worse, the opposition improperly referenced conclusions drawn from peer-reviewed research to support this faulty claim. For example, Morisson (2004) was an ethnographic study focused on the lived experiences of Māori women, specifically those with gambling problems. The article mentions that women in Māori communities view gambling as largely positive. The authors state that findings should not be treated as sufficient for setting policy. Also emphasized is the importance of creating employment and income opportunities, and finding ways to increase positive social support for Māori women so that they can be valued for who they are. This implication was not only overlooked by those that opposed H.B.359, but also, runs counter to the prevailing and misleading argument that disadvantaged populations are destined to remain vulnerable with the introduction of gambling. Instead, both Morisson (2004) and Kolandai & Matchett (2017), cited by the opposition, advocate for culturally appropriate support strategies, not prohibition.

Despite highlighting some important social issues, arguments made by those that opposed H.B.359 not only failed to properly synthesize the findings of the articles that they cite, but also, misrepresented studies to promote what appears to be an alarmist narrative. While it is well-established that the availability of gambling is foundational to the various pathways that lead to problematic behavior,<sup>6</sup> the prohibition of gambling does not follow as a sufficient and necessary remedy. Prohibition has its own set of social costs.<sup>7</sup> As many of the peer-reviewed studies cited by those opposing H.B.359 would indicate, the more effective approach to examining the roots of problem gambling is to deploy tools such as continuous screening and longitudinal research.

The gambling field has always been multidisciplinary and there is academic consensus that effective policy should be pragmatic and holistic in addressing the negative outcomes of problem gambling. This includes applying widely held perspectives such as industry neutrality, promoting responsible gambling, harm minimization, informed choice, and decriminalization.

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<sup>5</sup> National Council on Problem Gambling. (2019). 2018 Annual Report.

<sup>6</sup> Blaszczynski, A., & Nower, L. (2002). A Pathways Model of Problem and Pathological Gambling. *Addiction*, 97(5), 487-499.

<sup>7</sup> Walker, D. M., & Barnett, A. H. (1999). The Social Costs of Gambling: An Economic Perspective. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 15(3), 181-212.

[2] *Suggested friendly amendments to S.B.1321.* In the spirit of a facilitating a more informed dialogue around limited gaming, I support the bill in its current form. However, should the committee find it important to look at the gambling issue more closely, I would suggest a friendly amendment that incorporates the following:

- The establishment of a task force to evaluate various options, obstacles, and resource gaps for casino development.
- A preliminary social and economic impact study that includes a site selection component so that multiple locales can be evaluated and compared.
  - Following an initial social and economic impact study, a locale can be approved, at which point, an RFC and RFP process can be enacted.
- A Statewide prevalence study of gambling to better understand the relationship of play patterns and gambling behaviors to gambling problem severity.<sup>8</sup> Because Hawaii is a multicultural society, policies for social support should be culturally competent, especially for underrepresented and vulnerable populations.<sup>9</sup>
- A workforce capabilities assessment, which results in a strategic plan to assess the need for specific types of job training programs.
- Establish a dedicated and protected stream of funding from gaming revenues, outside of the general fund, to go directly to gambling disorder prevention, treatment, recovery, and research. This is to ensure consistent screening and measurement of gambling activity in the State.

Mahalo once again for allowing me to share my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Ray Cho, PhD

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<sup>8</sup> Nower, L., Volberg, R.A. & Caler, K.R. (2017). The Prevalence of Online and Land-Based Gambling in New Jersey. Report to the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement. New Brunswick, NJ: Authors.

<sup>9</sup> Oei, T. P. S., Raylu, N., & Loo, J. M. Y. (2019). Roles of culture in gambling and gambling disorder. In *Gambling disorder* (pp. 271-295). Springer, Cham.

### **Selected works cited by those in opposition to S.B.1321**

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Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 11, 2021  
1:00 pm, Videoconference

### SB 1321 - RELATING TO GAMING

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro and Vice-Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am in **SUPPORT** of the intent of SB 1321 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.<sup>1</sup>

From Mā'ili, my name is Kamuela Werner. I graduated from Nānākuli High School, hold a Master of 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 these elders who built their homes upon vacant, marginal agricultural lands with little to no resources from county, state, and federal governments, I respectfully ask you to **SUPPORT SB 1321**.

Why? Because there is a more than 100-year Native Hawaiian housing crisis which has played a generational role in perpetuating poor social, economic, and health outcomes for Native Hawaiians—this is structural racism and violence. 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> lowest life expectancies in the state.<sup>2</sup> From a public health and data-driven

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

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



perspective, adequately resourcing our trust for needed infrastructure upkeep and development is a matter of life and death. The bold moves we make today will better prepare beneficiaries for the economic impacts ahead caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in synergy with climate change induced phenomena (i.e. sea-level rise, intense storms, flooding, etc).

Therefore, in the pursuit of upholding Hawaii's State Constitution which guarantees sufficient state funding for DHHL, I strongly urge the committee to **PASS** SB 1321. Mahalo nui.

Ke aloha 'āina,

Kamuela Werner, MPH

“I am not defending lotteries. They are not native productions of my country, but introduced into our “heathen” land by so-called Christians, from a Christian nation, who have erected monuments, universities, and legislative halls by that method. I am simply explaining what this bill intended, because, by the reports sent to their correspondents in the United States, the missionary party represented me as a grand vender of lottery tickets, by which I was to become rich and powerful; whereas the scheme, be it good or bad, would not have been to my individual profit, but to that of my native people.”

CHAPTER XXXIX THE “CRIMES I AM CHARGED WITHAL.” *Hawaii's Story by Hawaii's Queen* by Liliuokalani, Queen of Hawaii, 1898.

