

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE
TO ERADICATE ILLEGAL GAMBLING AND DRUG ACTIVITIES AND TO
ESTABLISH COMMUNITY SAFE ZONES.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature acknowledges the harmful effects
2 of illegal gambling and drug activities in communities across
3 the State, including an increase in other criminal activities,
4 such as crimes of violence and sex trafficking; and
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6 WHEREAS, addressing these criminal activities individually
7 and separately is not the most effective means to deter and
8 eradicate these activities; and
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10 WHEREAS, a more effective approach involves a collaborative
11 effort among federal, state, and county agencies to examine
12 relevant issues, determine the resources needed to address these
13 issues, and devise a coordinated action plan; now, therefore,
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
17 that the Department of the Attorney General is requested to
18 establish a special intergovernmental task force to eradicate
19 illegal gambling and drug activities; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consist of the
22 following members:
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- 24 (1) The Attorney General or the Attorney General's
25 designee, who is requested to serve as the chair;
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27 (2) The Director of Law Enforcement or the Director's
28 designee;
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30 (3) The Director of Transportation or the Director's
31 designee;
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33 (4) The respective Chiefs of Police of the Counties of
34 Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai and of the City and County of
35 Honolulu, or their designees;



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- (5) The respective Directors of the planning or permitting agencies of the Counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai and of the City and County of Honolulu, or their designees;
- (6) A representative from the office of the United States Attorney, District of Hawaii; provided that, if participating, the representative is requested to be invited to serve as vice chair of the task force; provided further that the Attorney General is requested to designate another task force member to serve as vice chair if necessary;
- (7) A representative from the United States Department of Homeland Security;
- (8) A representative from the United States Drug Enforcement Agency;
- (9) A representative from the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and
- (10) A representative from any governmental or private entity deemed relevant by the chair of the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to dedicate itself to the eradication of illegal gambling and drug activities in the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to engage in an organized, collaborative effort to examine relevant issues, determine the resources needed to address these issues, and devise a coordinated action plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to consider the necessary resources and legislative actions that may be necessary to establish the following:



- 1 (1) A statewide program under the Department of the
2 Attorney General to identify and eliminate illegal
3 gambling houses and drug houses; and
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- 5 (2) Community safe zones throughout the State for the
6 purpose of enforcing zoning and other restrictions on
7 lands that may be used for gambling activities,
8 including casino gaming, regardless of whether the
9 activities are legal or illegal; provided that the
10 task force is requested to endeavor to establish, at a
11 minimum, a requirement that lands that may be used for
12 any type of gambling activity, and any structure
13 thereupon, be situated more than ten thousand feet
14 from any church, school, or residential area; provided
15 further that the task force is requested to also
16 endeavor to establish an appropriate enforcement
17 mechanism for this requirement; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chair and vice chair of the
20 task force are requested to oversee the activities of the task
21 force and lead the decision making of the task force members;
22 and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no member of the task force be
25 considered an employee for the purposes of chapter 84, Hawaii
26 Revised Statutes, based solely upon that member's participation
27 in the task force; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
30 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
31 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
32 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
33 2026; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be dissolved
36 upon adjournment sine die of the Regular Session of 2026; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Resolution be transmitted to the Department of the Attorney
40 General, the Director of Law Enforcement; the Director of
41 Transportation; the respective Chiefs of Police of the Counties
42 of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai and of the City and County of



1 Honolulu; the respective Directors of the planning or permitting
2 agencies of the Counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai and of the
3 City and County of Honolulu; the United States Attorney,
4 District of Hawaii; the United States Department of Homeland
5 Security; the United States Drug Enforcement Agency; and the
6 Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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OFFERED BY:

Kurt Fowell