**Submitted by the Ahupua`a O Nānākuli Homestead (AONH) Organization**

Authors`s Josiah "Black Ho`ohuli - Pelekikena, Garnet Clark - Hope Pelekikena and Jewelynn

Kirkland Kākau `Olelo

February 10, 2021

Testimony Against Limited Gaming Casino on DHHL Commercial Parcel in Kapolei

The following are reasons AONH is against SB 1321 Relating to Gambling being submitted by the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs by Senator Maile Shimabukuro

1. Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1921 was created to Rehabilitate Indigent Native Hawaiians not burden the state by building a Casino.
2. Funding
  - a. DHHL states that they are not able to fund the building of homes for Wait Lister
    - I. What is the status of the Trust Fund monies Managed by OHA
      1. These monies generated by Crown Lands, etc that are "managed" by OHA should be re-directed directly to DHHL.
      2. Do we have to have another Constitutional Convention to have these monies re-directed to DHHL? Or will the legislature do the correct action and have these monies go directly to DHHL?
      3. Are Crown Lands money being directed to DHHL as promised?
    - b. Monies generated by land Leased to Commercial businesses????? Where are those monies coming from or again who are the Investors?
    - c. Lack of Sustainability within DHHL due to being unorganized and known to not have procedures in place when new lots have been assigned? Look into what`s happening in East Hawaii Island.
    - d. Hawaii Gaming Commission for the Limited Casino will be funded? How will that happen when it will be years before the Casino will be completed. Who are the Investors that WE will be paying for years to come?!
  - a. DHHL is not responsible to support the State of Hawaii in fact it is the opposite. The State of Hawaii is responsible for funneling the "appropriated funds" to DHHL
  4. "Limited Gaming" Casino`s creates negative outcomes
    - a. Increase in Crime creating Domino effects
      - i. Violence Against Women
      - ii. Sex Trafficking
      - iii. Human Trafficking
      - iv. New Addictions
      - v. Auto Thefts
      - vi. Larceny
      - vii. Bankruptcy
    - b. Underemployment still exists examples are states such as Mississippi, Nevada, Colorado and California
      - i. Monies should be going towards other programs
    - c. Gross Gaming Revenues has gone down by 79%
    - d. Majority of positions are lower paying

- e. iGaming has been taking away revenue from Casino's in 2019 the percentage tripled to 198.8%
  - f. Another "Rail Nightmare" - neverending change of budget
  - g. When does the "Forty-Year" Gaming License begin? When they break ground or when the first dollar is spent by a tourist.
  - h. Surveys study 2,500 adults regarding their gambling activities at three points in time: prior to the opening of Casino, one year after the casino opened, and four years after the opening of Casino. However, most benefits did not go to local governments and local workers but were rather transferred outside the county. DHHL will be in dept with a casino and will be forced to sell, which as study show the benefits will go to investors from off the Island.
  - i. Tourism should not include a visit to the on island Casino. We have already proven that depending on tourism is not the answer to getting Native Hawaiians on the land.
    - i. States that depended on tourism and the amount of Casino's in their state: Nevada (334), Oklahoma (134), California (62) and Colorado (40). These states have not been able to sustain themselves
5. Beneficiary Consultations
    - a. Aware of one in the month of December 2020
    - b. Should have had at minimum 4 Beneficiary Consultations within a year minimum two years
  6. Investors - DHHL does not have funding to Rehabilitate Native Hawaiian's so where are they getting their funding? Not from Hawai'i ... out of state funding? ... out of country funding? We, only see DHHL going into debt further.

#### In Conclusion,

1. Where are the Trust Fund that goes to OHA and should be transferred to DHHL.
2. What does the General Public have to do with the Hawaiian Homes Act of 1921
3. Casino gambling had by far the most harmful effects on people at the lower end of the income ladder.
4. Employment designed to attract people without degrees which leads to underpay, no benefits, and a dead end job.
5. Investors will have to take over the Casino due to lack of sustainability of DHHL
6. DHHL will not have control of finances, investors do!

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**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 1:30:29 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anolani Hanohano	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Thank you Senators for taking the time to review this bill. I oppose this bill due to lack of support from all the Homestead Communities, and beneficiaries. There is no community benefits package that would benefit the homestead communities that this site will be located at. There is no breakdown of how the revenue funds will be directly funding all the homestead communities, or housing development, or a plan to help decrease the waitlist. More needs to be added and addressed before consideration.

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 2:12:20 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kyoko Pharis	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Allowing or legalize gambling in Hawaii will increase more crimes and poverty in our community.

Yes, many Hawaii residents travel to Las Vegas or other states to gamble. Those are who can afford to spend their money or save it up to enjoy their vacation.

Gambling is addiction that is hard to get rid of. I have seen my own family member who spent all money in gambling, borrowing from other family members and spent their money, who could not pay utilities or buy food.

We all agree that Hawaii is awfully expensive place to live and many residents who work double or more jobs to survive. If the gambling is allowed in the island, some people will spend their hard earning money towards gambling hoping to make easy money and end up losing it all. Their families and children will suffer. They will depend on others to survive by borrowing, robbery, breaking in and stealing, and impacting further the welfare program.

I oppose SB1321. Let us keep our community safer and enjoyable place.

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 2:33:10 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jon Pharis	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To the Senators assigned or volunteered to make a very critical decision,

We are all faced daily with the choice to make right or wrong decisions. As we are raised and raise our children we recognize that the friends we associate with and the society we are surrounded with affects our lives.

We are very aware of the ills and crime that is associated with gambling. I also reflect on the concern of building a semi passive telescope on the mountain of Mauna Kea because the land is considered sacred. Building a casino is even more concerning. Considering the motto of the state 'Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono', there is nothing I can see that is pono in allowing gambling in this beautiful blessed land. Shall we bring a plague upon our society by allowing this sort of development? I feel that it would be unwise to make such a devastating decision to allow this. It will not stop with only one casino, it will allow more and more. Until Hawaii becomes no longer perpetuated in righteousness.

I pray the decision left in your hands will be in righteousness, as it will affect us all.

Thank you,

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 2:50:50 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pilialoa Callahan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. I do not think that building a casino is the overall profitable decision. DHHL lands should be for the kanaka and there are so many native Hawaiians who are still struggling to make ends meet and live comfortably, these lands and funds can be used to help house our people affordably. Instead of trying to make a profit, we should be helping our people in need. Or at least leave this decision up to the beneficiaries of DHHL lands. Let them decide what is best.

# Mufi Hannemann

P.O. Box 459 • Honolulu, HI 96809

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Senate Bill 1321 – Relating Gaming  
February 11, 2021

**LATE**

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Committee. Mahalo for allowing me to provide this testimony.

Permit me to state that this is my personal belief and statement and does not reflect or pertain to my professional positions or affiliations in the community.

I've been involved in government in a wide range of positions dating back to the late 1970's, and I have always been opposed to the establishment of legal gambling in Hawaii. Although I feel it is important to have these conversations and to hear differing points of view on the issue, nothing in the current debate has allayed my wariness or concerns regarding the various negative impacts that gambling could have on our community.

**Therefore, I am testifying in opposition to Senate Bill 1321.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 4:00:10 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rita Kama-Kimura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Gambling has no place here in Hawaii. Let's put a stop to it now ...

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 4:23:36 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marcus Auna	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting my testimony in opposition to SB1321.

"it was found that the only method in which to rehabilitate the race was to place them back upon the soil," Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole.

Does the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands truly believe in this statement made by Prince Jonah? A statement used, and directly found on [dhlh.hawaii.gov](http://dhlh.hawaii.gov).

How does placing a casino on land which is set to place Hawaiians back on their soil, fulfill Prince Jonah's statement?

Another statement found on [dhlh.hawaii.gov](http://dhlh.hawaii.gov) says, "The Hawaiian Homes Commission Act intended to return native Hawaiians to the land while encouraging them to become self-sufficient farmers, ranchers, and homesteaders on leased parcels of reserve land."

Allowing this bill to pass not only goes against the reason for setting these lands aside for Hawaiians, it literally keeps them off of it.

Gambling like many other things has the potential to cause addictions, increases criminal activity, most importantly it may will cause strains on family relationships.

Honorable Senators, I ask you to do the right thing by opposing this bill as well.

Mahalo

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 4:55:41 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jason Hawkins	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Would you consider gambling a vice or a virtue? Do our families really need more vices? Our families are the foundation of our society. No amount of tax revenue can repair broken families, but legislators will try by inevitably expanding gambling opportunities island-wide for more revenue. Gambling disproportionately negatively impacts low-income families. **Do what you know is right for Oahu's families.**

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 5:41:56 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
K. Piltz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I strongly support SB 1321 Relating to Gaming. This measure will provide the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) the ability to raise funds to continue with its 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 meet their mission. They certainly do not have enough funding to meet and address their growing backlog of beneficiaries who are waiting for housing and land for homesteading. The State's budget is in crisis. This legislature cannot address all budgetary needs and wants without finding new sources of income. SB 1321 provides a mechanism for the State, a new tool to implement, to address the State's budgetary needs.

DHHL diligently researched the impacts of gaming upon the economy and more importantly, the social welfare impacts. DHHL's thorough 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 SB 1321 is the way to do it. SB 1321 deserves the chance to be implemented with the safe guards outlined to ensure that the most vulnerable in our communities are protected. SB 1321 may not be a perfect bill, but I implore everyone to read and understand the mechanics outlined. This measure provides a way for the entire State, including DHHL to improve our island economy and lives.

I strongly urge you to support and pass SB 1321. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 6:26:54 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kuikeokalani Kamakea-Ohelo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. If anyone should have a say on what is built on DHHL lands, it should be the kanaka. If we aren't using available funding to help them thrive here in Hawai'i, we shouldn't use it.

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 6:42:50 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Julia M. Yano	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Committee Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members,

RE - OPPOSE SB1321

I don't believe any form of Gambling is healthy for society.

My Father left our family, my mother and seven children, due to gambling debt. We suffered more than words can describe. Thankfully, years later, my father found support and managed to get his life back in order. He founded the Gamblers Anonymous (GA) in Hawaii, which is still functioning today.

With our island's unfortunate "Gambling" culture, let's not feed any fuel to the fire. For the sake of keeping our communities, our families healthy and intact; our unique, island paradise preserved, I strongly urge you to OPPOSE SB1321,

With Sincere Respect,

Julia Yano - 339 Kawainui St. Apt C - Kailua, HI 96734 - 808.386.2100

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 7:08:01 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keri G Houston	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am against gambling in any form in the State of Hawaii.

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 7:11:42 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
VALLE WATANABE	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Testimony to Oppose Hawaii Senate Bill SB1321

Valle Watanabe. February 10, 2021

MAHALO AND ALOHA TO EACH OF YOU.....

**DON'T MAKE OAHU "THE GATHERING PLACE" OF**

**LEGALIZED GAMBLING AND ORGANIZED CRIME**



**LATE**

**Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 1321, related to Gaming.

Allow me to begin by asking, “who do you think built the most affordable housing in Hawaii during the 20 year period from 1990 to 2010? I can tell you it was not the State or County Housing Authorities, nor was it any of the private companies or non-profits noted for creating affordable housing. In fact, it was the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

During that period, the department oversaw the building of nearly 5,000 homes. Every home met affordable housing guidelines; every home was sold to a native Hawaiian, 98% of whom were living in Hawaii at the time and the rest were Hawaiians coming home; every home met all regulatory guidelines; every dollar spent on those homes was paid to a local contractor or developer. Given that record, one cannot help but ask, why isn't the State investing more in DHHL's housing development program?

Look at the quality of the homes and communities built by DHHL : take a ride to Princess Kahanu, to Malu'ohai, to Kalawahine, to Kaupe'a, to Waiohuli, to Waiehu Kou just to name a small handful of projects during that period. Substantial homes, solid communities; comparable to anything built by anyone else in the State during that period. Was it enough? No, of course not; not given the promise under the Admissions Act and the HHCA. But it was what could be accomplished with the strong leadership, incredible staff, supportive beneficiaries . . . imagination and constant work and effort.

However, even with those intangibles present, the most important variable during that period of production, was funding. One cannot level land, lay pipes, build homes without money. And it was during that period that the State and Federal government came closest to meeting their obligations.

Although the program began in 1921, real investment didn't start until the 1990's. It began with over \$100 million of funding under the Waihee Administration. Next came the settlement of the misuse of Hawaiian Homelands resulting in \$30 million/year for 20 years and continued with the first real Federal contribution through the Hawaiian Homelands Homeownership Act of 2000 (over \$122 million during its authorization). Every dollar went into a homestead lot to provide a home for a Hawaiian family. Seems like a lot of money; but do the math. It's not a lot when it comes to building subdivisions and homes.

Since then the spigot has been essentially turned off when it comes to new home construction for DHHL. The department leadership is continuing to work the Legislature and to use the returns on commercial lands that the department developed. We should all be proud of the team leading the department. Creative. Courageous. Focused on homestead development. They and the leadership before them are doing what they can; they are building, but not at the rate necessary to address the waiting list.

This brings us to the department's newest idea of tapping into the gaming industry. It's out of the box thinking. It is up to the rest of the Hawaii community to decide the question. But I and many Hawaiians like me are fully supportive of any reasonable idea that puts money into homestead development. This idea will put our people back on the land as Prince Kuhio dreamed some 100 years ago. If the Legislature cannot come up with the funding that the department needs to meet the State's constitutional obligations, then free the department to do it on its own. They have the talent; they have the commitment.

Ray Soon, Chairman and DHHL Director, 1998-2002

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:30:00 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sandra P. Kalehua	Testifying for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints	Oppose	No

Comments:

I very much oppose Gambling due to the permanate and or long lasting effects I personally witnessed first hand as a Nurse, Outreach Worker, Community Health Worker, Case Manager, and currently as a group leader for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Addiction Recovery Program. I've seen the domino effects of the mental/physical and emotional breakdown, trauma and suicide. Which lead to spouse/child abuse, broken homes, eviction, forecloser, lost of job or unemployment, inability to pay their monthly expenses, increase of drug use, prostitution, and elevated crime rates. And the difficulty of controlling their life.

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:10:33 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jessica Rampton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Gambling would completely change the Aloha spirit of Hawaii. We find it immoral, unattractive and harmful to individuals and communitites. Please do not even consider this bill.

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:27:16 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Derrick Wong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Members of the Senate Committee,

I oppose SB 1321 as written. While I understand the need to solve the budget shortfall and help our starving economy, I do not believe legalizing a gambling resort is the right idea. To build a casino in the heart of developing communities would greatly increase crime in that area as well as devalue the surrounding property. As such, I do not believe this is the appropriate means to fixing the State's budget issues.

Sincerely,

Derrick Wong

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:43:17 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Star Alameda	Testifying for Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am a member of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Gambling would be against our standards. As a youth leader in my church, I would be very concerned about the affects of legalizing gambling. It can lead to addictions and other negative outcomes. And as a mother of 7 children between the ages of 12 to 25, gambling is not the way I've raised them. I've raised them to know that in life, you need to work hard for the things you want in life. There is no fast easy way. Gambling contradicts that philosophy. Please do not legalize gambling. I strongly oppose it. No monetary gain can compensate for addictions that break up relationships, trust, and good hard working values.

sincerely, Star Alameda

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:50:26 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
NICOLE DOMINGO	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

We do not need gambling in Hawaii. Gambling can be detrimental and destructive. It gives the false appearance that people can get something for nothing. We don't want to encourage that mentality here in Hawaii as we have hard working people who receive something for their efforts. It can lead to addiction and affect the families in Hawaii and this is not something we need in our wonderful state. Thank you so much for your time and your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicole

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:55:52 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Crystal Wong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB 1321. I have lived in neighborhoods on the mainland in the vicinity of Casinos on Native American Reservations and have seen the negative effects of thier presence on the land and people. There is a direct correlation with the presence of gambling and an increase in incidence of other high risk activities, addictive and even criminal behaviors; such as substance abuse, sex crimes, assualts and robberies. If you look at the health status of such populations who run the Casinos and you will see it is a curse, not a blessing: increased incidence of alcoholism, drug abuse, mental illness, chronic health conditions and shorter life spans. We have a duty protect our people and our land, and especially, our vulnerable keiki, our posterity and our future. To place Casinos on Hawai'i will desecrate the land, attract predators to our island, increase disparity between rich and poor, destroy the middle class and increase destructive behaviors of vulnerable people prone to addictions, ultimately increasing other issues such as homelessness. While I understand the need to solve the budget shortfall and help our starving economy, I do not believe legalizing a gambling resort is the right idea. To build a casino in the heart of developing communities would greatly increase crime in that area as well as devalue the surrounding property. As such, I do not believe this is the appropriate means to fixing the State's budget issues.

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:43:17 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Logan Yates	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Logan Yates, and I am a native Hawaiian. I grew up in the Kapolei area, and now reside in Ewa Beach. For my family and I, we oppose the building of a casino and/or legalize gambling on Hawaiian Home Lands. Hawaiian Home Land should be used for the benefit of native Hawaiians and education, not making a quick buck.

I oppose SB 1321 because I believe it goes against our Ohana values. We know money is tight for a lot of families, especially Hawaiians. We see that truth every day when we see more and more Hawaiians move away to the mainland. Why are we going to use our lands as a place of temptation?

I oppose SB 1321 because I feel that Hawaiian Homes should be used for education. We need more places for young Hawaiians to be able to express themselves in an intelligent manner. Why hasn't a charter school for young Hawaiians been opened on Trust lands? My children have to travel to Nanakuli or Pearl City to attend a Punana Leo program. Can we please open one closer to our homes?

Speaking of homes, I oppose SB1321 because Hawaiian Home Lands, should be just that. Homes for Hawaiians. A safe haven for those who don't have anything else. A place for community, a place for Aloha, a place for Ohana. Lets build homes for our people, so we can enjoy what matters most to use here in Hawaii and that is our Ohana.

Although opening a casino would create jobs and possibly be an answer to our struggling economy, it should not come down to that. I believe this "solution" is an easy answer to a difficult problem. If this Bill passes, how many more casinos won't open up on more and more Hawaiian Home Lands? When would enough be enough? As a Hawaiian, I am sick of asking that question everyday, "when (would) enough be enough?" Please reconsider an alternative use for Hawaiian Homes Lands, and oppose SB1321.

Thank you for your time,

Logan Yates



**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:49:30 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
TAMMY TONG	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

RE: HB359/SB1321--Relating to Gaming

Aloha Honorable Legislators, I am submitting my testimony IN OPPOSITION to your bills relating to GAMING. The lands entrusted to the DHHL were designated by the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act:

"the HHCA provides for the rehabilitation of the native Hawaiian people through a government-sponsored homesteading program."

Homesteading is defined as 'a federal program to improve deteriorating urban areas by offering abandoned or foreclosed houses to persons who agree to repair them and live in them for a specified number of years.'

The HHCA states,'Homestead leases are for residential, agricultural, or pastoral purposes. Aquacultural leases are also authorized, but none have been awarded to date. The intent of the homesteading program is to provide for economic self-sufficiency of native Hawaiians through the provision of land.'

I'm sure that your intent to legalize GAMING is to increase revenue for the State Treasury. Besides misuse of the intent of DHHL lands, I oppose this bill because it is a short-term financial gain towards a long-term decay of the physical, financial, relational, spiritual and mental health of your constituents. There's absolutely no financial gain, by way of GAMING, that will empower your constituents to a greater level of self-sufficiency--which is the intended outcome of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. The \$1 revenue that is produced today in 2021 will equate to 100s of dollars that you would need to search for to rehabilitate Gamblers Anonymous; CPS for children neglected by parents working unstable shifts in the GAMING industry; Welfare Office required to supplement the itinerant-nature of this industry. This is just to name few of the social maladies that can occur in the long-term destruction of society. And as studies prove, the enticement of GAMING preys upon the naive, the ignorant, the ones with a lack of self-control.

Honorable Legislators, I adjure you to carefully consider your decision-making. Short-term thinking will be very detrimental and destructive to the children and grandchildren

of Hawaii who have NO VOICE in the future that you establish for them. Please  
OPPOSE HB359 & SB 1321.

Thank you very much for this privilege to share my values. Like you, I love my state,  
msg importantly, the people of my state. May you allow God to guide you in the privilege  
to steward our Aloha State. God Bless You, Tammy Tong.

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:12:19 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Johnelle Kane	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Johnelle Kane I've been born and raised in Hawaii. I am a native Hawaiian and I am OPPOSED to any legislation that permits gambling in Hawaii. I am a 30 year old wife and mother to two children and our family has been unable to afford to purchase a home due to the high cost of the housing market. My husband and I have worked hard to go to graduate from college and vocational school to pursue careers that are financially stable yet still we are unable to buy a home. As educated, tax paying, native Hawaiians with a young family, owning a DHHL house is the only way our family could buy a home in the current economy and market. Yet DHHL would rather build a casino and use the land that Hawaiians should be living on for monetary gain that will not profit the population of Hawaiians that it claims to. DHHL has already misused and underutilized the use of native Hawaiian lands for years. The building of a casino on what should be homes for Hawaiians is just another excuse and "legal" way to exploit and abuse native Hawaiians under the guise of "helping them."

Legalizing gambling will not only further impact and be detrimental to the socioeconomic well being of Hawaiians but it then allows and feeds other criminal activity associated with gambling. Thus opening more avenues for other illicit and harmful crimes to take place amongst an already vulnerable population that the state claims to be "helping."

I am OPPOSED to SB1321/359. The approval of these bills would be a mistake. Hawaiians are speaking up now more than ever for what should be rightfully theirs and what the state and government continue to try and misuse and take away from them. Native Hawaiians will rise above this and overcome this issue or any other proposals that the state and legislation tries to approve that harms Hawaii, our home, our people, and the IÄ• hui.

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:45:05 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amanda A. B. Wallace	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose passage of SB1321.

DonnaAnn I. Agor  
1142 So King Street E-2  
Honolulu, HI 96814

**LATE**

February 10, 2021

The Honorable Ron Kouchi, Senate Speaker  
Chair and Members of Senate Representatives  
In the following Committees:  
Hawaiian Affairs  
Judiciary  
Ways and Mean.  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania St. Room 409  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: TESTIMONY OPPOSING SB1321 RELATING TO GAMING (GAMBLING)**  
Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation (\$)

Dear Honorable Chair and Members of the Senate Committees

I am a register voter and an active citizen of the State of Hawaii and USA.  
I strongly oppose SB1321 for the following high-risk reasons: These are the long-term affects on the Native Hawaiians and Hawaii people.

- 1) Gambling defines “the activity or practice of playing a game of chance for money or other stakes: the act or practice of risking the loss of something important by taking a chance or acting recklessly” [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)
- 2) Gambling is addictive which increases the risk of domestic violence, drugs, and alcohol consumptions.
- 3) Gambling will increase the risk of prostitution, sexual escorts, human trafficking,
- 4) Gambling will increase the risk of child-adult pornography, kidnapping etc.
- 5) Gambling will increase the risk of suicides and mental illness.
- 6) Gambling will increase the risk of lewdness, breaks the moral character. and spiritual strength of the Hawaiian-Hawaii people.

Please read, study, and pray about the research of the following studies:

Problem Gambling and Crime and its Costs Problem Gambling and Crime and its Costs Key Messages

David T. Kryszejtys, PhD Student Dr. Flora I. Matheson, PhD.

Crime and Gambling Disorders: A systematic review 1Adolphe, A., 2Khatib, L., 1 van Golde, C., Gainsbury, S.M., & 3Blaszczynski.

Gambling and Crime Among Arrestees: Exploring the Link: U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs 810 Seventh Street N.W. Washington, DC 20531

**Ua Mau ke Ea o ka ‘Āina i ka Pono** is a well-known Hawaiian phrase which was adopted in 1959 as the motto of the state of Hawaii. It is translated as “The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness”.

Sincerely:

*DonnaAnn I Agor*

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:15:03 AM  
Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB1321  
This bill is contrary to Hawaii State Law. Don't pervert the thoughts of our people. This is wrong, it makes sense only for those who have lost their dignity in plain site breaking their own rule of law. The State of Hawaii had its turn to be honest stewards. They've proven themselves unworthy to this task for 60 years. No vision/ No real results. From General leases of trust land to Gambling, (Really?). What next? The truth is DHHL has proven inadequate to handle the management of our trust land. Non beneficiaries use of our trust land to benefit this State DHHL operation, State employees, and a commission that bows to the Governor? It should benefit the HHCA Beneficiaries. Turn it over to the HHCA Beneficiaries to manage our own Kuleana. This is beneficiary trust land and we should make these decisions for ourselves, not the State of Hawaii. 'A'ole. Enough, NEXT!

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 4:15:05 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chaynee Kuamo`o	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am testifying in OPPOSITION to the SB1321 bill, which will create a casino on Hawaiian Homeland property and legalize gambling. I am against it for two reasons, which is to prevent the increase of gambling addictions and crime or violence rates.

There is a strong positive correlation with gambling addiction rates and the number of casinos in the state. In an article by Youell (2020), the following states had the highest rates of gambling addiction AND are also ranked highest in the country for the most casinos and highest lottery sales per capita: Nevada, South Dakota, Montana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, West Virginia, New Jersey, Oregon, Illinois, and Louisiana. Let's not create a bigger addiction problem here in Hawaii by creating a casino and legalizing gambling when we should be focusing on reducing substance use disorders and other addictions, not creating new addictions.

Building a casino and legalizing gambling will also increase crime rate. In an article by Johnson and Ratcliffe (2017) soon after Philadelphia built a casino there was a shift in increasing crime around the casino area.

Prevent crime and addiction by not approving this bill, let's focus on reducing addiction and crime rates in Hawaii rather than creating more.

References:

Johnson, L. T. & Ratcliffe, J. H. (2017). A partial test of the impact of a casino on neighborhood crime. *Security Journal*, 30, 437-453.

Youell, J. (2020, October 05). *Top 10 most gambling-addicted states*. The Recovery Village <https://www.therecoveryvillage.com/mental-health/news/top-10-gambling-states/>

**LATE**

Honorable Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
February 9, 2021

Re: Testimony to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs Relating to **SB1321**

My name is Kehaulani Tarita Tehotu, Mahalo for allowing me to submit my written testimony in **opposition** to **SB1321**. I ask you to PLEASE **OPPOSE** **SB1321**.

The following points are just some of the reasons why I am in opposition.

### **Gambling with the LIVES of our 'Ohana of Hawai'i**

#### 1. Gambling can create addiction issues

Gambling and pornography have a lot in common: both exploit humans for a profit; both exploit human weakness and cause deep-rooted **ADDICTIONS**; both ruin marriages and families; both destroy children; both are run by people who should know better, but instead choose to destroy others' lives to benefit themselves. You cannot predict who will become addicted to gambling – it's an equal opportunity predator. I have seen Native Hawaiians in the Hawaiian Community develop a destructive lifestyle because of their thinking that gambling is a fast hope in receiving FAST MONIES. Many of them had put their hard work monies into gambling instead of feeding their families. Many have lost their homes and are now homeless.

#### 2. Gambling can create financial problems for those populations that are already economically struggling

Numerous reports have found gambling to be linked to increase **BANKRUPTCY**. SMR Research Corporation calls gambling "the single fastest growing driver of bankruptcy."

#### 3. Gambling will cause a rise in crime and that is why Hawaii's law enforcement agencies have been strongly opposed to legalized gambling Hawaii

Gambling breeds **CRIME** and it's not a partisan issue. In states with legalized gambling, the gambling cartel has brought out all political parties, and are assuming positions of power within state and federal offices. I lived in an era where I heard about crimes happening in our islands due to: Unable to pay debts or the power play of control.

#### 4. Gambling issues destroys families

Gambling is **DESTRUCTIVE**. Gambling creates addicts, ruins marriages, destroys families, exploits children and the poor, bankrupts' communities, raises crime, creates corruption, makes false promises, distorts reality, deceives the public and lies all the way to the bank. Greed, power, money, and corruption are at the root of gambling operations.

#### 5. Gambling is bad for the **ECONOMY** PEOPLE WILL BE PAYING HIGHER TAXES! Professor Earl Grinols calculates that the costs of gambling outweigh the benefits by a factor of more than 3:1. Gambling fails the cost benefit test, and taxpayers lose.

#### 6. Gambling violates the principle of **FINANCIAL** stewardship to pay off your debt for good and build wealth.

Native Hawaiians and other nationalities have struggled with financial stewardship. Instead of giving people a chance to earn monies, gambling will be teaching them to spend monies and gamble it hoping that they will earn it back. That is a FALSE HOPE!



7. Hawaiian Homelands – Why is it that Hawaiian Homeland is more interested in building a casino on Hawaiian Homeland? The main objective is to provide Native Hawaiians with affordable homes. There are thousands of Native Hawaiians who passed away waiting for themselves to be awarded a lot. My families and love ones live on Hawaiian Homelands. Many who are young children who have not learned much about our rich history of Hawaii.

We will be selling out our children and our 'Aina Aloha to special interest groups and all the ramifications that come with gambling which is mentioned above.

These are the things that I do not want Hawaii and Hawaiian Homelands to be involved with.

Why should we sell out our HAWAI'I it people and its grassroots people who earns hard working monies to live in this peaceful place?

If the late Senator Daniel Inouye was still alive he would be saying this, He is quoted as saying, "The worst thing we could hope to do for the state of Hawai'i is have gaming here." <http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2002/Jan/11/In/In02a.html>

Here is what Senator Inouye quoted –

## **Inouye strongly opposes gambling** By William Cole

Advertiser Military Writer

U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye spoke out forcefully yesterday against legalized gambling, saying: "The worst thing we could hope to do for the state of Hawai'i is have gaming here."

In a speech to business, government and military leaders in Waikiki, Inouye bluntly condemned gambling as corrosive to the state's unique social fabric and image as a relaxing, family-friendly vacation destination.

He said the suggestion that gambling could generate money to help pay for public education was "sinful."

"Who's kidding who?" he said. "The people who will come to this hotel will be a different type of people. It will not be the type you see now with their children, young folks spending their honeymoon.

"They will be coming here possibly to gamble, and anyone who knows anything about gambling will know that no more than five percent win."

The rest lose, he said, and that will hurt business at shopping centers and restaurants.

"The casino operator will make the money," he said. "And is that going to help tourism? No way."

I am asking you to Kill this Bill and vote NO to SB 1321

Mahalo Nui,

Tarita Tehotu



left, talks with state Rep. Neil Abercrombie at a Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii luncheon at which he blasted legalized gambling.

Richard Ambo • The

Honolulu Advertiser

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 6:55:12 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
MaryAnn Omerod	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB1321 - Casino Gambling.

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 8:08:58 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Crystal Robello	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in strong opposition of the casino build in Hawai'i, especially being a resident of Kapolei. My son goes to school in an area that is very close to where they plan to build a casino. This type of operation is not good for this area. It brings poverty, stress, and economic hardship rather than revenue like mentioned. I would not want my family to have to endure that or want to see that in our community. The money that it "might" bring does not matter. We should be more concerned for the welfare of the people of Hawai'i instead. We should look at land as opportunity to have agriculture or build homes, not something that is draining to society.

Respectfully,

Crystal Robello

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 8:16:03 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Miki Cain	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I feel that a casino would adversely affect the people on this island that are the most vulnerable. There are better ways to generate revenue.

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:14:12 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sasha Giron	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I, a Native Hawaiian descendant of the Polynesian Voyagers who arrived pre-contact of mid-1700s, am in opposition of this Bill/Measure being passed. Hawaiian Homelands should be creating more homes for Hawaiians. Too many of our people are houseless and povert, Hawaiian Homelands and the government and state of Hawaii should be providing homes for the Native Hawaiian people of this land. Native Hawaiians who for generations have witnessed loss of land and identity. Hawaiian Homelands and the state of Hawaii need to be held accountable for the huge amount of Hawaiians who do not have homes, while Hawaiian Homelands has huge amounts of land but is not giving it to the Hawaiians who need it.

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:29:05 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Zeb Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony Supporting SB1321 -- Relating to Gaming

Aloha Senator Shimabukuro, Senator Keohokalole, and Committee members:

I submit this testimony in support of SB1321 Relating to Gaming on Hawaiian Home Lands. As we endure yet another COVID-19 year of major budget shortfalls, gaming makes perfect sense to raise revenues for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and the State as well. There is a large body of evidence from many other states that points to successful revenue increases – even in 2020 – because of casino gaming and/or with state lotteries, bingo games, and scratch-off instant-win cards.

Hawaii is broke and people are going to gamble regardless of whether they fly off to Las Vegas 2 to 3 times per year or gamble here in the State. Clearly gaming already exists in Hawai'i – ILLEGALLY – anyway. Anyone just needs to drive to Kaka'ako, Chinatown, Waipahu or, more recently, Waimanalo, to gamble. Yet, neither the State of Hawai'i nor the DHHL collect one PENNY from these illegal gaming operations. Passage of this SB1321 would pave the way to TAXING and gaining revenue from ALL of these currently-illegal gaming establishments. By using this method to generate revenue for the DHHL to fulfill its mandate and reduce the 28,000-plus awardee waiting list, the DHHL would not only provide housing for its beneficiaries, but also perhaps free up affordable housing for Hawai'i's general population.

I firmly believe that casino and other gaming forms (a state lottery, bingo, scratch-off cards, etc.) could work quite well in Hawaii provided the State has a STRONG Gaming Commission – a la Nevada – that includes Hawaiian Homes beneficiary members AND with members rotating every four (4) years to prevent cronyism and corruption. I also believe that SB1321 should be amended to allow the Hawaiian Homes Commission to decide what form(s) of gaming will work best after conducting a beneficiary survey. Finally – we need to resist ANY financially-supported gaming opposition from gaming interests in Las Vegas trying to preserve any income from gaming for their own self-interest. Hawai'i needs LEGAL gaming not only to help support DHHL, but also to support our severely underfunded public education system (at this critical time, my grandchildren cannot afford to lose more highly-qualified teachers).

For all of the above reasons and in the interest of helping us all to recover financially from the COVID-19 pandemic, I respectfully urge your committee to please support SB1321 and pass this bill -- to at least further explore SOME type of legalized gaming for the DHHL and the State. Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of SB1321.

Zeb Jones, P.O. Box 1462, Wai`anae, HI 96792

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:29:23 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

SB1321 RELATING TO GAMING. Limited Casino Gaming; Single Integrated Resort; Appropriation.

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. Appropriates funds.

I support committee passage of this bill to allow for further discussion. Gambling has been an on-going topic for many years. This is the first time that the Department of Hawaiian Homelands is initiating it, at this level, that I'm aware of.

My apologies for not being as informed as many others are but I'd appreciate more information, engagement and discussion from and with the Hawaiian Homes Commission Commissioners, DHHL, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act beneficiaries, gaming experts, regulatory and enforcement agencies, etc. to fully vet this topic.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide SUPPORT for SB 1321.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai

Concerned Wai'anae Resident

HHCA Lessee & Beneficiary

Registered Active Voter



**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 10:02:16 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**STRONGLY OPPOSE SB1321, Relating to Gaming**

To the Honorable Chair Senator Maile Shimabukuro, The Honorable Vice Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, and to all the Senators who are Members of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

I am **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to **SB1321**.

It is widely known, and statistics clearly show that Gambling has a negative impact on our society. Hawaii is the Aloha State and gambling will NOT benefit us here in Hawaii.

The social problems definitely outweigh and “pros” of gambling. **In Vegas, they have the highest rates of divorce, suicide and domestic violence. They also lead the nation in high school drop outs.**

Gambling will directly or indirectly negatively affect every family in Hawaii. When families are hurting, it affects our entire state of Hawaii. I urge you to **Vote NO to SB1321** and keep Gambling out of Hawaii!

Sincerely,

*Rose Mejia*

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 10:11:35 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeremy Daniel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

You must NOT vote to approve this bill. Gaming operations fly in the face of the Hawaiian culture. It will further deteriorate families and will introduce and encourage many other obscene practices in our community (e.g., prostitution and trafficking). My family, friends, and I are very opposed to this bill and encourage all involved to think about doing the right thing as opposed to doing something that will bring in money. There is always a cost, and in this case it is VERY high.

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 11:19:03 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Semisi M Uluave	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Senators,

We are writing to oppose SB 1321.

We do not want to see gambling in Hawaii, especially on Hawaiian Home Lands!!!

Gambling creates a destructive attitude of "reaping huge rewards for little to no effort." We should be promoting a resilient mentality where "you reap what you sow."

SB1321 is trying to solve one problem (provide funding for developing Hawaiian Homestead Lands and Housing) but it will create many more problems. Hawaii does not need gambling addiction, more broken families, more dysfunctional homes, and increased financial strain. Any benefits from SB1321 will be far outweighed by the problems it creates.

History has shown that where gambling is allowed, organized crime follows. We do not need more criminal elements on our island and in our communities!

Please vote to stop SB1321.

Mahalo,

Semisi & Caroline Uluave

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 11:35:08 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Verona	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hawaii does NOT need a place to foolishly dispose of money. Money can be spent in areas where they are helping the economy WHILE HELPING THEMSELVES. Gambling money may be pouring money into the economy but it definitely does not HELP the people of Hawaii. Time is also spent unwisely due to addiction. Instead of going to work or doing useful things, people may instead gamble the little money they have left. How is this helping Hawaii? Everything is already so expensive. We don't need another reason to throw money away. NO to SB1321!

**LATE**

**SB-1321**

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 11:35:52 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/11/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sarah-Lyn Kaeo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support this SB because it is disrespectful to my people, culture, and land. This is mismanagement of Hawaiian Homelands and against the Hawaiians Home Commission Act. Hawaii does not need a casino.

State of Hawaii Senate  
SB 1321 RELATING TO GAMING  
TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

**LATE**

TESTIFIER: Craig Dansie  
DATE: February 11, 2021

Good afternoon,

My name is Craig Dansie and I am a man currently domiciled in Hawaii in the County of Honolulu My address is 150 Hamakua Drive #304, Kailua, HI. After reading SB 1321 and current testimony, I am writing my testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** of SB 1321 relating to gaming.

This bill is being proposed at a time when countless men and women have lost their jobs and businesses because their job or business was deemed “non-essential”. They were threatened by the state to shutdown their businesses.

So are gambling casinos “essential”? Corona doesn't spread there? I think I get it.

Statistics for cities that have gambling have extremely high divorce rates, suicide rates, high school (and even younger) drop-out rates and more. Gambling definitely DOES NOT boost our economy.

Gambling breeds organized crime and it is not a partisan issue. In states with legalized gambling, the gambling cartel has bought out all political parties, and are assuming positions of power within state and federal offices.

Gambling is destructive. Gambling creates addicts, ruins marriages, destroys families, exploits children and the poor, bankrupts communities, raises crime, creates corruption, makes false promises, distorts reality, deceives the public and lies all the way to the bank. Greed, power, money and corruption are at the root of gambling operations.

Gambling is bad for the economy. Professor Earl Grinols calculates that the costs of gambling outweigh the benefits by a factor of more than 3:1. Gambling fails the cost benefit test, and taxpayers lose.

Vote NO on SB 1321.

1. The Hidden Social Costs of Gambling - By Earl I. Grinols  
<https://www.baylor.edu/content/services/document.php/144584.pdf>